

Lawsuit Says Jersey City Board of Education Seat Should Be On Ballot In November

“Change For Children” candidates ask judge to return rights to Jersey City voters.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Jersey City - August 7, 2019 - Candidates vying for two vacated Jersey City Board of Education seats have filed a challenge today demanding that a second vacated seat be placed on the ballot for voters on November 5, 2019.

Anthony Sharperson and David Czehut (pronounced “Zee-Hut”) are the two candidates who filed the Order To Show Cause in Superior Court asking a judge to direct Hudson County Clerk, Junior Maldonado, to add the vacated JCBOE seat of former board member, Matt Schapiro, to the Board of Education ballot. The candidates also ask that they be bracketed together under the “Change For Children” slogan.

While Maldonado placed the vacated seat of former BOE member Amy Degise on the ballot, he did not do the same for the vacated seat of Mr. Schapiro.

Mr. Schapiro’s vacated seat was not given a ballot position by the Hudson County Clerk for reasons determined in error, the filing asserts. According to NJ statute, board seats vacated *after* the third Monday in July must be placed on the ballot. Mr. Schapiro resigned on July 15, 2019, the third Monday in July.

Mr. Sharperson states, “We are filing this action to re-enfranchise the voters of Jersey City. Voters choose their representatives, not just eight board members. The rights of the voters must be respected.”

Mr. Czehut adds, “This is a time when we need more democracy, not less. The message I'm hearing from Jersey City families is clear: They want to elect school board members who are focused on ensuring an excellent education for our children. Let’s do what’s right for both voters and our children and let Jersey City residents choose their advocates.”

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