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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ESSEX, ss.

SUPERIOR COURT  
CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 2677CV0822

ANNE MANNING-MARTIN

vs.

STATE BALLOT LAW COMMISSION,  
SHAWN OLIVER, and ADAM ROOF

**SUMMARY DECISION AND ORDER ON PLAINTIFF'S  
MOTION FOR JUDGMENT ON THE PLEADINGS (Paper No. 4)  
and STATE BALLOT LAW COMMISSION'S CROSS-MOTION  
FOR JUDGMENT ON THE PLEADINGS (Paper No. 9)**

***Given the urgency of this matter, i.e., the official ballots must be finalized on July 14, and to allow as much time as possible for the parties to pursue an appeal, the Court issues this Summary Order with the intention of issuing a Memorandum of Decision on July 13, 2026, that will explain the Court's reasoning.***

This is an action for judicial review, pursuant to G.L. c. 55B, § 4, and G.L. c. 30A, § 14, brought by plaintiff Anne Manning-Martin, who seeks the Republican nomination for Lieutenant Governor, regarding objections filed by defendants Shawn Oliver and Adam Roof to the genuineness of certain voter signatures on Manning-Martin's nomination papers.

On June 2, Manning-Martin timely filed nomination papers for the office of Lieutenant Governor with the Secretary of State ("Secretary") containing 10,662 certified voter signatures. See G.L. c. 53, § 44.

After an evidentiary hearing on June 18 and 22, 2026, defendant State Ballot Law Commission ("SBLC") issued a decision on June 26, wherein it sustained Oliver's Objection and Roof's Objection, and invalidated 1,279 of the 10,692 signatures on Manning-Martin's nomination papers, leaving her with less than the 10,000 certified signatures required by law to appear on the Republican State Primary ballot ("Ballot"). Consequently, the SBLC ordered that Manning-Martin's name shall not appear as a candidate on the Ballot.

This action came before the Court on July 8 and 9 for a hearing on Plaintiff's Motion For Judgment On The Pleadings (Paper No. 4) ("Motion") and State Ballot Law Commission's Cross-Motion For Judgment On The Pleadings (Paper No. 9) ("Cross-Motion").

## DISCUSSION

For the reasons explained by the Court in Section II of the Memorandum Of Decision And Order that this Court issued today in the case of Michael Walsh v. State Ballot Law Commission, Adam Roof and William Galvin, in his capacity as Secretary Of State, No. 2677CV0812, the Court rules that the SBLC committed an error of law by failing to dismiss Roof's Objection due to Roof's failure to strictly comply with the certified mailing requirement in G.L. c. 55B, § 5, par. 9.

As fully discussed in today's decision in Walsh, the second sentence of said § 5, par. 9, clearly states that the "[f]ailure to [comply with the mailing requirements] **shall** invalidate any objection filed with the commission." Thus, based on this express language, Roof's failure to strictly comply with the certified mail requirement invalidated Roof's Objection by operation of law and stripped the SBLC of jurisdiction to hear the Roof's Objection. Therefore, the SBLC's decision to sustain Roof's Objection must be **VACATED**.

As for Oliver's Objection, the administrative record reflects that Oliver complied with the requirements of G.L. c. 55B, § 5, par. 9.

The Court has reviewed the administrative record and rules that the SBLC's decision to invalidate 1,279 signatures of the 10,692 certified signatures on Manning-Martin's nomination papers, is supported by substantial evidence; and, is absent error (other than described above) of law, arbitrariness, capriciousness, and abuse of discretion. Therefore, the SBLC's decision to sustain the Oliver Objection must be **AFFIRMED**.

**ORDER**

For the above reasons, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** that:

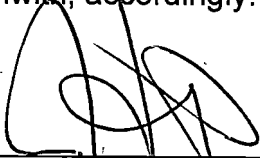
1. The Plaintiff's Motion For Judgment On The Pleadings (Paper No. 4) is **DENIED** as to Shawn Oliver and the State Ballot Law Commission, and **ALLOWED** as to Adam Roof.

2. The State Ballot Law Commission's Cross-Motion For Judgment On The Pleadings (Paper No. 9) is **ALLOWED** as to Shawn Oliver and the State Ballot Law Commission, and **DENIED** as to Adam Roof.

3. So much of the decision of the State Ballot Law Commission, dated June 26, 2026, sustaining the Objection of Adam Roof is **VACATED**.

4. So much of the decision of the State Ballot Law Commission, dated June 26, 2026, sustaining the Objection of Shawn Oliver is **AFFIRMED** and the Commission's Order barring Anne Manning-Martin's name from appearing as a candidate for the office of Lieutenant Governor on the Republican State Primary ballot is **AFFIRMED**.

5. Notwithstanding that the undersigned judge intends to issue a Memorandum of Decision on July 13, 2026, that will explain his reasoning, Judgment **SHALL ENTER** forthwith, accordingly.



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Jeffrey T. Karp  
Associate Justice, Superior Court  
Dated: July 10, 2026