Outlook

Governor/Lieutenant Governor

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To SEC-DL-ALL CLERKS NOTIFICATIONS <SEC-DL-ALL-CLERKS-NOTIFICATIONS2@sec.state.ma.us>

Good afternoon,

You may have heard that one of the candidates running for Lieutenant Governor, Shawn Oliver, has announced that he is "suspending" his campaign. We have received a number of questions from the media about what this means for voters.

As it is too late to withdraw, Oliver's name remains on the ballot, as part of the "Minogue and Oliver" ticket. If elected, the candidate can make his own decision about whether or not to take the oath of office.

We wanted to address questions we've received about different scenarios:

- If a voter has returned their ballot and it has been accepted, can they get a new ballot?
  - No, they may NOT get a new ballot once it has been accepted.

- What if a voter crosses out "Oliver" and writes in another name?
  - If the oval is filled in, the tabulator is going to count it for Minogue and Oliver. If the poll workers find such a vote during their manual review for write-ins, they should count this vote as a blank, because the voter's intent was apparently not to vote for "Minogue and Oliver." This would mean they would need to add one blank to the tally sheet and deduct one vote from Minogue and Oliver

- What if a voter writes in "Minogue and X"?
  - If a voter writes in Minogue and some other person, it must be tallied as a blank. General Laws chapter 54 section 78 allows for voters to write-in someone who isn't already listed on the ballot. Since Minogue is listed on the ballot, he cannot be written in.

- What if a voter fills in the oval for "Minogue and Oliver" and then writes in the name of a different person for Lieutenant Governor in the write-in space?
  - This would be an overvote, and must be tallied as a blank.

- What if a voter just writes in the name of a candidate for Lieutenant Governor?
  - Since Governor and Lieutenant Governor run as a team, in order to be valid, a write-in vote in this race should include two names.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Kelly Emmons