



November 26, 2008

Susan Bysiewicz  
SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
CONNECTICUT

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Thank you for writing to me with regard to the eligibility of Senator Barack Obama to run for the office of President of the United States of America.

In your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request letter you have requested the following: documents that show that Barack Obama is qualified to be President of the United States, including but not limited to (1) original birth certificate, (2) proof that he is a natural born United States citizen, and (3) proof that he was born in Kenya.

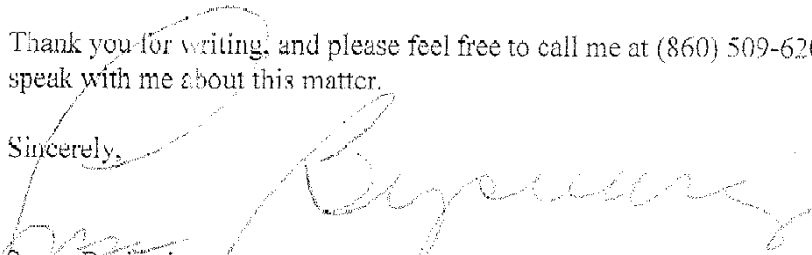
This Office has no documents responsive to your FOIA request received by my office on November 25, 2008.

As Secretary of the State of Connecticut, I do not have the statutory authority to remove a candidate from the ballot unless that candidate officially withdraws by filing a form with my office to that effect. Likewise, neither the Connecticut General Statutes nor the Constitution of the State of Connecticut authorizes me to investigate a Presidential candidate's eligibility to run for the office of President of the United States. Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal testified and offered this legal opinion on the matter at a Connecticut Superior Court hearing in response to a lawsuit filed on November 3 by a Connecticut resident who challenged the eligibility of Senator (now President-Elect) Barack Obama to appear in the Connecticut ballot.

On November 3, 2008 Connecticut State Supreme Court Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers dismissed the case after hearing testimony from my attorneys and State Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and the Greenwich resident who filed the action. The plaintiff, Cort Wrotnowski, alleged that I should not have placed Senator Obama's name on the ballot. The court was satisfied that officials in Hawaii have stated that there is no doubt that the Democratic presidential candidate was born there and that the state's health department possesses Senator Obama's original birth certificate. This is now a matter of public record.

Thank you for writing, and please feel free to call me at (860) 509-6200 if you wish to speak with me about this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Secretary of the State