

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE BOARD OF ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

STEPHANIE TELLES,
Complainant,

v.

No. **BOE 2025-03**

SCOTT FORRESTER,
Respondent.

DECISION

THIS MATTER came before the Board on the Complaint of Stephanie Telles against Scott Forrester. Complainant filed a declaration of candidacy for Council District 1. The City Clerk deemed that Complainant failed to file the required number of petition signatures on July 10, 2025. Complainant claims that on July 11, 2025, Respondent violated provisions of Article XIII, the City Election Code, by allegedly offering to help Complainant retire her campaign debt if she elected to not pursue her potential remedies for Clerk's ruling, and by allegedly threatening that a lawsuit to disqualify Claimant from the ballot would be brought in the event she was successful in overturning the Clerk's ruling.

The Board conducted an evidentiary hearing on September 10, 2025, at which both parties appeared through counsel. Testimony was taken from Stephanie Telles; no other persons were called as witnesses. No exhibits were entered into the record.

The evidence taken established that Ms. Telles and Mr. Forrester had a telephone conversation on July 11, 2025, one day after the Clerk published the results of his office's review of qualifying petition signatures, in which Forrester did offer to help Telles raise money to retire her campaign debt if she accepted the Clerk's determination, and Forrester did state that if Telles persisted in trying to secure a place on the ballot and was successful, he, or one of the other

candidates in race for Council District 1, or some other person, would bring a lawsuit to disqualify her. The evidence further indicated that Ms. Telles did not in fact have campaign debt at that time, and that Mr. Forrester acknowledged in that conversation being affiliated with the campaign of Ahren Griego, another candidate for Council District 1.

On the evidence presented, the Board does not find a violation of any provision of the Election Code, or of the other portions of the Charter within the Board's purview (Articles XII and XIV). In addition, it appears to the Board that Mr. Forrester is not a proper respondent for a Complaint to the Board. Article XIII, Sect. 1 ("The principle that the candidate assumes ultimate and complete responsibility for the conduct of the campaign is therefore incorporated in to this Charter and shall be implemented according to this Election Code.); Sect. 10(a) (Complaints to the Board arise from charges against "a candidate").

The Board does not impose any fine, sanction, or reprimand on Respondent.

Any appeal from this decision must be taken to Second Judicial District Court by filing a notice of appeal within 5 days of today's date in accordance with Article XIII, Sect. 10(g) of the Charter.

Entered, September 12, 2025.

/s/ Jason Marks

Jason Marks

Chair