

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Supreme Court  
of the State of Ohio**

---

STATE OF OHIO *ex rel.* KANYE WEST,

and

STATE OF OHIO *ex rel.* MICHELLE TIDBALL,

Relators,

v.

FRANK LAROSE,  
*Ohio Secretary of State,*

Respondent.

---

*Original Action in Mandamus // Election-Related Matter*

---

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS

---

Curt C. Hartman (0064242)  
THE LAW FIRM OF CURT C. HARTMAN  
7394 Ridgepoint Drive, Suite 8  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230  
(513) 379-2923  
*hartmanlawfirm@fuse.net*

*Counsel for Relators  
Kanye West and Michelle Tidball*

David A. Yost (0056290)  
Ohio Attorney General  
Bridget C. Coontz (0072919)  
Section Chief, Constitutional Offices Section  
OFFICE OF THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL  
30 East Broad Street, 16th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3431  
(614) 728-2035  
*Bridget.Coontz@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov*

*Counsel for Respondent  
Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose*

**SUPREME COURT  
OF THE STATE OF OHIO**

<b>STATE OF OHIO</b> <i>ex rel.</i> <b>KANYE WEST</b>	:	Case No. _____
c/o Curt C. Hartman, Legal Counsel	:	
7394 Ridgpoint Drive, Suite 8	:	
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230,	:	
	:	
<b>and</b>	:	
	:	
<b>STATE OF OHIO</b> <i>ex rel.</i> <b>MICHELLE TIDBALL</b>	:	<b>VERIFIED COMPLAINT</b>
c/o Curt C. Hartman, Legal Counsel	:	<b>FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS</b>
7394 Ridgpoint Drive, Suite 8	:	
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230,	:	
	:	
<b>Relators,</b>	:	
	:	
<b>v.</b>	:	
	:	
<b>FRANK LAROSE</b>	:	
<i>Ohio Secretary of State</i>	:	
180 East Broad Street, 16th Floor	:	
Columbus, OH 43215-3431,	:	
	:	
<b>Respondent.</b>	:	

The STATE OF OHIO, by and on relation to Relators KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL, brings this action in order to obtain:

the issuance of a writ of mandamus to compel Respondent FRANK LAROSE, the Ohio Secretary of State: (i) pursuant to R.C. § 3501.39, to accept the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL as candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States; and (ii) pursuant to R.C. § 3505.01(A), to certify for placement on the official ballot for the forthcoming general election to be held on November 3, 2020, the names of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL as candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States.

1. Relator KANYE WEST is a citizen of the State of Wyoming and, as developed below, previously filed with the Secretary of State a *Statement of Candidacy* to be a candidate for President of the United States at the general election to be held on November 3, 2020.

2. Relator MICHELLE TIDBALL is a citizen of the State of Wyoming and, as developed below, previously filed with the Secretary of State a *Statement of Candidacy* to be a candidate for Vice-President of the United States at the general election to be held on November 3, 2020.

3. Kanye 2020 is the principal campaign committee organized and registered with the Federal Election Commission in support of the candidacy of KANYE WEST for President of the United States.

4. Respondent FRANK LAROSE is the Ohio Secretary of State and, in such capacity, is the chief elections official for the State of Ohio.

5. Amanda M. Grandjean is the Ohio Director of Elections and a Deputy Assistant Ohio Secretary of State.

6. This Court possesses subject matter jurisdiction over this original action pursuant to Article IV, Section 2(B)(1)(b) of the Ohio Constitution.

#### *Overview*

7. R.C. § 3505.01(A) imposes the mandatory duty upon the Ohio Secretary of State to:

certify to the board of elections of each county the forms of the official ballots to be used at that general election, together with the names of the candidates to be printed on those ballots whose candidacy is to be submitted to the electors of the entire state.

8. R.C. § 3501.39 imposes the mandatory duty upon the Ohio Secretary of State to “accept any petition described in section 3501.38 of the Revised Code” unless a protest is filed or “[t]he candidate’s candidacy or the petition violates the requirements of this chapter, Chapter 3513 of the Revised Code, or any other requirements established by law.”

9. Within the petitions described in R.C. § 3501.38 are “nominating petitions...presented to or filed with the secretary of state ... for the purpose of becoming a candidate for any ... office ....”

10. Based upon information and belief, no protest has been filed with the Secretary of State concerning the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL to be candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States.

11. Neither KANYE WEST, MICHELLE TIDBALL, nor Kanye 2020 have received any notice from the Secretary of State that a protest has been filed with the Secretary of State concerning the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL to be candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States.

12. Thus, absent the establishment of a clear violation of the requirements of Chapter 3501 or Chapter 3513 of the Revised Code, or a violation of any other requirement of law, the Secretary of State has the clear legal duty to accept, and to not reject, a nominating petition tendered by or on behalf of a person seeking to become a candidate for public office, and, in turn, to certify such names to the official ballot to be used for the general election, including, in particular, the nominating petition filed by or on behalf of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL to be candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States, respectively, and, in turn, to certify the names of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL to the official ballot as candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States, respectively.

***Legal Framework on Statements of Candidacy and Nominating Petitions***

13. R.C. § 3513.257 provides, in part:

Persons desiring to become independent joint candidates for the offices of president and vice-president of the United States shall file, not later than four p.m.

of the ninetieth day before the day of the general election at which the president and vice-president are to be elected, one statement of candidacy and one nominating petition for the two of them. The prospective independent joint candidates' statement of candidacy shall be filed with the nominating petition as one instrument.

...

All nominating petitions of candidates for offices to be voted on by electors throughout the entire state shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state. No nominating petition for the offices of president and vice-president of the United States shall be accepted for filing unless there is submitted to the secretary of state, at the time of filing the petition, a slate of presidential electors sufficient in number to satisfy the requirement of the United States Constitution.

14. R.C. § 3513.261 provides, in part:

A nominating petition may consist of one or more separate petition papers, each of which shall be substantially in the form prescribed in this section. If the petition consists of more than one separate petition paper, the statement of candidacy of the candidate or joint candidates named need be signed by the candidate or joint candidates on only one of such separate petition papers, but the statement of candidacy so signed shall be copied on each other separate petition paper before the signatures of electors are placed on it....

...

Each nominating petition shall contain a statement of candidacy that shall be signed by the candidate or joint candidates named in it....

15. R.C. § 3513.263 provides, in part:

The nominating petitions of all candidates required to be filed before four p.m. of the ninetieth day before the day of the general election, shall be processed as follows:

If such petition is filed with the secretary of state, the secretary of state shall promptly transmit to each board such separate petition papers as purports to contain signatures of electors of the county of such board.

...

Written protests against such nominating petitions may be filed by any qualified elector eligible to vote for the candidate whose nominating petition the elector objects to, not later than the seventy-fourth day before the general election. Such protests shall be filed with the election officials with whom the nominating petition was filed. Upon the filing of such protests, the election officials with whom it is filed shall promptly fix the time and place for hearing it, and shall forthwith mail notice of the filing of such protest and the time and place for hearing it to the person whose nomination is protested. They shall also forthwith mail notice of the time and place fixed for the hearing to the person who filed the protest. At the time and place fixed, such election officials shall

hear the protest and determine the validity or invalidity of the petition. Such determination shall be final.

### *Factual Events*

16. On August 5, 2020, Kanye 2020 filed or caused to be filed *Statements of Candidacy* personally signed by KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL wherein they declared their candidacy for President and Vice-President of the United States, respectively.

17. On August 5, 2020, Kanye 2020 filed or caused to be filed with the *Statements of Candidacy* a *Nominating Petition* containing a sufficient number of signatures to nominate KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL as candidates for election to the offices of President and Vice-President of the United States, respectively.

18. The filing of the foregoing *Statements of Candidacy* and the *Nominating Petition* was made with the Office of the Secretary of State.

19. In addition, at the time of filing the foregoing *Statements of Candidacy* and the *Nominating Petition*, Kanye 2020 also filed a slate of presidential electors sufficient in number to satisfy the requirement of the United States Constitution.

20. Based upon information and belief, the Office of the Secretary of State transmitted the *Nominating Petition* to the various boards of elections for verification of the signatures thereon.

21. Based upon information and belief, the Office of the Secretary of State has received reports from the various boards of election whereby the Office of the Secretary of State has confirmed a sufficient number of valid signatures have been ascribed to the *Nominating Petition* for KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL to appear on the ballot at the forthcoming general election as candidates for election to the offices of President and Vice-President of the

United States, respectively (or for the election of the presidential electors pledged to support or vote for KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL).

22. Notwithstanding the foregoing, on August 21, 2020, Amanda Grandjean, transmitted to legal counsel for Kanye 2020 a *Rejection Letter* wherein she declared:

Kanye West and Michelle Tidball will not appear on the November 3, 2020 General Election Ballot as joint independent candidates for President and Vice President of the United States.... [T]heir nominating petition is rejected.

23. A true and accurate copy of the *Rejection Letter* is attached hereto as *Exhibit A*.

24. Within the *Rejection Letter*, Amanda Grandjean on behalf of FRANK LAROSE and the Office of the Secretary of State made the unilateral determination and decision to reject the *Nominating Petition* with the following explanation:

Under Ohio law, a nominating petition must include at least one originally signed statement of candidacy, which may be copied on the other petition papers for circulation. The statement of candidacy that was designated as the original in their filing does not match the petitions circulated. In fact, the signatures for Michelle Tidball bear no resemblance, calling into question which is genuine.

25. The Office of the Secretary of State has published on its website (<https://www.sos.state.oh.us/globalassets/media-center/news/2020/2020-08-21.pdf>) what it characterizes as the “Original” and “Circulated Version” of the *Statements of Candidacy* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL.

26. A true and accurate copy of this *Comparison* as published on the website of the Office of the Secretary of State is attached hereto as *Exhibit B*.

27. Through a footnote in the *Rejection Letter*, Amanda Grandjean cited to *State ex rel. Hawkins v. Cuyahoga Cty. Bd. of Elections*, 28 Ohio St.2d 4, 6, 274 N.E.2d 563 (1971); *State ex rel. Rust v. Lucas Cty. Bd. of Elections*, 101 Ohio St.3d 63, 2004-Ohio-9, 800 N.E.2d 1162 (2004); and R.C. § 3513.261 for the proposition that “a nominating petition must include at least

one originally signed statement of candidacy, which may be copied on the other petition papers for circulation.”

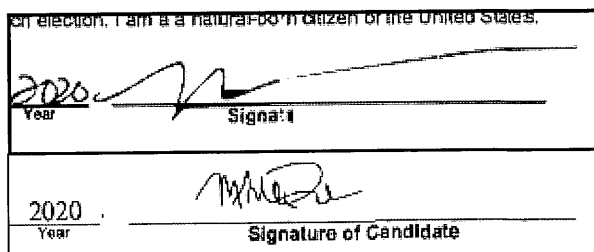
28. The decision of the Ohio Supreme Court in *State ex rel. Hawkins v. Cuyahoga Cty. Bd. of Elections*, 28 Ohio St.2d 4, 274 N.E.2d 563 (1971), is inapposite to the present case as the holding thereof indicated that without “at least one originally signed... statement of candidacy, as [R.C. § 3513.261] requires, [a board of elections] is not under a clear legal duty to place [a candidate’s] name on the ballot.”

29. Similarly, the decision of the Ohio Supreme Court in *State ex rel. Rust v. Lucas Cty. Bd. of Elections*, 101 Ohio St.3d 63, 2004-Ohio-9, 800 N.E.2d 1162 (2004), is inapposite to the present case as the holding thereof also indicated that a nominating petition is properly rejected if the petition “did not contain at least one originally signed statement of candidacy.” *Id.* ¶7.

30. The *Statements of Candidacy* of both KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL tendered to the Ohio Secretary of State contained an original signature of both KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL.

31. The signatures on the statements of candidacy copied to the part-petitions are also signatures of both KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL.

32. And, in particular, the two signatures on the *Comparison, i.e., Exhibit B*, purporting to be the signatures of MICHELLE TIDBALL:



are, in fact, the genuine signature of MICHELLE TIDBALL notwithstanding any perceived variation between the two.



33. Additionally, only “substantial compliance” is required with respect to the requirements of R.C. § 3513.261, including, specifically, what is necessary when a statement of candidacy is copied onto other part-petitions. *State ex rel. Osborn v. Fairfield Cty. Bd. of Elections*, 65 Ohio St.3d 194, 602 N.E.2d 636 (1992).

34. “The public policy which favors free competitive elections, in which the electorate has the opportunity to make a choice between candidates, outweighs the arguments for absolute compliance with each technical requirement in the petition form, where the statute requires only substantial compliance, where, in fact, the only omission cannot possibly mislead any petition signer or elector, where there is no claim of fraud or deception, and where there is sufficient substantial compliance to permit the board of elections, based upon the prima facie evidence appearing on the face of the jurat which is a part of the petition paper, to determine the petition to be valid.” *State ex rel. Saffold v. Timmins*, 22 Ohio St.2d 63, 64, 258 N.E.2d 112 (1970)(quoting *State ex rel. Stern v. Board of Elections*, 14 Ohio St.2d 175, 237 N.E.2d 313 (1968)).

35. Thus, “the standard for reviewing technical defects in declaration of candidacy [or statements of candidacy] and petition papers is whether the defect could cause a signer to be deceived or misled.” *State ex rel. Green v. Casey*, 51 Ohio St.3d 83, 85, 554 N.E.2d 1288 (1990).

36. And the Ohio Supreme Court has specifically held that any variation between a statement of candidacy with an original signature and the copy of the statement of candidacy on other part-petitions does not violate the requirements R.C. § 3513.261 (and is not grounds to reject a nominating petition) when there is no indication that such variation misled any voters or that there has been fraud or deception, and there is sufficient substantial compliance to permit the

board of elections to determine the petition to be valid. *State ex rel. Osborn v. Fairfield Cty. Bd. of Elections*, 65 Ohio St.3d 194, 602 N.E.2d 636 (1992).

37. “The sole purpose of the declaration of candidacy [or statement of candidacy] is to inform the signer that one is seeking to be a [] candidate for a certain public office to begin at a certain time.” *State ex rel. Saffold v. Timmins*, 22 Ohio St.2d 63, 64, 258 N.E.2d 112 (1970).

38. The ballots for the general election to be held on November 3, 2020, have not been finalized.

39. In fact, the major political parties have until September 4, 2020, to certify to the Secretary of State the names of their joint candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States. *See* H.B. 166 § 735.11, 133rd General Assembly (2020)(“[n]otwithstanding any provision of the Revised Code to the contrary, the major political parties shall certify to the Secretary of State the names of the candidates for president and vice-president nominated at their national conventions pursuant to section 3505.10 of the Revised Code not later than the sixtieth day before the 2020 general election”).

40. The form of the official ballots for the general election to be held on November 3, 2020, do not have to be certified by the Secretary of State until September 14, 2020. *See* H.B. 166 § 735.11, 133rd General Assembly (2020)(“[c]ertification by the Secretary of State of the forms of official ballots required by division (A) of section 3505.01 of the Revised Code shall occur on or before the fiftieth day before the general election”).

**FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**Writ of Mandamus**

41. Relators incorporate by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully restated herein.

42. “In extraordinary actions challenging the decisions of the Secretary of State and boards of elections, the standard is whether they engaged in fraud, corruption, or abuse of discretion, or acted in clear disregard of applicable legal provisions.” *State ex rel. Husted v. Brunner*, 123 Ohio St.3d 288, 915 N.E.2d 1215, 2009-Ohio-5327 ¶9 (quoting *Whitman v. Hamilton Cty. Bd. of Elections*, 97 Ohio St.3d 216, 778 N.E.2d 32, 2002-Ohio-5923 ¶11).

43. The action and decree of Amanda Grandjean whereby, on behalf of the Ohio Secretary of State, she rejected the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL constitute an abuse of discretion and/or an act in clear disregard of applicable legal provisions.

44. To date, FRANK LAROSE has not personally rejected the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL.

45. Nonetheless, the action and decree of Amanda Grandjean whereby she rejected the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL can be imputed as the action of FRANK LAROSE as Secretary of State.

46. In light of the action and decree of Amanda Grandjean as set forth in the *Rejection Letter*, FRANK LAROSE will not certify the names of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL for placement on the official ballot for the forthcoming general election to be held on November 3, 2020, as candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States.

47. The refusal of FRANK LAROSE to certify the names of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL on the official ballot for the forthcoming general election to be held on November 3, 2020, as candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States constitutes an abuse of discretion and/or an act in clear disregard of applicable legal provisions.

48. The rejection of the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL constitutes an abuse of discretion and/or an act in clear disregard of applicable legal provisions.

49. The refusal to certify the names of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL for placement on the official ballot for the forthcoming general election to be held on November 3, 2020, as candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States constitutes an abuse of discretion and/or an act in clear disregard of applicable legal provisions.

50. It was an abuse of discretion and/or in clear disregard of applicable legal provisions on the part of Amanda Grandjean (on behalf of FRANK LAROSE) and/or FRANK LAROSE to reject the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL by imposing a standard of strict compliance with respect to the requirements of R.C. § 3513.261, including, specifically, what is necessary when a statement of candidacy is copied onto other part-petitions.

51. It was an abuse of discretion and/or in clear disregard of applicable legal provisions on the part of Amanda Grandjean (on behalf of FRANK LAROSE) and/or FRANK LAROSE to reject the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL by not applying a standard of “substantial compliance” with respect to the requirements of R.C. § 3513.261, including, specifically, what is necessary when a statement of candidacy is copied onto other part-petitions, especially in light of precedent of the Ohio Supreme Court.

52. It was an abuse of discretion and/or in clear disregard of applicable legal provisions on the part of Amanda Grandjean (on behalf of FRANK LAROSE) and/or FRANK LAROSE to reject the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE

TIDBALL by requiring the statement of candidacy copied onto a part-petition to “match” the original statement of candidacy and, in particular, to require the signatures precisely “match”.

53. It was an abuse of discretion and/or in clear disregard of applicable legal provisions on the part of Amanda Grandjean (on behalf of FRANK LAROSE) and/or FRANK LAROSE to reject the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL premised solely and exclusively upon the subjective opinion of Amanda Grandjean as to the resemblance *vel non* of an original signature on a statement of candidacy and the signature indicated on the statement of candidacy copied onto a part-petition.

54. It was an abuse of discretion and/or in clear disregard of applicable legal provisions on the part of Amanda Grandjean (on behalf of FRANK LAROSE) and/or FRANK LAROSE to reject the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL by applying a subjective standard as to the genuineness of any signature or the copy of any signature.

55. It was an abuse of discretion and/or in clear disregard of applicable legal provisions on the part of Amanda Grandjean (on behalf of FRANK LAROSE) and/or FRANK LAROSE to reject the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL premised solely and exclusively upon the subjective opinion of Amanda Grandjean without providing KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL any notice of any concern or the opportunity to be heard with respect to the subjective (and dispositive) opinion of Amanda Grandjean.

56. It was an abuse of discretion and/or in clear disregard of applicable legal provisions on the part of Amanda Grandjean (on behalf of FRANK LAROSE) and/or FRANK LAROSE to reject the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE

TIDBALL when there was no evidence or indication that any defect in the statement of candidacy copied onto a part-petition (to the extent there was a defect) caused any signer of the *Nominating Petition* to be deceived or misled, constituted fraud or deception, and where there was sufficient substantial compliance to permit the board of elections to determine the petition to be valid.

57. It was an abuse of discretion and/or in clear disregard of applicable legal provisions on the part of Amanda Grandjean (on behalf of FRANK LAROSE) and/or FRANK LAROSE to reject the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL as MICHELLE TIDBALL has acknowledged that, notwithstanding any perceived variation, the signatures that appears in both the *Statements of Candidacy* and in the statement of candidacy copied to other part-petitions are, in fact, her genuine signature.

58. Having complied with the statutory requirements under Ohio law, KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL have a clear legal right to have their *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* as candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States accepted by the Ohio Secretary of State.

59. Having complied with the statutory requirements under Ohio law, KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL have a clear legal right to have their names appear on the official ballot for the forthcoming general election to be held on November 3, 2020, as candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States.

60. FRANK LAROSE has a clear legal duty to accept the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL as candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States.

61. FRANK LAROSE has a clear legal duty to certify for placement on the official ballot for the forthcoming general election to be held on November 3, 2020, the names of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL as candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States.

62. KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL have lack an adequate remedy in the ordinary course of the law, especially in light of the approaching deadline for FRANK LAROSE to certify the form of the official ballots for the general election to be held on November 3, 2020, as well as the approach of the general election itself.

WHEREFORE, the STATE OF OHIO, by and on relation to Relators KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL, prays for the issuance, in its name, of a peremptory writ of mandamus, or, in the alternative, an alternative writ of mandamus, compelling Respondent FRANK LAROSE, the Ohio Secretary of State: (i) to accept the *Statements of Candidacy* and *Nominating Petition* of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL as candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States; and (ii) to certify for placement on the official ballot for the forthcoming general election to be held on November 3, 2020, the names of KANYE WEST and MICHELLE TIDBALL as candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States

Respectfully submitted,

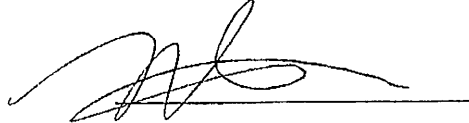
/s/ Curt C. Hartman  
Curt C. Hartman (0064242)  
The Law Firm of Curt C. Hartman  
7394 Ridgpoint Drive, Suite 8  
Cincinnati, OH 45230  
(513) 752-8800  
*hartmanlawfirm@fuse.net*

*Attorney for  
Relators Kanye West and Michelle Tidball*

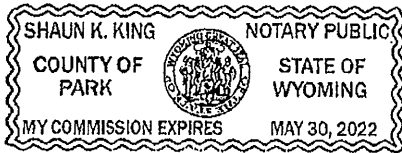
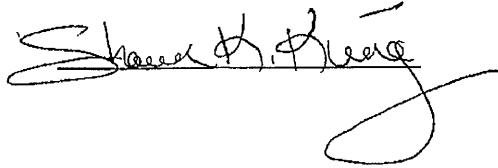
**VERIFICATION**

State of Wyoming, County of Park ss:

Comes now, Michelle Tidball, having been duly cautioned and sworn, and declares that she has personal knowledge of the factual allegations above and such allegations are true and accurate.



Wyoming Sworn to and subscribed before me, a Notary Public in and for the State of Wyoming, on this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020.





# Exhibit A



August 21, 2020

Matthew R. Aumann  
Isaac Wiles  
Two Miranova Place, Ste. 700  
Columbus, OH 43215-5098

Re: Certification to the Ballot for Kanye West and Michelle Tidball

Dear Mr. Aumann:

I regret to inform you that Kanye West and Michelle Tidball will not appear on the November 3, 2020 General Election Ballot as joint independent candidates for President and Vice President of the United States. Under Ohio law, a nominating petition must include at least one originally signed statement of candidacy, which may be copied on the other petition papers for circulation.<sup>1</sup> The statement of candidacy that was designated as the original in their filing does not match the petitions circulated. In fact, the signatures for Michelle Tidball bear no resemblance, calling into question which is genuine. Therefore, their nominating petition is rejected.

You may contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amanda M. Grandjean".

Amanda M. Grandjean  
Director of Elections and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

---

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3513.261; *State ex rel. Hawkins v. Cuyahoga Cty. Bd. of Elections*, 28 Ohio St.2d 4, 6, 274 N.E.2d 563 (1971); *State ex rel. Rust v. Lucas Cty. Bd. of Elections*, 101 Ohio St.3d 63, 2004-Ohio-9, 800 N.E.2d 1162 (2004).

# Exhibit B

Original

Circulated Version

Form No. 5-A Prescribed by the Ohio Secretary of State (12-19)

**Nominating Petition and Statement of Candidacy for President and Vice President of the United States**

To be filed with the Secretary of State not later than 4 p.m. of the 90<sup>th</sup> day before the general election.  
A.C. 3501.02, 3513.257, .261, .263

**Statement of Candidacy for President**

**NOTE - Each candidate must fill in, sign and date this statement of candidacy before petitions are circulated.**

I, Kanye West, the undersigned, hereby declare under penalty of election falsification that my residence address is 3202 Big Horn Ave, Cody, WY, 82414, Zip Code.  
I further declare that I desire to be a candidate for election to the office of President of the United States at the general election to be held on the 3 day of November, 2020 Year.

I further declare that I shall be at least thirty-five years old, and shall have resided for at least fourteen years within the United States by the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January after such election. I am a natural-born citizen of the United States.

Dated this 15 day of July Month, 2020 Year. [Signature] Signature of Candidate

**WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE**

**Statement of Candidacy for Vice President**

**NOTE - Each candidate must fill in, sign and date this statement of candidacy before petitions are circulated.**

I, Michelle Tidball, the undersigned, hereby declare under penalty of election falsification that my residence address is 907 Glade Court, Cody, WY, 82414, Zip Code.

I further declare that I desire to be a candidate for election to the office of Vice President of the United States at the general election to be held on the 3 day of November, 2020 Year.

I further declare that I shall be at least thirty-five years old, and shall have resided for at least fourteen years within the United States by the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January after such election. I am a natural-born citizen of the United States.

Dated this 1 day of August Month, 2020 Year. [Signature] Signature of Candidate

**WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE**

We hereby designate the persons named below as a committee to represent us:

Name	Residence

**Nominating Petition**

We, the undersigned, qualified electors of the State of Ohio, whose voting residence is in the county, city, village, or township, set opposite our names, hereby nominate Kanye West as a candidate for election to the office of President of the United States and Michelle Tidball as a candidate for election to the office of Vice President of the United States to be voted for at the next general election, and certify said persons are, in our opinion, well qualified to perform the duties of the office or position to which they jointly desire to be elected.

Form No. 5-A Prescribed by the Ohio Secretary of State (12-19)

**Nominating Petition and Statement of Candidacy for President and Vice President of the United States**

To be filed with the Secretary of State not later than 4 p.m. of the 90<sup>th</sup> day before the general election.  
A.C. 3501.02, 3513.257, .261, .263

**Statement of Candidacy for President**

**NOTE - Each candidate must fill in, sign and date this statement of candidacy before petitions are circulated.**

I, Kanye West, the undersigned, hereby declare under penalty of election falsification that my residence address is 3202 Big Horn Ave, Cody, WY, 82414, Zip Code.  
I further declare that I desire to be a candidate for election to the office of President of the United States at the general election to be held on the 3 day of November, 2020 Year.

I further declare that I shall be at least thirty-five years old, and shall have resided for at least fourteen years within the United States by the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January after such election. I am a natural-born citizen of the United States.

Dated this 31 day of July Month, 2020 Year. [Signature] Signature of Candidate

**WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE**

**Statement of Candidacy for Vice President**

**NOTE - Each candidate must fill in, sign and date this statement of candidacy before petitions are circulated.**

I, Michelle Tidball, the undersigned, hereby declare under penalty of election falsification that my residence address is 907 Glade Court, Cody, WY, 82414, Zip Code.

I further declare that I desire to be a candidate for election to the office of Vice President of the United States at the general election to be held on the 3 day of November, 2020 Year.

I further declare that I shall be at least thirty-five years old, and shall have resided for at least fourteen years within the United States by the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January after such election. I am a natural-born citizen of the United States.

Dated this 31 day of July Month, 2020 Year. [Signature] Signature of Candidate

**WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE**

We hereby designate the persons named below as a committee to represent us:

Name	Residence
Joe Fry	2250 Community College Ave, Apr 637, Cleveland OH 44115
Michael J Walsh	13525 Newton Road, Middleburg Heights OH 44130
Wendy Jean Emach	2355 Durbin Drive, Fremont Ohio 43420
Jordan Emahiser	102 Ballet Street, Nevada OH 43830
Mykah Brown	1419 Gateway Bend N., Pataskala OH 43110

**Nominating Petition**

We, the undersigned, qualified electors of the State of Ohio, whose voting residence is in the county, city, village, or township, set opposite our names, hereby nominate Kanye West as a candidate for election to the office of President of the United States and Michelle Tidball as a candidate for election to the office of Vice President of the United States to be voted for at the next general election, and certify said persons are, in our opinion, well qualified to perform the duties of the office or position to which they jointly desire to be elected.