

November 5, 2024 Election Protest of Ashlee Adams –
NC Senate District 18

PROTESTOR

1. Provide your preferred contact information:

Name: Ashlee Adams County of Residence: Wake
Email: ashlee@thesutherland.com Phone: contact counsel
Mailing Address: 247 BISHOP FALLS RD WAKE FOREST, NC 27587

NOTE: You will be deemed to consent to service at all of the above addresses (including email), unless you attach an addendum indicating otherwise.

2. Are you represented by counsel? Yes No

NOTE: If you answered Yes, above, your counsel must complete and you must attach the Counsel Certification Addendum.

3. Mark all that describe you:

- Candidate for the office of NC Senate District 18
- Registered voter eligible to participate in the protested election contest
- Neither of the above*

**If you select this option, you are not eligible to file a protest.*

PROTEST SCOPE

4. List all election contests subject to your protest and calculate the margin of votes separating the apparent winner from the runner-up as of the date of filing. Your response does not waive your right to contest the validity of the current vote count. If your protest concerns all contests on the ballot, you must include the vote margin for each contest.

Protested Contest(s)	Current Vote Margin (subtract runner-up totals from apparent winner's totals)
N.C. Senate District 18	134

5. This protest alleges (*select at least one*):

- A defect in the manner by which votes were counted or results tabulated sufficient to cast doubt on the apparent results of the election.
- A violation of election law, irregularity, or misconduct sufficient to cast doubt on the apparent results of the election.

FACTUAL BASIS & LEGAL ARGUMENT

6. Provide all factual allegations in support of your protest. If any fact you allege is outside the scope of your personal knowledge, you may attach affidavits from those who have personal knowledge of that fact. All facts you allege in connection with this protest must be true and accurate to the best of your knowledge, and brought in the sincere belief that the facts alleged form a good faith basis to protest the conduct and results of the election.

It appears the county board of elections has counted ballots cast by voters who had their registration denied and were therefore ineligible to vote in an election.

Under North Carolina law, no one may vote unless he is registered to vote. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-82.1(a). A voter's application to register may be denied, or a voter may have his registration denied or otherwise be lawfully removed from the voter rolls. *See, e.g.*, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-82.9. Such persons, lacking a valid registration, shall not vote in an election. N.C. Const. art. VI, § 3(1).

We have identified voters in the county who cast a ballot in the election but whose application to register to vote was ultimately denied, or who were otherwise removed from the voter registration rolls. EXHIBIT A is an affidavit that includes a list that identifies such voters that was created from information provided in response to public records requests and other publicly available information. It appears that some, if not all, of these ballots were accepted, processed, and counted by the county board of elections. These actions violate North Carolina law.

7. List all individuals, if any, you may call as witnesses to substantiate facts listed in Prompt 6. If there are multiple individuals, summarize the facts of which the individual has personal knowledge.

Ryan Bonifay

8. Cite any statute or case, administrative rule or decisions, and election policy or procedure that supports your claim set out under Prompt 5.

N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 163-82.1, -82.9; N.C. Const. art. VI, § 3(1).

RELIEF

9. What effect do you believe the facts alleged in response to Prompt 6, if proven, will have on the electoral outcome in the protested contest(s)? Your response should account for the current vote margin calculated in response to Prompt 4.

- The electoral outcome of the protested contest(s) will change.
- The electoral outcome of the protested contest(s) will not change.
- I am uncertain whether the outcome of the contest(s) will change.
- Other _____

10. What relief do you seek?

- Correct the vote count
- A new election
- Other: _____

ASSISTANCE

11. List all persons who assisted you in preparing the contents of this protest and indicate the nature of the assistance provided:

See Counsel Certification Addendum

Note: For protestors represented by an attorney, this protest is the initial filing in a proceeding as defined by N.C. State Bar Rules. *See* 27 N.C.A.C. 02 Rule 1.00(n).

12. Has any candidate, political party, organization, or person acting on behalf of the same requested that you bring this protest?

- Yes
- No

13. Have you received any financial or other benefit or promise of future financial or other benefit in exchange for filing this protest?

- Yes

x No

AFFECTED PARTIES & SERVICE

You must serve copies of all filings on every person with a direct stake in the outcome of this protest ("Affected Parties"). Affected Parties include every candidate seeking nomination or election in the protested contest(s) listed under Prompt 4, not only the apparent winner and runner-up. If a protest concerns the eligibility or ineligibility of particular voters, all such voters are Affected Parties and must be served. Address information for registered voters is available from the county board of elections or using the Voter Lookup at www.ncsbe.gov.

Materials may be served by personal delivery, transmittal through U.S. Mail or commercial carrier service to the Affected Party's mailing address of record on file with the county board of elections or the State Board, or by any other means affirmatively authorized by the Affected Party. If you know the Affected Party is represented by an attorney, service must be made on his or her counsel. Service must occur within one (1) business day of filing materials with the county board of elections. If service is by transmittal through the U.S. Mail or commercial carrier service, service will be complete when the properly addressed, postage-paid parcel is deposited into the care and custody of the U.S. Mail or commercial carrier service. It is your responsibility to ensure service is made on all Affected Parties.

14. List all Affected Parties, including their service address:

<i>Affected Party</i>	<i>Service Address</i>
<u>Terence Everitt</u>	<u>1001 Wade Ave, Ste 323, Raleigh, NC 27605-3323</u>
<u>See Attachment</u>	<u>See Attachment</u>
<u>Brad Hessel</u>	<u>7904 SAGEWOOD COURT RALEIGH, NC 27615</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

PROTESTOR CERTIFICATION

15. By signing this protest application, you affirm the following:

I, Ashlee Bryan Adams (full name), swear, under penalty of perjury, that the information provided in this protest filing is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and that I have read and understand the following:

(initial)

AA I have reviewed the statutes and administrative rules governing election protests, including all deadlines.

AA My protest must originate with a filing at the county board of elections.

AA I must timely serve all Affected Parties.

AA I must prove by *substantial evidence* either the existence of a defect in the manner by which votes were counted or results tabulated or the occurrence of a violation of election law, irregularity, or misconduct, either of which were sufficient to cast doubt on the apparent results of the election.

AA It is a crime to interfere unlawfully with the conduct and certification of an election.

AA It is a crime to interfere unlawfully with the ability of a qualified individual to vote and to have that vote counted in the election.

AA The facts I allege in connection with this protest are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and I have a good faith basis to protest the conduct and results of the election.

Submitting fraudulently or falsely completed declarations is a Class I felony under Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. This notice is provided pursuant to S.L. 2013-381, s. 5.4.

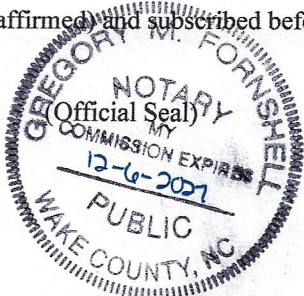
Signature of Protestor: Ashlee Bryan Adams

Date: 11.19.24

(This signature must be signed in the presence of a notary)

State of North Carolina, County of WAKE

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this the 19th day of NOVEMBER, 2024.



Gregory M. Fornshell
Official Signature of Notary

GREGORY M. FORNSHELL, Notary Public
Printed Name

My commission expires: DECEMBER 6, 2027

Date/Time Filed with County Board

(completed by the county board)

NOTE: The county board must provide the State Board with a complete copy of a filed protest within one business day after it is filed. In addition, the county board shall provide a copy of the election audit with this copy of the protest.

Please direct any questions to your county board of elections or the North Carolina State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement, PO Box 27255, Raleigh, NC 27611-7255.

COUNSEL OF RECORD ADDENDUM

If you answered Yes to Prompt 2 on the above, your attorney must complete this form and you must file it with your Election Protest Application.

Attorney Must complete all of the following:

Protestor Name: Ashlee Adams Protestor County: Wake (candidate challenge)
Attorney Name: Craig D. Schauer
Attorney Email: cschauer@dowlingfirm.com Attorney Phone: 919-529-3351

I am a member in good standing with the North Carolina State Bar
 I am not licensed to practice law in North Carolina but am a member in good standing in _____ (State or District of Columbia), and do hereby apply to appear pro hac vice and certify that I have or will file all appropriate documents required under G.S. 84-4.1.

Law Firm: Dowling PLLC
Bar Number: 41571

I (choose one) am am not:
Subject to any order of any court or administrative agency disbaring, suspending, enjoining, restraining, or otherwise restricting me in the practice of law. If you are subject to any orders, explain in the space below.

I represent the Protestor whose name is provided above. I have read and understand the laws governing election protests in North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 163 and Title 8 of the N.C. Administrative Code. I swear/attest that the information I have provided in this Addendum is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ Craig Schauer
Attorney Signature

11/19/2024
Date

EXHIBIT A

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF WAKE)
)
)
AFFIDAVIT OF RYAN BONIFAY)
)
)
)
_____)

I, Ryan Bonifay, being duly sworn, depose and say as follows:

Background and Experience

1. I am over 18 years of age and competent to make an affidavit.
2. I have personal knowledge of the matters described herein.
3. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of Lexington, North Carolina.
4. I am employed as Director of Data and Analytics at Coldspark, a political consulting and strategy firm. I have been so employed since January 2023. Previously, I have been employed by the Republican National Committee as Regional Analytics Director and State Analytics Director for North Carolina, as Data Director for Engage Texas, and as Data Director on U.S. Senate, congressional, and gubernatorial campaigns. Altogether I have approximately 10 years of experience as a data analyst for political campaigns and parties, all of them Republican. I have previously worked on North Carolina elections during the 2016 and 2020 election cycles.
5. I was retained by the North Carolina Republican Party to review and compile publicly-available information from the North Carolina State Board of Elections, either on their website or received through public records requests, in connection with the filing of election protests.

6. In my professional work I have become familiar with public sources of data on voter registration and voter turnout in North Carolina, and with the inputs to and limitations of such sources.

Assignment

7. I was asked to submit this affidavit in support of election protests filed with county boards of elections across North Carolina.

8. I was asked by counsel to generate a list of individuals who cast a ballot despite their registration application being denied or despite having been removed from the voter registration rolls, based on publicly available data.

9. In aid of compiling this data, lawyers for the North Carolina Republican Party made numerous requests for information under North Carolina's Public Records law. Once the relevant public agencies produced their responses, I attempted to match the produced records to public voting records to identify voters who may have cast a ballot but were ineligible as of Election Day. The process for doing so is described in more detail below.

10. In attempting to create a list of voters who voted despite having their voter registration application denied, or despite being removed from the registration rolls, I relied on documents produced by the North Carolina State Board of Elections on November 18, 2024 titled "2024-11-7 Audited Data.xls" and "2024-11-12 Audited Data.xlsx". I understand these files to be the product of an internal NCSBE audit into, among other things, individuals who cast a ballot despite having their voter registration denied or being removed from the registration rolls. Both files contain tabs entitled "Removed Voters with Votes" and "Denied Voters with Votes".

11. I combined the information contained in both of the November 18, 2024 files received from the NCSBE and de-duplicated the records (so the same individuals did not appear multiple times in either the removed voters list or the denied-registration list) in order to generate lists of voters whose registration had been denied and voters whose registration had been canceled.

12. I matched voters whose voter registration application was denied, or who were removed from the registration rolls, to the list of voters who cast a ballot in the November 2024 election based on the statewide voter list, filename ncvoter_Statewide.zip, and absentee voter list, filename absentee_20241105.zip.

13. I matched the list of individuals whose voter registration was denied or who were removed from the registration rolls to the statewide voter list and absentee voter list based on the voter registration number and NCID number.

14. This process resulted in a list of likely matches in this county, which are attached as **ATTACHMENT 1**.

15. Accordingly, Attachment 1 contains a list of people who (1) attempted to vote in the 2024 General Election before November 5, 2024 (via early vote, absentee by mail, etc.), (2) had their vote accepted by their applicable county board of elections, and (3) had their application for voter registration rejected or their name removed from the voter registration rolls. Attachment 1 contains additional information about each individual which was contained in the information from the NCSBE.

16. Attachments 1 does not include whether the applicable county boards of election challenged each of these voters, as that information has not yet been made available by the NCSBE.

Further, the affiant sayeth not.

This 19 day of November, 2024.

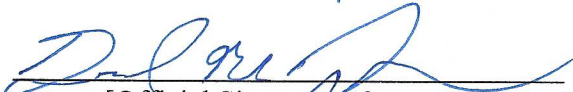


RYAN BONIFAY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

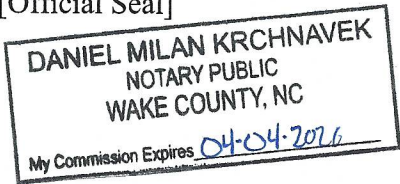
Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me by Ryan Bonifay.

Date: 11/19/2024



[Official Signature of Notary]

[Official Seal]



Daniel Milan Krchnavek

Notary Public
[Notary's printed or typed name]

My commission expires: 04-04-2026

Attachment 1

NC Denied Voters with Votes - GRANVILLE

CountyID	CountyName	VRN	NCID	FullName	RemovedReason	RemovedDate	SDR	VotedDate	VoteStatus	SourceType	ballot_rtn_status
39	GRANVILLE	98780	BW71197	TAYLOR, JA'LEA AUREE	VERIFICATION RETURNED UNDELIVERABLE	11/4/2024	N	10/18/2024	OK	EV	ACCEPTED
39	GRANVILLE	100183	BW75257	BARKER, JESSICA DENISE	VERIFICATION RETURNED UNDELIVERABLE	10/28/2024	N	10/24/2024	OK	EV	ACCEPTED
39	GRANVILLE	100202	BL427085	RUTLEDGE, RYAN SCOTT	VERIFICATION RETURNED UNDELIVERABLE	11/2/2024	N	10/31/2024	OK	EV	ACCEPTED
39	GRANVILLE	98858	BL552449	TANAHUVIA, ABDIAS JOEL	VERIFICATION RETURNED UNDELIVERABLE	11/4/2024	N	10/24/2024	OK	EV	ACCEPTED