



Oregon Secretary of State
Elections Division



Molly Woon

Division Director

June 12, 2024

Curt Ankerberg
2314 Coventry Circle
Medford, OR 97504

Re: Elections Division Case No. 22-029

Dear Curt:

On May 9, 2022, the Elections Division received information from you suggesting that Brad Bennington and Alan DeBoer may have violated Oregon election law. It was alleged that Bennington and DeBoer attempted to pay Kevin Christman to drop out of the Republican primary race for State Senate District 3 in violation of ORS 260.665(2)(d). An acknowledgment letter was sent to you and notice was sent to Bennington and DeBoer on May 11, 2022.

You alleged that Bennington and DeBoer were in contact with Kevin Christman during the May 2022 primary election. Kevin Christman was at that time a candidate for State Senate District 3 and you were an advisor for his campaign. Bennington and DeBoer allegedly supported Christman's opponent Randy Sparacino and Sparacino's campaign would benefit if Christman dropped out of the race. Allegedly, Bennington and DeBoer urged Christman to drop out of the race and promised financial support for Christman were he to pursue another elected office in future.

I spoke with DeBoer by telephone on May 28, 2022 and he denied having offered to pay Christman to drop out of the above-referenced race. Thereafter, on August 18, 2022, I spoke with DeBoer by telephone again and he stated that he did not offer Christman cash to drop out of the race or offer assistance with a possible future campaign for office.

I spoke with Bennington by telephone on June 3, 2022 regarding this case and he denied having offered to pay Christman to drop out of the above-referenced race. On August 18, 2022, I spoke by telephone with Bennington again and he stated that he had advised Christman he did not have the experience to run for State Senator and he should start with a run for a school board or city council.

Finally, I spoke with Christman and he recalled that Bennington had encouraged him to drop out of the race. Christman further recalled that either Bennington or DeBoer offered to back him financially were he to run for a different office in future.

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Oregon Secretary of State

Cheryl Myers
Deputy Secretary & Tribal Liaison

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ORS 260.665 provides, in pertinent part:

(1) As used in this section, "undue influence" means force, violence, restraint or the threat of it, inflicting injury, damage, harm, loss of employment or other loss or the threat of it, or giving or promising to give money, employment or other thing of value.

(2) A person, acting either alone or with or through any other person, may not directly or indirectly subject any person to undue influence with the intent to induce any person to:

- (a) Register or vote;
- (b) Refrain from registering or voting;
- (c) Register or vote in any particular manner;
- (d) Be or refrain from or cease being a candidate;

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On November 3, 2022 this case was referred to the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ). On May 24, 2024 the DOJ informed the Elections Division that they had concluded that there was insufficient evidence to pursue a criminal case in this matter.

The Elections Division has the authority to pursue civil penalties under the facts of this case. Civil penalties up to \$1,000.00 may be issued for each violation of ORS 260.665(2)(d). However, there is insufficient evidence to sustain a civil case against Bennington or DeBoer for alleged violation of ORS 260.665. We have therefore determined that it is appropriate to issue a warning to both individuals.

For the reasons set forth above, the Elections Division is closing this case. If you have any questions about this case please contact the Elections Division at elections.sos@sos.oregon.gov.

Best regards,



Bob Roberts
Investigations and Legal Specialist