

Darlene Booker-Jones, Chair Person & Tyrone Booker, Co-Chair Person  
Local 696, 2023 Election Committee  
3001 Walnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Cc: AFSCME International

Monday, April 3, 2023

Dear Chair Person Booker-Jones & Co-Chair Person Booker,

My name is Evelyn Flint. I am a member in good standing of Local 696, and am writing to file an official protest regarding the Local 696 Election held on March 30, 2023, in accordance with Appendix D, Section 4, Sub-section B of the AFSCME International Constitution.

On March 20, 2023, members who still hadn't received their mail-in ballots in the mail yet started calling AAA per the instructions on the Local 696 Election Rules flyer. Dozens of members, all of them recent hires, who called AAA were told that they weren't sent a ballot because they hadn't been a Local 696 member for 90 days yet when the ballots were sent, despite having already paid their dues to the union, via an automatic payroll deduction system, prior to the mailing of the ballots. This is a blatant violation of several clauses in both the AFSCME International Constitution and the Local 696 Constitution, specifically of:

-AFSCME International Constitution, Appendix D, Section 2, Sub-section F "All local union members or council delegates shall be afforded a reasonable right to vote."

-AFSCME International Constitution, Article III, Section 1."any person... who meets one or more of the requirements hereafter listed shall be eligible for membership in a local union" & Sub-section A "An employee of any... city"

-AFSCME International Constitution, Article III, Section 5 "a member who pays dues through a system of regular payroll deduction, bank draft, or similar system, shall be considered in good standing for so long as the member continues to pay dues through such deduction method."

-Local 696 Constitution, Article IV, Section 1 "All employees of the... Library of the City of Philadelphia... are eligible for membership in this local union, subject to the requirement of the Constitution of the International Union."

-Local 696 Constitution, Article IV, Section 3 "Membership dues shall be payable monthly... Provided, however, that any person who is paying his/her dues through a system of regular payroll deduction shall for so long as he/she continues to pay through such deduction method, be considered in good standing."

-Local 696 Constitution, Article VI, Section 6 “the balloting shall be so conducted as to afford to all members a reasonable opportunity to vote.”

Furthermore, page 17 of the AFSCME Local Union Election Manual clarifies this by stating that “if the person can produce evidence of dues payment” a ballot should be issued. Yet dozens of new dues paying members who joined and paid dues, who can produce evidence of a dues payment prior to the mailing of the ballots, and who were already on the District Council 33 membership roster before the 696 ballots were sent in March never received a ballot, either at all or at least in time to vote.

Additionally, on March 28, 2023, Mary Kachline (both an incumbent and an SBU slate candidate for Executive Board and Steward/Delegate) told a room full of both new and longstanding 696 members that “If they start taking dues out you’re in a union,” despite some of the 696 members she already represents being told differently because that’s what the 696 Election Committee instructed AAA to tell them.

I am therefore filing this protest within the required ten day period and exercising my right to be heard in front of the Election Committee concerning this matter, per Appendix D, Section 4, Sub-section B of the AFSCME International Constitution.

Fair and free elections are the cornerstone of all democratic institutions, and we must diligently work to preserve the integrity of our union. Our membership is our greatest strength, and their voices must be heard. Thank you.

In Solidarity,

Evelyn Flint

Candidate, Local 696 Executive Board & Steward/Delegate, Rabble Rouser Slate

Attachments:

Local 696 Election Rules flyer