

INDIANA ELECTION COMMISSION  
PUBLIC SESSION

Date: February 25, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Indiana State Library  
315 West Ohio Street  
Room 401  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Members: Beth Boyce, Chair  
Suzannah Wilson Overholt, Vice-Chair  
Karen Celestino-Horseman, Member  
John Westercamp, Member  
J. Bradley King, Co-Director, Indiana  
Election Division  
Angela M. Nussmeyer, Co-Director,  
Indiana Election Division  
Valerie Waycha, Co-General Counsel  
Matthew Kochevar, Co-General Counsel

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1 MS. BOYCE: I'd like to call  
2 to order this February 25, 2026, Indiana  
3 Election Commission Public Session. The  
4 following members of the Commission are  
5 present, myself, Chairman Beth Boyce, Suzannah  
6 Wilson Overholt, our vice chairman, John  
7 Westercamp, member. We are waiting -- our  
8 other member of the Commission will be here  
9 shortly. She got a little tied up this  
10 morning, so we are going to go ahead get  
11 started and keep everyone on time, but she  
12 will be coming in shortly, and our other  
13 member, Karen Celestino-Horseman.

14 We have with us the Indiana Election  
15 Division staff, co-directors, Brad King and  
16 Angie Nussmeyer, co-general counsel, Matthew  
17 Kochevar and Valerie Waycha.

18 We'd like to introduce our court reporter,  
19 Lindsay Bola, from Circle City Reporting. And  
20 before we continue, I want to remind everyone  
21 on behalf of our court reporter to identify  
22 yourself when beginning to speak, spell your  
23 name when identifying yourself, speak clearly,  
24 do not speak at the same time as others, just  
25 so that makes her job a little easier.

1           Next up is the documentation of compliance  
2 with our Open Door Law. I request that  
3 co-directors confirm that the Commission  
4 meeting has been properly noticed as required  
5 under the Open Door Law.

6           MR. KING: Madam Chair, and members  
7 of the Commission, on behalf of myself and  
8 Co-Director Nussmeyer, we certify that proper  
9 notice was given in compliance with the  
10 requirements of the Open Door Law.

11           MS. BOYCE: Thank you very much.  
12 Next up we will have the approval of the  
13 November 3, 2025, and the November 10, 2025,  
14 Indiana Election Commission meeting minutes.  
15 I recognize the co-directors to present the  
16 minutes of the referenced meetings.

17           MR. KING: Madam Chairman, members of  
18 the Commission, on behalf of myself and  
19 Co-Director Nussmeyer, we certify that we have  
20 reviewed the minutes and submitted them to you  
21 with our recommendation for your approval.

22           MS. BOYCE: Very good. Is there a  
23 motion to approve each of the minutes as  
24 presented?

25           MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: So moved.

1 MS. BOYCE: Is there a second?

2 MR. WESTERCAMP: Second.

3 MS. BOYCE: Any discussion? Hearing  
4 none, all in favor say "aye."

5 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

6 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

7 MS. BOYCE: Opposed say "nay." The  
8 ayes have it and the motion to approve each of  
9 these minutes is adopted.

10 Next we have the authorization of use of  
11 the Commissioner's signature stamps. Is there  
12 consent by each member to authorize Indiana  
13 Election Division staff to use the member's  
14 signature stamp on the orders and other  
15 documents approved at this meeting?

16 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Consent.

17 MR. WESTERCAMP: Consent.

18 MS. BOYCE: I assume we'll need to  
19 follow back up once she arrives. Each member  
20 present having consented, it is so ordered.  
21 Just remind me to do that when she gets here.

22 Okay. Up next we'll have the  
23 administration of the oaths. Any person who  
24 plans to testify at today's hearing on any  
25 matter, including candidate challenges, please

1 stand for the administration of the oath. I'd  
2 like to recognize Matthew Kochevar to  
3 administer the oath.

4 MR. KOCHEVAR: Please raise your  
5 right hand and say I do after administration  
6 of the oath.

7 Do you solemnly swear or affirm under the  
8 penalties of perjury that the testimony you're  
9 about to give to the Indiana Election  
10 Commission is the truth, the whole truth, and  
11 nothing but the truth? Please say I do.

12 (Simultaneous "I do.")

13 MR. KOCHEVAR: Thank you.

14 MS. BOYCE: Very good. Before  
15 proceeding with our candidate challenge  
16 hearings, the Commission will consider  
17 approval of campaign finance orders from  
18 previous meetings and the ratification of  
19 settlement agreements regarding campaign  
20 finance violations. I recognize the  
21 co-directors to present these orders.

22 MR. KING: Madam Chair, and members  
23 of the Commission, on behalf of myself and  
24 Co-Director Nussmeyer, we have reviewed the  
25 draft orders 2025-677 through 2025-698 and

1 certify that they are in compliance with the  
2 determinations made in the minutes meetings  
3 which you just approved.

4 MS. BOYCE: Okay. Is there a motion  
5 to adopt orders 2025-677 through 698 as  
6 presented?

7 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: So moved.

8 MR. WESTERCAMP: Second.

9 MS. BOYCE: Any discussion? Hearing  
10 none, all in favor say "aye."

11 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

12 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

13 MS. BOYCE: Opposed say "nay." The  
14 ayes have it, and the motion to approve these  
15 orders is adopted.

16 Is there a motion to ratify the campaign  
17 finance settlement agreement as presented and  
18 to authorize election division staff to use  
19 our signature stamps on all matters approved  
20 by the Commission at today's meeting.

21 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: So moved.

22 MS. BOYCE: Is there a second?

23 MR. WESTERCAMP: Second.

24 MS. BOYCE: Any discussion? Hearing  
25 none, all in favor say "aye."

1 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

2 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

3 MS. BOYCE: Opposed say "nay." The  
4 ayes have it, and the motion to ratify the  
5 settlement agreements is adopted.

6 Next we'll go through and adopt the  
7 candidate challenge hearing procedure. In the  
8 past, the Commission has followed certain  
9 procedures for conducting candidate challenge  
10 hearings, and I move that the Commission use  
11 the following procedures today:

12 When each candidate challenge is called,  
13 the hearing will begin by recognizing election  
14 division staff to provide information about  
15 the documents provided to the Commission  
16 members, including candidate challenge forms  
17 and the notice given to the candidate and the  
18 challenger. Unless there is objection, the  
19 documents provided to the Commission by the  
20 Election Division will be entered into the  
21 record of this meeting. After the election  
22 division staff completes its presentation, the  
23 challenger will be recognized first.

24 The challenger or the challenger's  
25 authorized representative, if written

1 authorization has been filed with the Election  
2 Division, may present their case for no more  
3 than seven minutes unless the Commission votes  
4 to allow additional time for the presenter.

5 Commission members may ask questions  
6 during a presentation, but the time spent  
7 answering these questions will not be counted  
8 against the presenter's time. The Election  
9 Division may signal the Chair when a  
10 presenter's time is up. If the presenter  
11 offers additional documents or other physical  
12 evidence not previously received by the  
13 Commission, then the original must be provided  
14 to the Election Division, Valerie, to preserve  
15 for the record.

16 The candidate or the candidate's  
17 authorized representative, if written  
18 authorization has been filed with the Election  
19 Division, will be recognized following the  
20 last presentation by a challenger. The  
21 candidate may present their case for no more  
22 than seven minutes unless the Commission votes  
23 to allow additional time for the presenter.

24 Following presentation by a challenger,  
25 the candidate may cross-examine the

1 challenger. Following the presentation by a  
2 candidate, a challenger may cross-examine the  
3 candidate. The cross-examination in all cases  
4 is limited to two minutes unless the  
5 Commission votes to allow additional time.  
6 The cross-examination must be limited to  
7 questions regarding statements made by the  
8 presenter. Following the presentation by a  
9 candidate, the challenger may present a  
10 rebuttal of no more than two minutes.

11 The Commission may dismiss the cause of  
12 any challenger who has failed to appear or  
13 testify before the Commission. If more than  
14 one challenger has been filed against an  
15 individual candidate, the Commission may  
16 consolidate the challenges, but will provide  
17 the same amount of time for each individual  
18 challenger and equal time to the candidate.

19 Is there a second to my motion for the  
20 Commission to adopt these procedures for  
21 today's candidate challenge hearings?

22 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Second.

23 MS. BOYCE: Any discussion by the  
24 members? Hi; welcome. If there's no further  
25 discussion, the question is on the adoption of

1 the motion. All in favor say "aye."

2 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

3 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

4 MS. BOYCE: Opposed say "nay." The  
5 ayes have it, and the motion is approved.

6 Okay. So we will back up. Thank you.  
7 Welcome. Sorry about the delay this morning.  
8 We did the vote on the use of the Commission's  
9 signature stamps, so we want to back up and  
10 allow you the chance to give your consent for  
11 them.

12 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Consent.

13 MS. BOYCE: Very good. So an agenda  
14 has been published, of course, for this  
15 meeting, and if you see under Item 6 lists all  
16 of the candidate challenge hearings. I think  
17 we are going to, perhaps, sort of reorder  
18 these a bit, and we're going to skip ahead and  
19 do letter "L" through "P," we're going to do  
20 those first, and then we will go back and  
21 start with "A."

22 So I would like to make a motion to,  
23 again, reorder under Item 6, reorder those,  
24 take "L" through "P" first and then proceed to  
25 "A."

1 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Second.

2 MS. BOYCE: All those in favor please  
3 signify by saying "aye."

4 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

5 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

6 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.

7 MS. BOYCE: Opposed, "nay." Okay.  
8 Very good. Okay. Up first will be letter  
9 "L," which the cause is the 2026-07, Kern v.  
10 Walker.

11 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Excuse me,  
12 Madam Chairman, I have a question on the  
13 procedure.

14 MS. BOYCE: Sure.

15 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: These are  
16 all the ones where the candidate has  
17 withdrawn?

18 MS. BOYCE: Yes.

19 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Can we take  
20 them as a group? Since we have no candidate  
21 before us, they're all moot at this point.

22 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Or at least "L"  
23 through "O."

24 MS. BOYCE: As long as it relates in  
25 my --

1 MS. WAYCHA: Yeah. I would say each  
2 cause needs a ruling. You know, the Walkers  
3 can all be grouped together and then the  
4 George case would need a separate ruling.

5 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: So, now,  
6 what are we ruling since there's no candidate  
7 before us?

8 MS. WAYCHA: We as staff cannot make  
9 a decision to take a person off the ballot  
10 without you, the Commission, giving us that  
11 consent, so we need you to give us that  
12 permission.

13 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Thank you.

14 MS. BOYCE: So as we were just  
15 discussing, in items "L" through "O," that all  
16 concerns the same candidate.

17 MS. WAYCHA: And I don't know if you  
18 want to make a motion to consolidate.

19 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: I move to  
20 consolidate agenda items "L" through "O,"  
21 which were addressed in the candidacy of Chris  
22 Walker for State Representative District 34.

23 MR. WESTERCAMP: Second.

24 MS. BOYCE: All those in favor of  
25 consolidating items "L" through "O" please

1 signify by saying "aye."

2 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

3 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

4 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.

5 MS. BOYCE: Opposed say "nay."

6 Motion passes.

7 Okay. Do we want staff to then sort of  
8 talk us through the issue and then we vote on  
9 it?

10 MR. KING: Madam Chairman, yes, that  
11 would be my recommendation as co-director, and  
12 I'll defer to Co-Director Nussmeyer if she has  
13 additional thoughts.

14 MS. NUSSMEYER: I agree with my  
15 counterpart.

16 MS. BOYCE: Very good. As stated in  
17 the motion, this is the matter of the  
18 challenge for candidate Chris Walker,  
19 candidate for the Republican Party nomination  
20 for Indiana State Representative District 34.  
21 If you could tell us, maybe kind of update us  
22 a little bit on this situation.

23 MS. WAYCHA: Yes. Madam Chair,  
24 Commission members, this candidate has  
25 withdrawn his candidacy, and so, really, the

1 matter is moot. But since we have a CAN-1  
2 challenge before it, we as staff cannot  
3 dismiss it so we bring the CAN-1 challenge to  
4 the Commission to give us guidance.

5 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Madam Chair,  
6 I move that we except the withdraw of  
7 candidacy by Chris Walker on Causes "L"  
8 through "O" and dismiss.

9 MS. BOYCE: We have a motion.

10 MR. WESTERCAMP: Second.

11 MS. BOYCE: And a second. Motion and  
12 a second to dismiss Chris Walker as a  
13 candidate for the Republican Party nomination  
14 for Indiana State Representative District 34.  
15 All those in favor signify by saying "aye."

16 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

17 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

18 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.

19 MS. BOYCE: Opposed say "nay."

20 Motion passes.

21 Okay. Next we will do Item "P," which is  
22 Cause 2026-09, Pearson-Jones v. George, which  
23 is for the Democratic Party nomination for  
24 Indiana State Representative District 36.

25 MS. WAYCHA: Once again, Madam Chair,

1 this candidate has withdrawn, but the CAN-1  
2 challenge is before the Commission for its  
3 decision.

4 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I move that  
5 we except the withdraw of this candidate,  
6 Brookelynn George, and that we dismiss the  
7 challenge.

8 MR. WESTERCAMP: Second.

9 MS. BOYCE: We have a motion and a  
10 second to dismiss this challenge. All those  
11 in favor signify by saying "aye."

12 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

13 Ms. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.

14 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

15 MS. BOYCE: Opposed say "nay."

16 Motion passed. Very good. Okay. Thank you  
17 for being patient with that.

18 Let's now go back. We will start with  
19 Item "A," which is cause 2026-01, Niemeyer v.  
20 Mayers, for the Republican Party nomination  
21 for U.S. Representative District 1.

22 MR. NIEMEYER: For the record, I'll  
23 apologize about my voice. I had one of those  
24 colds that went through and left me with an  
25 aftermath, but name's Randy, R-A-N-D-Y, last

1 name, Niemeyer, N-I-E-M-E-Y-E-R. I'm the  
2 chairman of the Lake County Republican Party.

3 MS. BOYCE: Very good.

4 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Madam  
5 Chairman, can I ask a question?

6 MS. BOYCE: Sure.

7 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Is the  
8 person being challenged here today?

9 MS. BOYCE: I don't believe so.

10 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: So as staff,  
11 can we go ahead and just say we --

12 MR. WESTERCAMP: We adopted the rules  
13 that said if somebody doesn't show, they  
14 defaulted. I move that we dismiss this case  
15 as a default because the candidate's not here.

16 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Wait. Wait.

17 MR. WESTERCAMP: I'm sorry.

18 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Upholding the  
19 challenge.

20 MR. WESTERCAMP: Upholding the  
21 challenge.

22 MS. BOYCE: So say that again.

23 MR. WESTERCAMP: I move we uphold the  
24 challenge since the candidate isn't here and  
25 is defaulted under the rules that we adopted

1 earlier.

2 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Second.

3 MS. BOYCE: Okay. We have a motion  
4 and second to uphold this challenge. Again,  
5 I'll read the Cause No. 2026-01. All those in  
6 favor signify by saying "aye."

7 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

8 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.

9 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

10 MS. BOYCE: Opposed say "nay."

11 Motion passes.

12 MR. NIEMEYER: Thank you.

13 MR. KING: Madam Chair, members of  
14 the Commission, to perfect the record,  
15 ordinarily the Commission would direct the  
16 Election Division to amend the certification  
17 previously issued to the counties and to  
18 reflect the decision in this matter.

19 MS. BOYCE: Okay. On just that one  
20 or all the ones we've already done?

21 MR. KING: With regard to -- you can  
22 do the ones you've already done, but  
23 specifically this matter because the  
24 precedent's before you.

25 MS. BOYCE: Okay. You want us to do

1 that after each one?

2 MR. KING: That, typically, has been  
3 the practice of the Commission, but, again,  
4 you have flexibility regarding procedure.

5 MR. WESTERCAMP: Motion at the end --

6 MS. BOYCE: Yeah. Since we've kind  
7 of already started, if that's okay. Okay. So  
8 up next is Item "B." Item "B," Cause  
9 No. 2026-02, Altman v. Lovely for the  
10 Democratic Party nomination for U.S.  
11 Representative District 4.

12 MR. KOCHEVAR: Did you say  
13 Cause No. 2026-02?

14 MS. BOYCE: Yes.

15 MR. KOCHEVAR: Is Cause No. 2026-04.  
16 The cause numbers are in the order that we  
17 received the CAN-1s, but the agenda has been  
18 arranged going down from the top and  
19 backwards.

20 MS. BOYCE: In numerical order?

21 MR. KOCHEVAR: In numerical order.  
22 So this is actually Cause No. 2026 -- no, it  
23 is 02.

24 MS. BOYCE: It's District 4, but it's  
25 Cause No. 2.

1 MR. KOICHEVAR: I don't do numbers.

2 MS. BOYCE: There's a lot of numbers,  
3 so patience, patience. So, I'm sorry, let's  
4 reset. Cause 2026-02, Altman v. Lovely for  
5 the Democratic Party nomination for U.S.  
6 Representative District 4.

7 MR. ALTMAN: Thank you. Good  
8 morning. I'm Jerry Altman.

9 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Madam  
10 Chairman, may I ask a question?

11 MS. BOYCE: Sure.

12 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Is the  
13 person being challenged here today? Is  
14 Mr. Lovely here?

15 MR. ALTMAN: I don't recognize him,  
16 but that's a good question.

17 MS. BOYCE: I don't believe so.

18 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Then, Madam  
19 Chair, I would make a motion that based upon  
20 the rules adopted that since we have a  
21 default, that we enter a default here and go  
22 ahead and grant the challenge.

23 MR. WESTERCAMP: Second.

24 MS. BOYCE: We have a motion and  
25 second to uphold this challenge. Based on --

1 MS. NUSSMEYER: Madam Chair, I  
2 apologize, and I am not the attorney here, but  
3 I think Mr. Altman probably does need to  
4 introduce himself for the record so that it  
5 appears that he is present, the candidate is  
6 not.

7 MS. BOYCE: Okay. If you could go  
8 ahead and --

9 MR. KING: I concur.

10 MS. BOYCE: If you could go ahead and  
11 introduce yourself and spell your name.

12 MR. ALTMAN: Sure. Sure. Very good.  
13 I'm Jerry Altman. I'm an attorney practicing  
14 in law since 1965 in White County, Indiana. I  
15 represent Kathy Altman, who is the signature  
16 of this matter. We, just to digress just  
17 briefly, even though it's a default matter,  
18 the person that filed a CAN, we were informed  
19 they never voted as a Democrat.

20 We went to check and get the record and we  
21 went to Jasper County Clerk's Office -- I say  
22 we -- and obtained an application and found  
23 out he had voted once as a Democrat.

24 MS. BOYCE: Thank you very much.  
25 Could you please spell your last name.

1 MR. ALTMAN: A-L-T-M-A-N.

2 MS. BOYCE: Perfect. Thank you very  
3 much.

4 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Okay.  
5 Should I restate my motion then? I make a  
6 motion to -- the candidate that's being  
7 challenged by default is not here, so by  
8 default I move that we go ahead and grant the  
9 challenge and give Mr. Altman his victory  
10 today.

11 MR. WESTERCAMP: Second.

12 MS. BOYCE: Okay. We have a motion  
13 and a second to uphold the challenge in Cause  
14 No. 2026-02. All those in favor signify by  
15 saying "aye."

16 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

17 Ms. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.

18 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

19 MS. BOYCE: Opposed say "nay." Very  
20 good. Thank you very much.

21 MR. ALTMAN: Thank you very much.  
22 Have a good day.

23 MS. NUSSMEYER: I apologize again.  
24 Mr. Altman appears to be amending his  
25 challenge by his testimony because the

1 challenge itself said he never voted, but he  
2 learned, in fact, that the individual did vote  
3 in one primary, so I don't know if that  
4 matters for the record. I just wanted to  
5 raise it because it's not consistent with the  
6 documentation here and I just wanted to make  
7 sure it was --

8 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: For purpose  
9 of default --

10 MR. WESTERCAMP: We made a decision  
11 based on --

12 MS. NUSSMEYER: Thank you.

13 MS. BOYCE: Thank you.

14 MR. ALTMAN: Thank you very much.

15 MS. BOYCE: Have a good day. Be  
16 careful driving back to Monticello.

17 Okay. Up next, Item C, which is Cause No.  
18 2026-16, Gallant v. Wilson for Republican  
19 Party nomination for Indiana State Senate  
20 District 38.

21 MS. WAYCHA: I'm not sure that  
22 everyone on this panel has already taken the  
23 oath.

24 MR. BOPP: I thought there would be  
25 enough time to ask questions of the witness,

1 and that's not the case, so I have to put  
2 that --

3 MR. KOCHEVAR: Is the testimony  
4 you're about to give to the Indiana Election  
5 Commission the truth, the whole truth, and  
6 nothing but the truth?

7 MR. BOPP: I do.

8 MR. KOCHEVAR: Thank you.

9 MS. BOYCE: Okay. So in this case we  
10 have -- hold on one second. The challenger, I  
11 believe, Mr. Bopp, you're representing the  
12 challenger?

13 MR. BOPP: I am.

14 MS. BOYCE: So you will have seven  
15 minutes. And I'm not quite sure since we  
16 haven't done this yet. Who is our timekeeper?

17 MS. WAYCHA: I'm going to be the  
18 timekeeper. I will start with seven. I think  
19 my phone is loud, but I'll keep it by the  
20 microphone so everybody can hear it.

21 MS. BOYCE: Okay.

22 MS. WAYCHA: Would you like me to  
23 read in for the record just what's on the  
24 CAN-1?

25 MS. BOYCE: Yes.

1 MS. WAYCHA: So in this case we have

2 [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED] Okay. I will start the  
8 timer if you're ready.

9 MS. BOYCE: Go ahead and just state  
10 your name and spell it for us, please.

11 MR. BOPP: My name is James Bopp, "B"  
12 as in Boy, O, "P" as in Paul, "P" as in Paul,  
13 Jr. I represent Mr. Gallant. I submitted a  
14 letter with exhibits. Are those exhibits  
15 before you all? If not, I have copies.

16 MS. BOYCE: Yes, dated February 18.  
17 Yes. We have all that.

18 MR. BOPP: Thank you. And I move the  
19 admission of the exhibits.

20 MS. BOYCE: Yes. Hearing no  
21 objection, yeah.

22 MR. BOPP: Thank you. This is a  
23 challenge to Alexandra Wilson, who has filed  
24 candidacy for State Senate District 38, and

25 [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

information to her. Where we can go through  
the fact that she married and divorced a  
Grabill and and then married a Wilson.

1           The Wilson, if you turn to IE 23, you will  
2 find the marriage record of an Alexandra  
3 Rachelle Grabill, and we have in here the  
4 documents of her marriage and divorce where  
5 she is asked to provide her maiden name, which  
6 she provides Anderson, and the date of birth,  
7 11/1/2591, which corresponds exactly to the

8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
10           Furthermore, there is an interesting item  
11 on IE 3, and that is on -- and this is her  
12 CAN-2 where she provides her email, and her

13 [REDACTED]  
14 is her date of birth provided on the [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED] Nobody does that unless  
17 that's the person. And many people have email  
18 addresses that they've used throughout, you  
19 know, substantial period of time and used the  
20 same one even though they're married. One of  
21 my daughters does that, still using Bopp as  
22 opposed to (unintelligible).

23           So these provide direct evidence that the  
24 candidate was the person in 2010 that  
25 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

1 indirect -- there's other circumstantial  
2 evidence that we provide in great detail here,  
3 each providing links to Anderson to Wilson.

4 So we believe we have established, based  
5 upon public record and admissions by the  
6 candidate, that she was -- she was Alexandra  
7 Rachelle Anderson and that that person

8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED] I have nothing further at this  
10 point. I would have walked through those if  
11 you would have given me more time.

12 MS. BOYCE: Are there any questions?

13 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Do we hear  
14 from the other side first?

15 MS. BOYCE: Well, I didn't know. Can  
16 we individually question him during his  
17 presentation, and then we'll hear from the  
18 other side, yeah. Okay. So you all have  
19 seven minutes.

20 MS. DEWESTER: Thank you. My name is  
21 Samantha DeWester, and I'm the attorney for  
22 Mrs. Wilson, who is sitting next to me, who  
23 has been challenged. Had I been asked, we  
24 would admit that that is her. We could have  
25 shaved some time off Mr. Bopp's time. That

1 is, in fact, her.

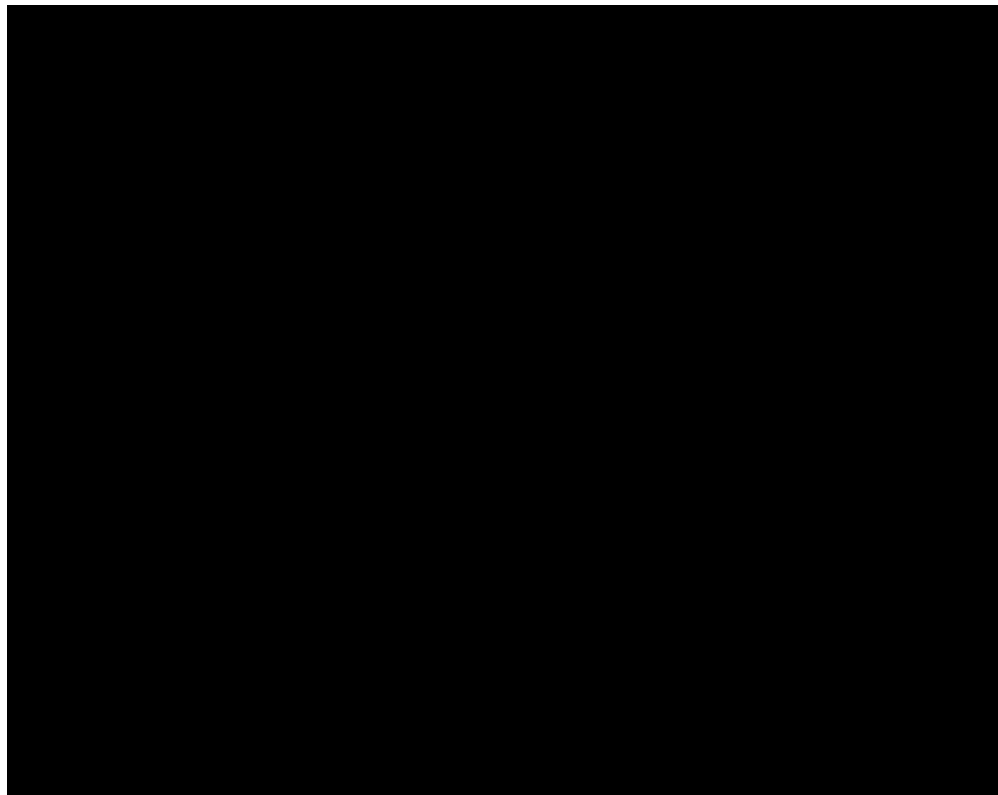
2 But, first, I want to direct the  
3 Commission's attention --

4 MS. BOYCE: Can you please spell your  
5 name.

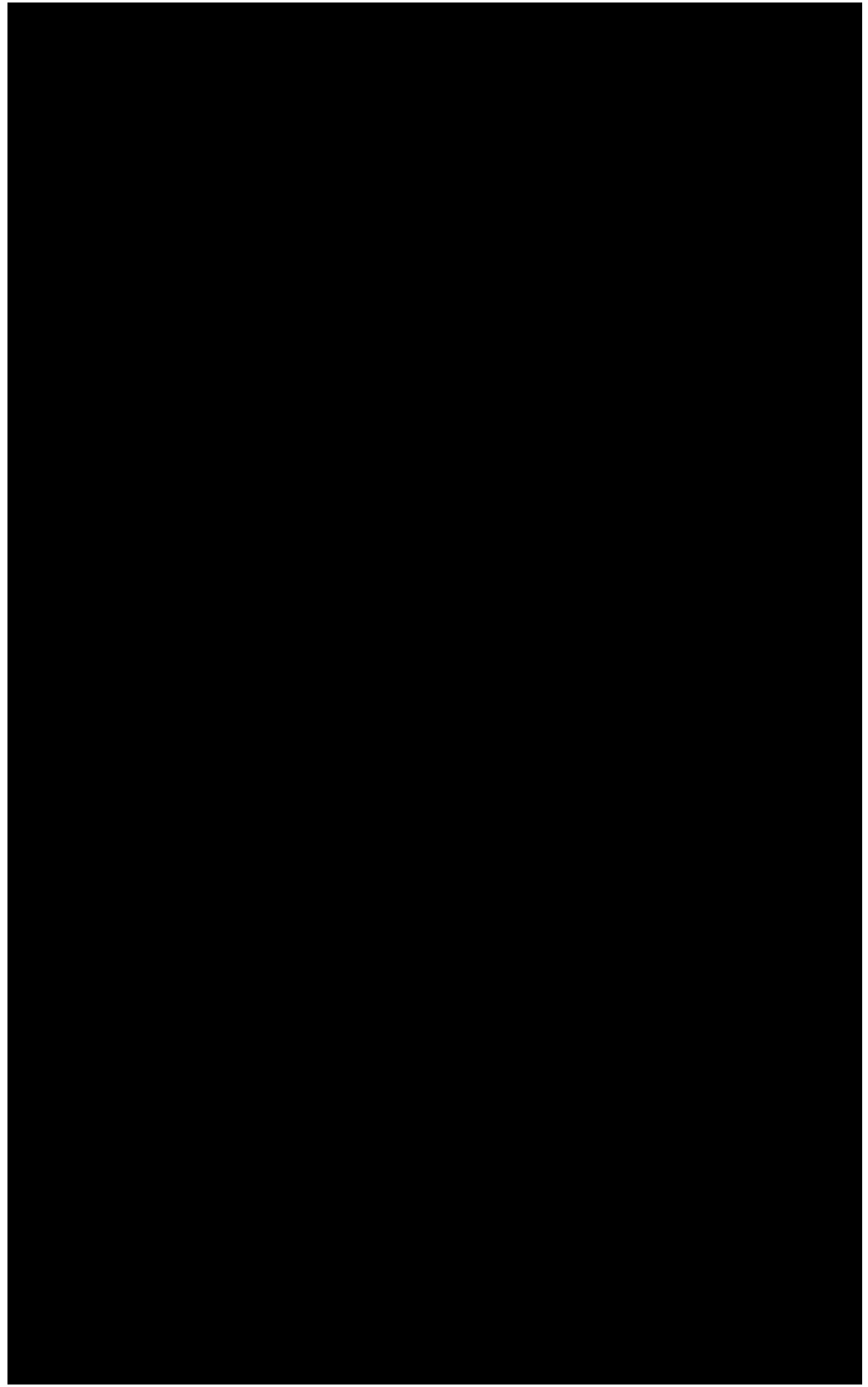
6 MS. DEWESTER: Oh, sorry. Samantha,  
7 S-A-M-A-N-T-H-A -- if I speak too fast, let me  
8 know -- last name is DeWester,  
9 D-E-W-E-S-T-E-R. I get yelled at all the time  
10 by court reporters; used to it.

11 Okay. So first I would ask the Commission  
12 to direct your attention to the documents that  
13 I provided.

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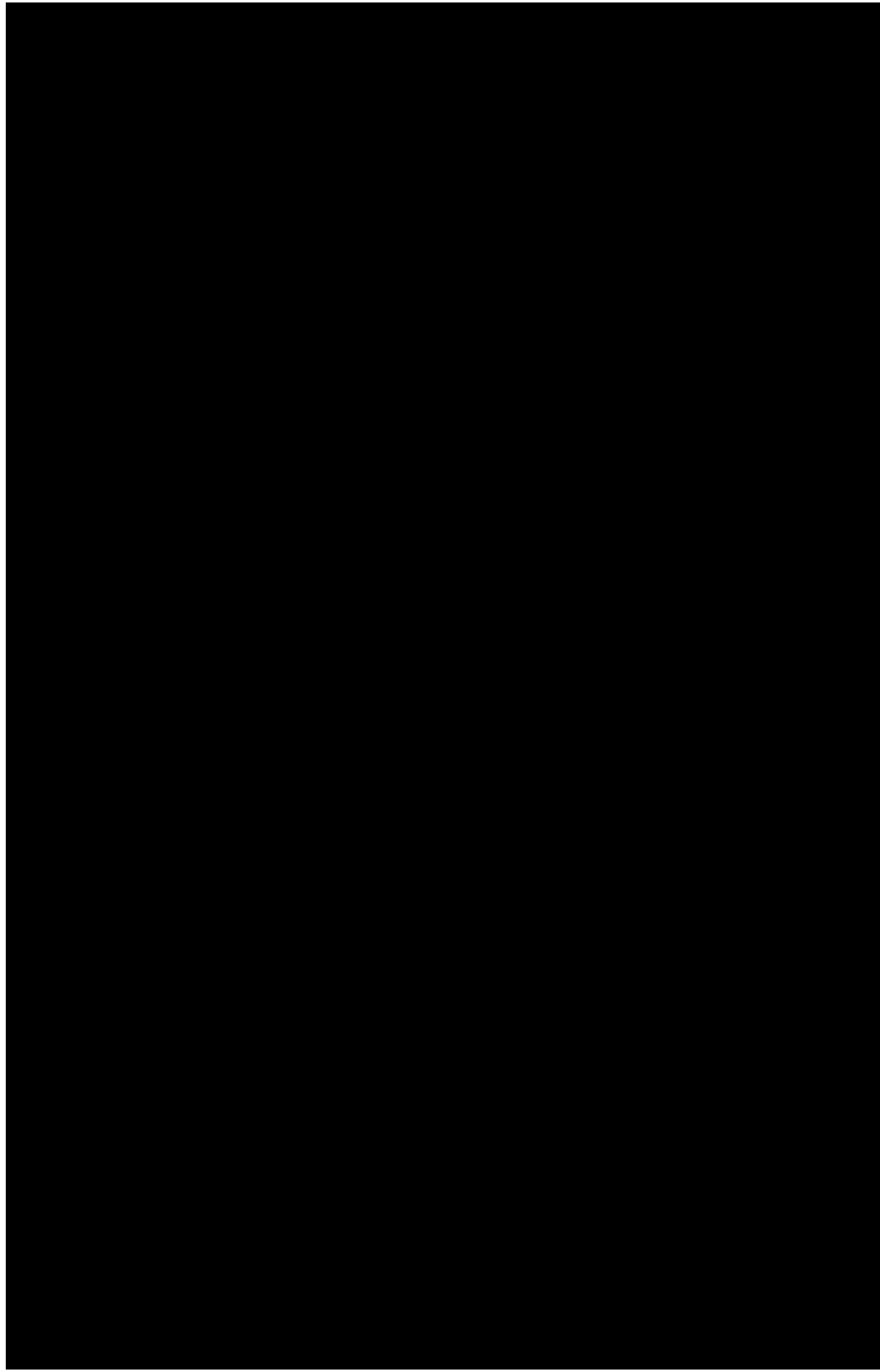
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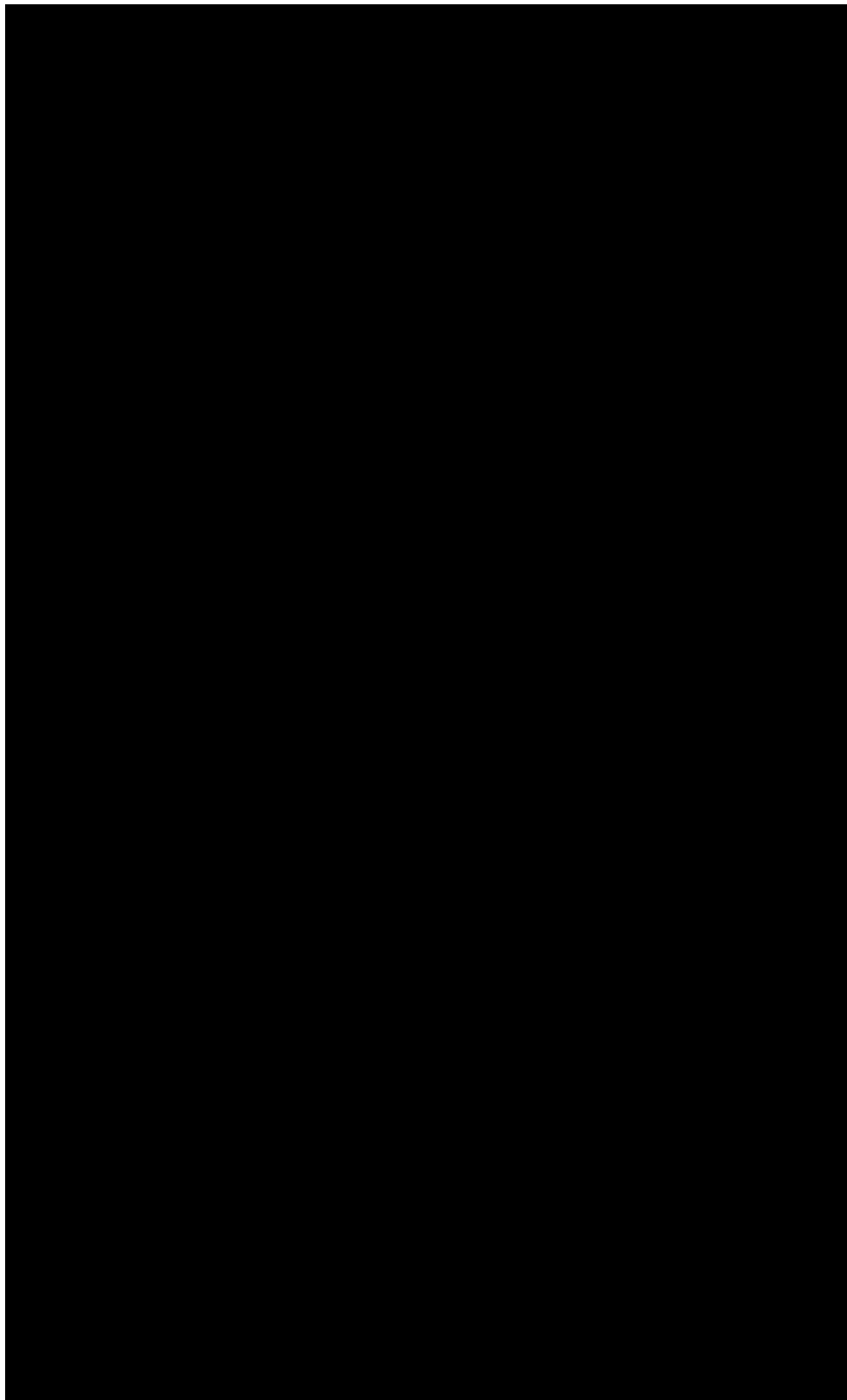
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MS. BOYCE: Have to cut you off.

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MS. DEWESTER: Okay. Thank you.

1 MS. BOYCE: Okay. So had the  
2 seven-minute presentations by both parties.  
3 At this point, go back to my beginning. We  
4 have a chance for you to question them for two  
5 minutes.

6 MR. BOPP: I'll pass on the  
7 questions.

8 MS. BOYCE: Or the reverse.

9 MS. DEWESTER: No, thank you. I'll  
10 pass on that as well.

11 MS. BOYCE: Okay.

12 MR. BOPP: Are we able to rebuttal?

13 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I said we  
14 get to ask questions.

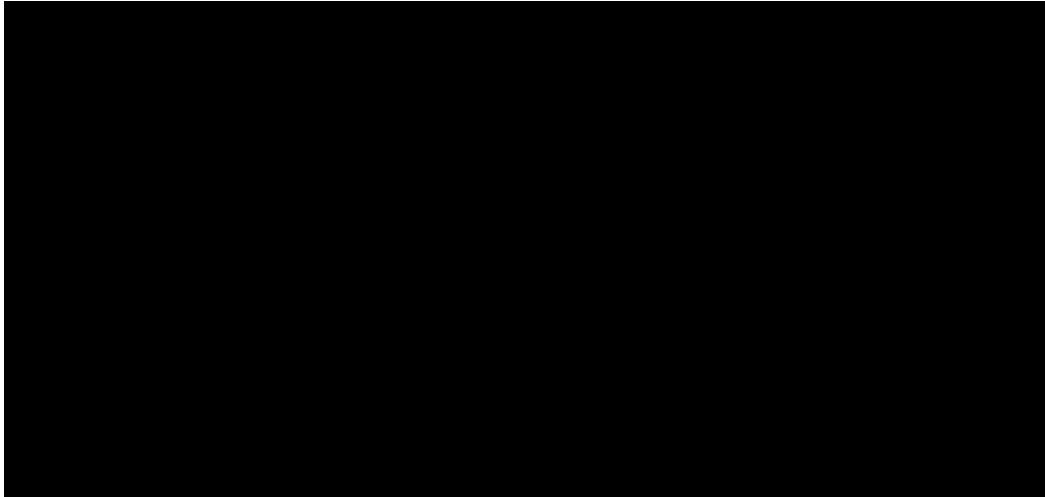
15 MR. BOPP: Okay. But that comes up,  
16 later, okay. Thank you. Just clarifying.

17 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I have to  
18 tell you that having dealt with this issue  
19 myself in the past for candidates and  
20 everything, I was fascinated to read this and  
21 I was very delighted to hear that we have two  
22 such excellent election law attorneys that  
23 were going to be up here addressing it.

24 Because the way I read it, and I can be  
25 wrong -- believe it or not, it's been that way

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in the past before -- the way I read it is  
that when you use, as Ms. DeWester noted,

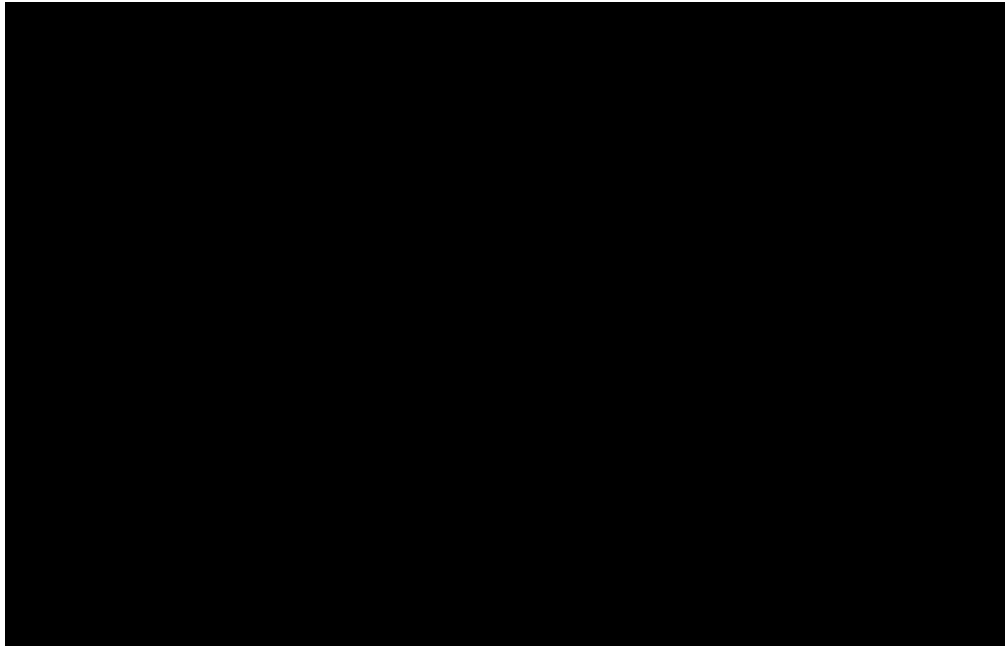


MS. BOYCE: Could I ask a question?

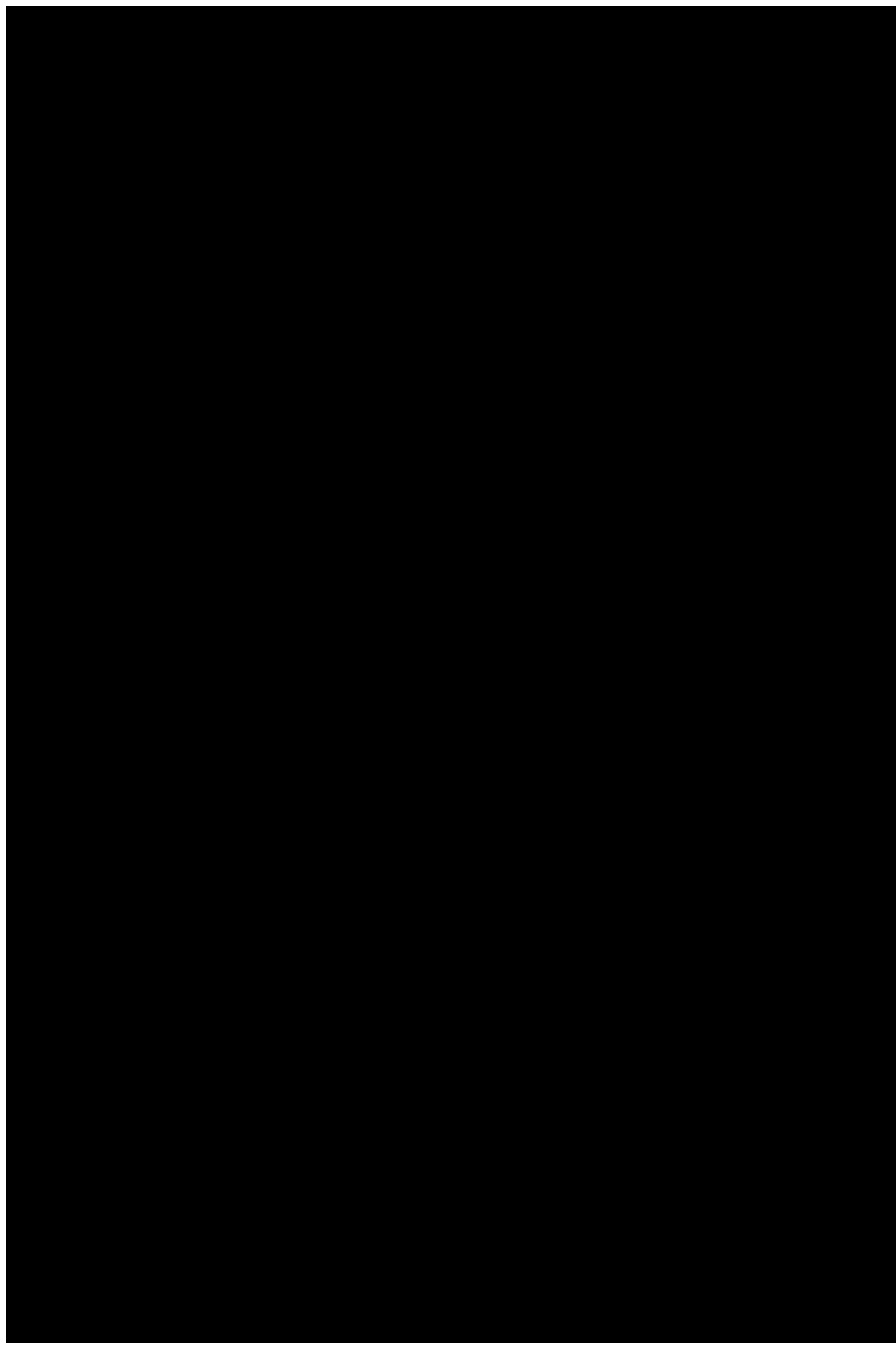
MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Sure.



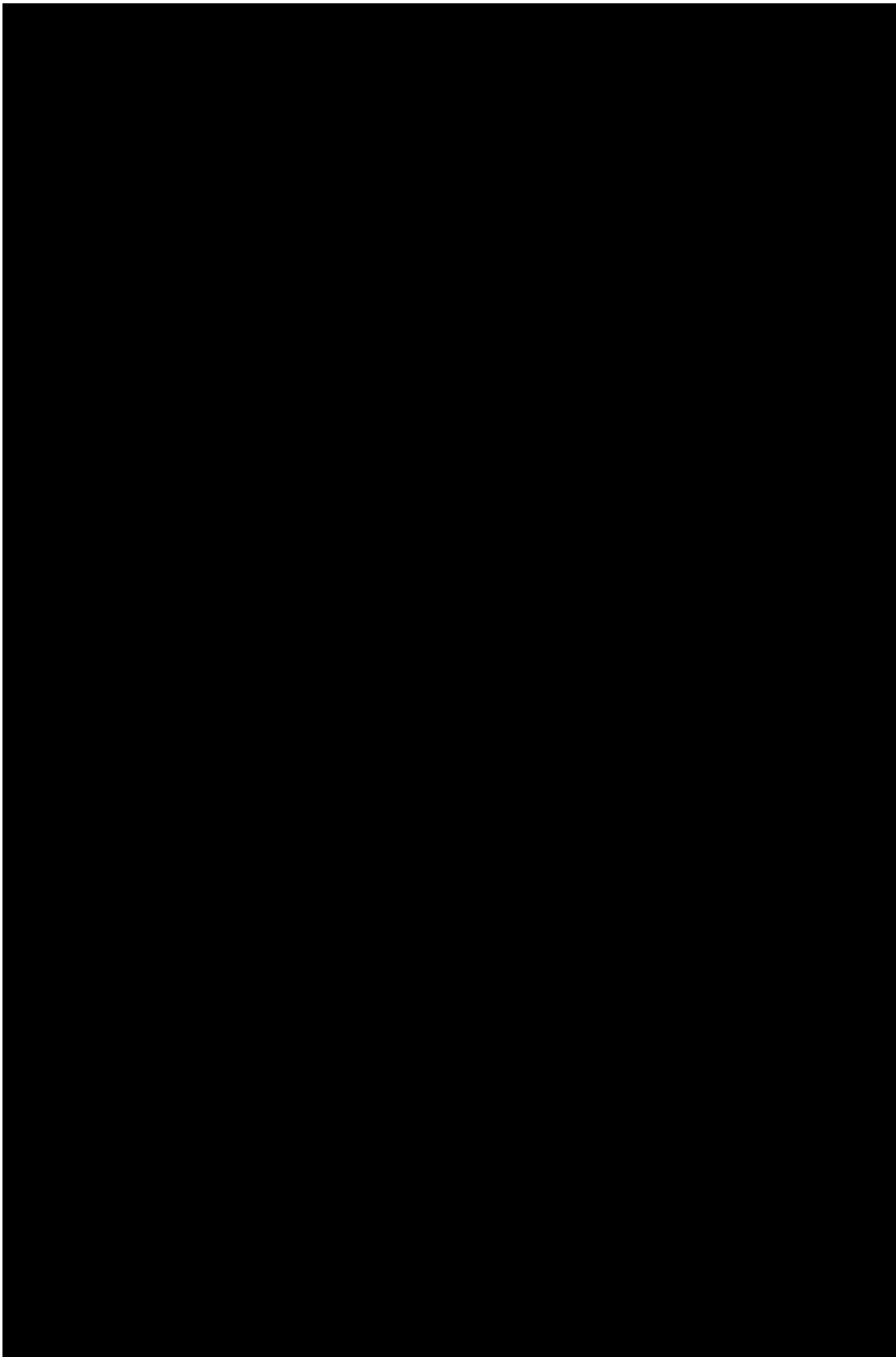
MS. BOYCE: Thank you.



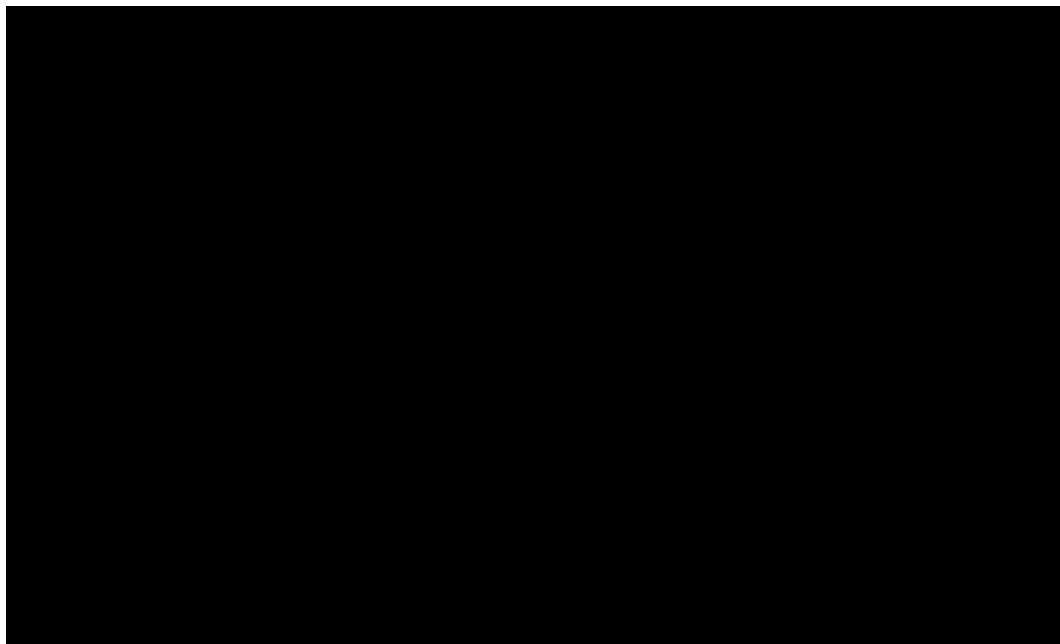
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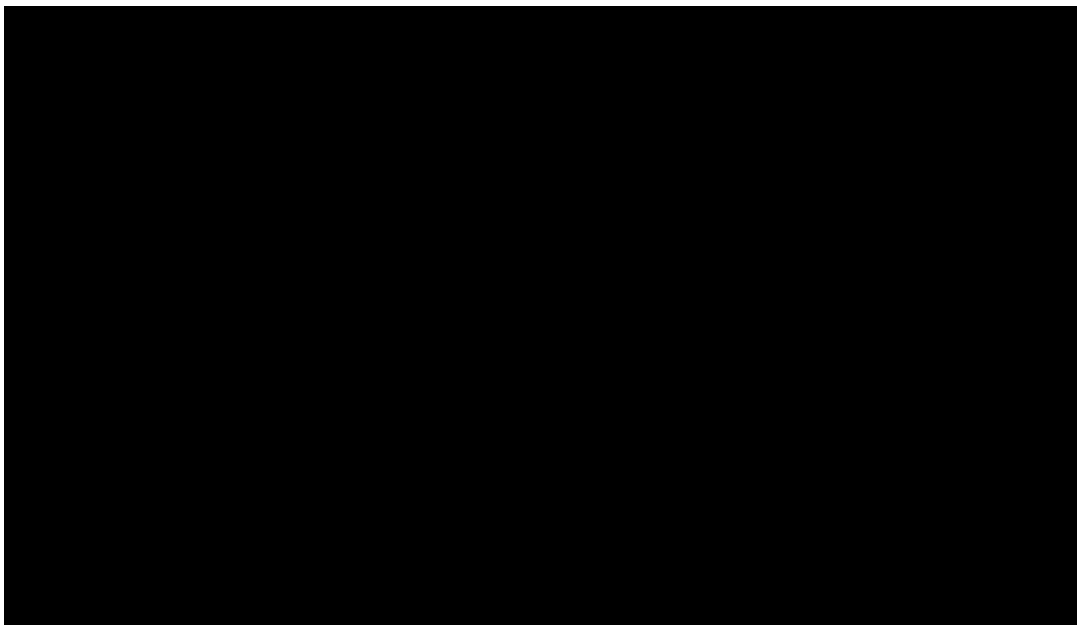


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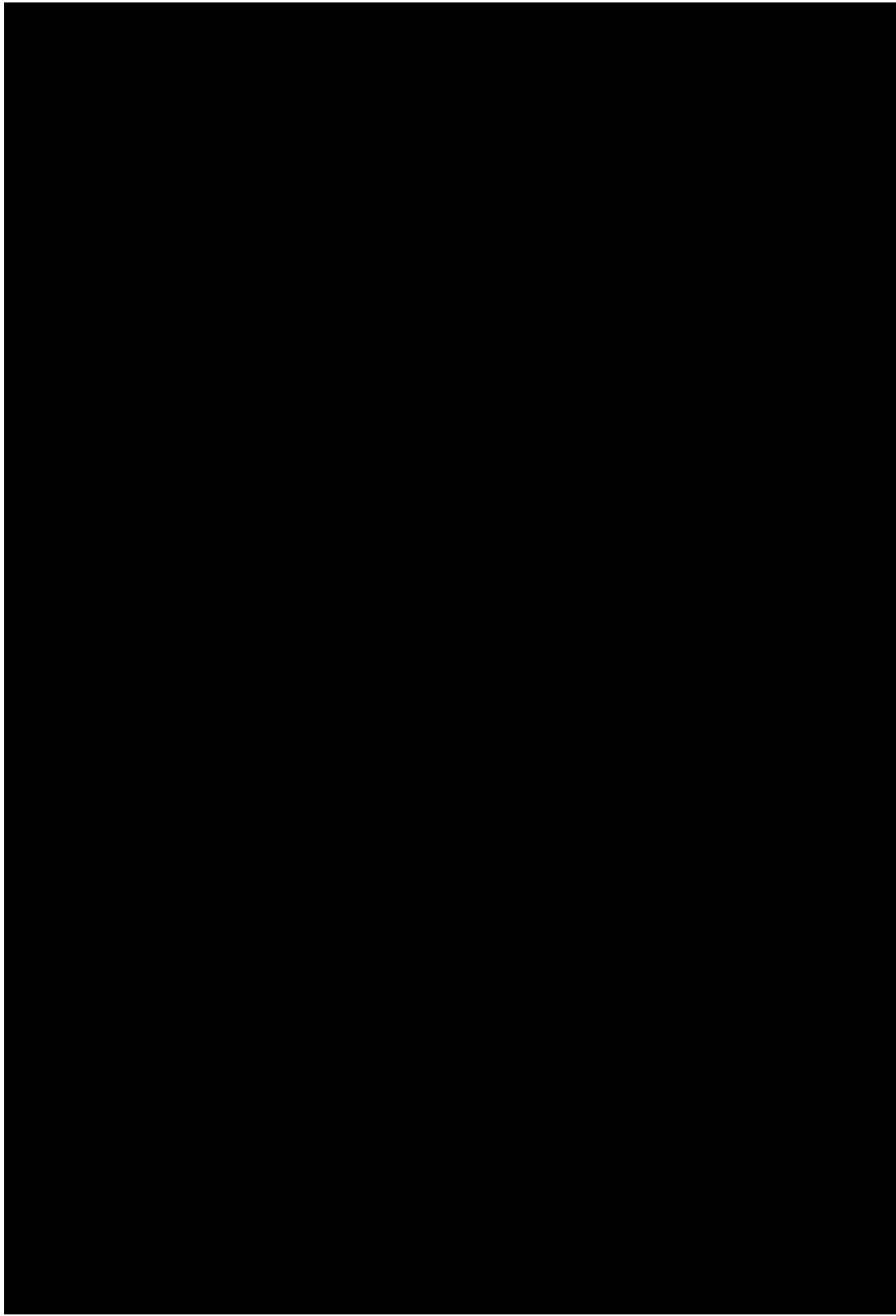
So having said all of that, Mr. Bopp,  
please tell me if I'm wrong and how I'm wrong.

MR. BOPP: Well, I hate to say  
anyone's wrong, I just have a different point

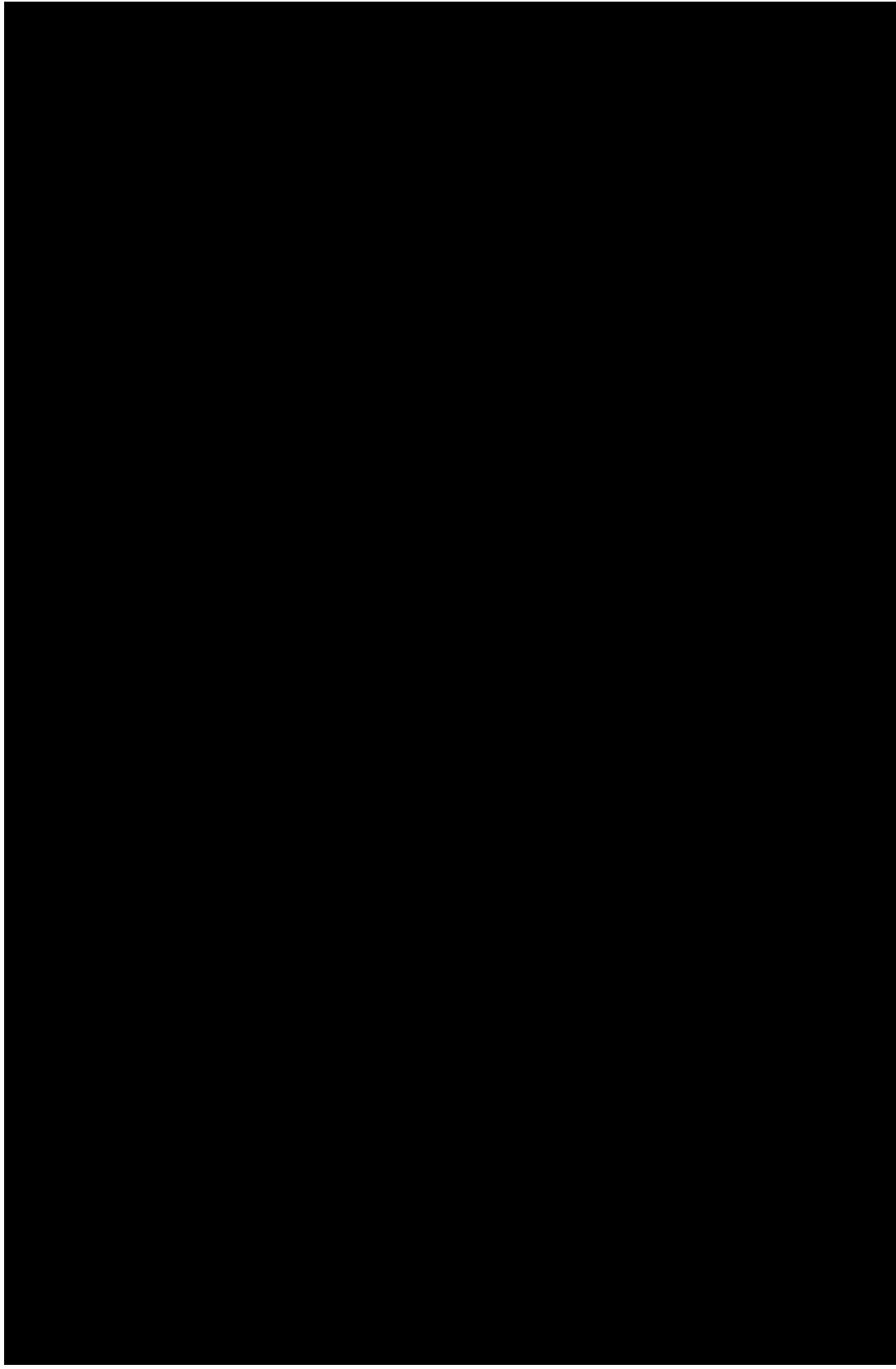


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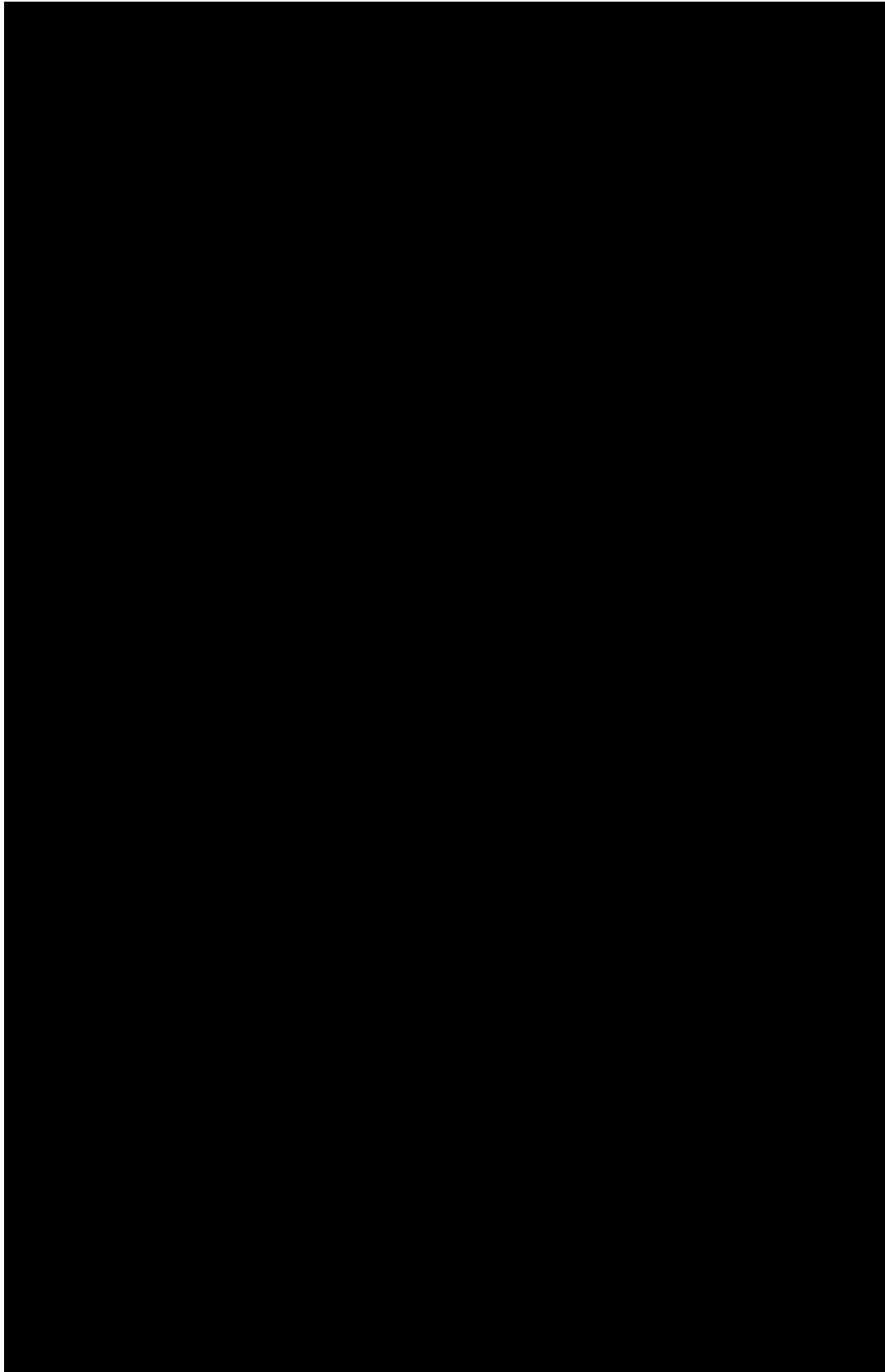
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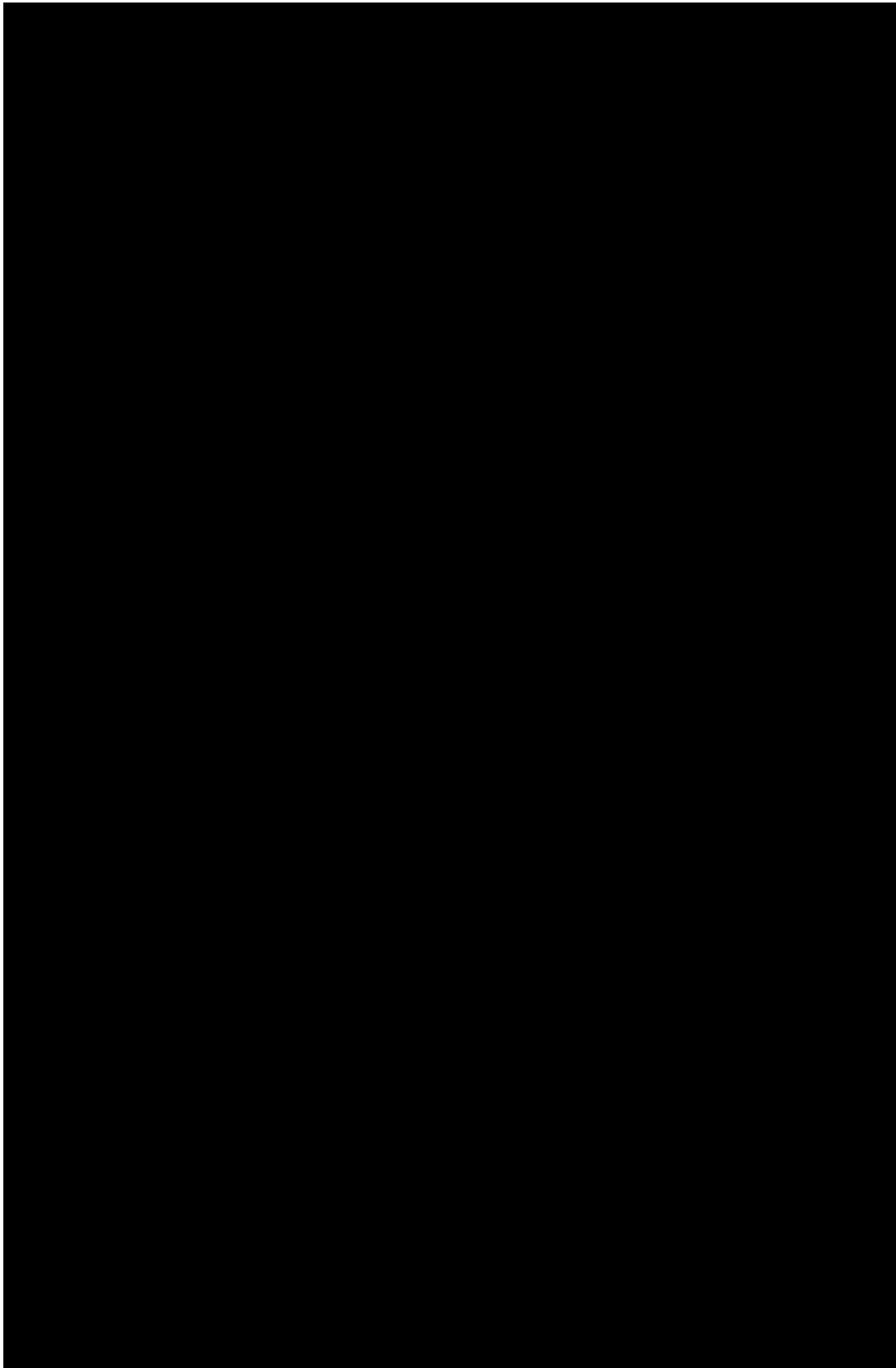
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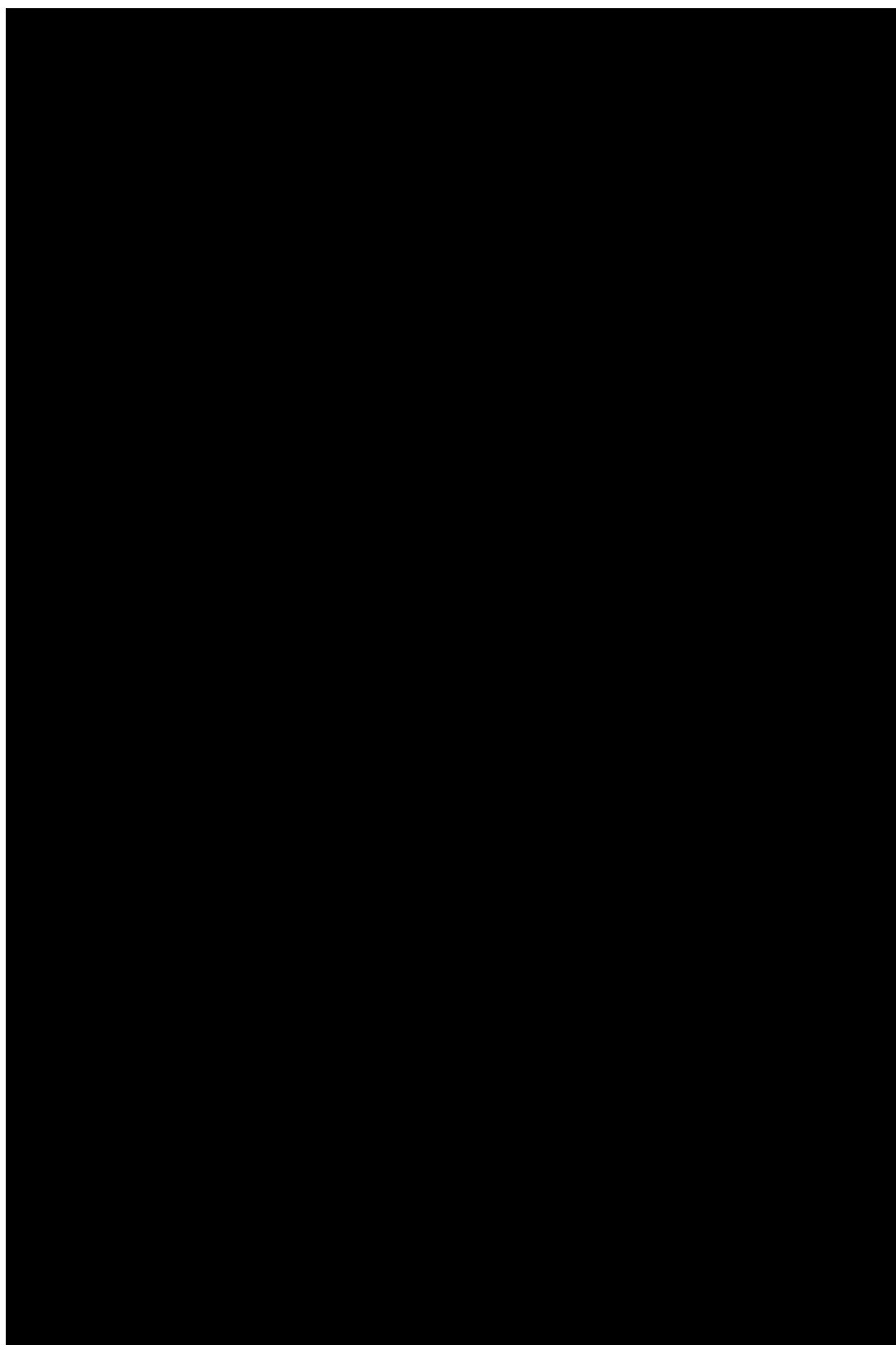
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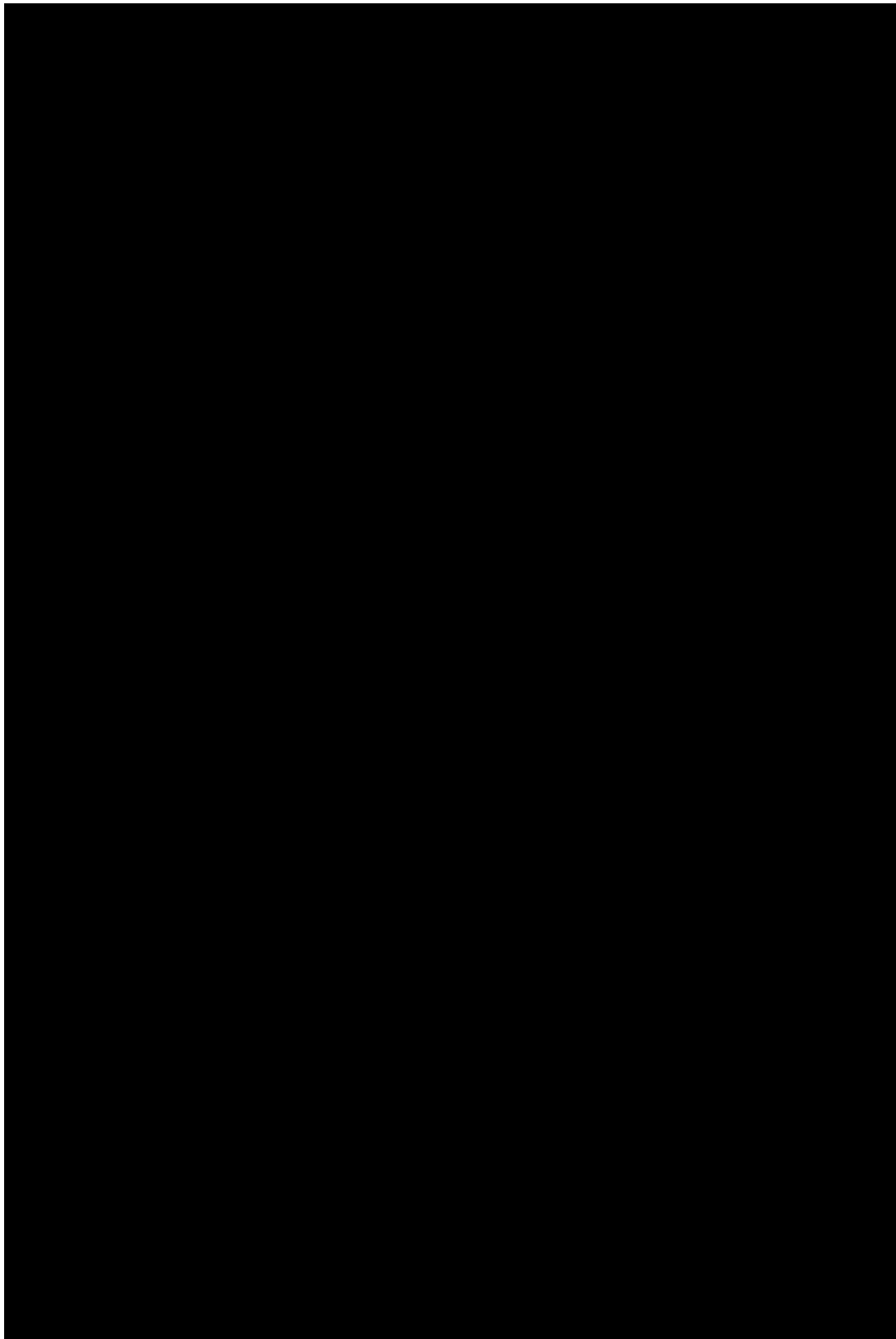
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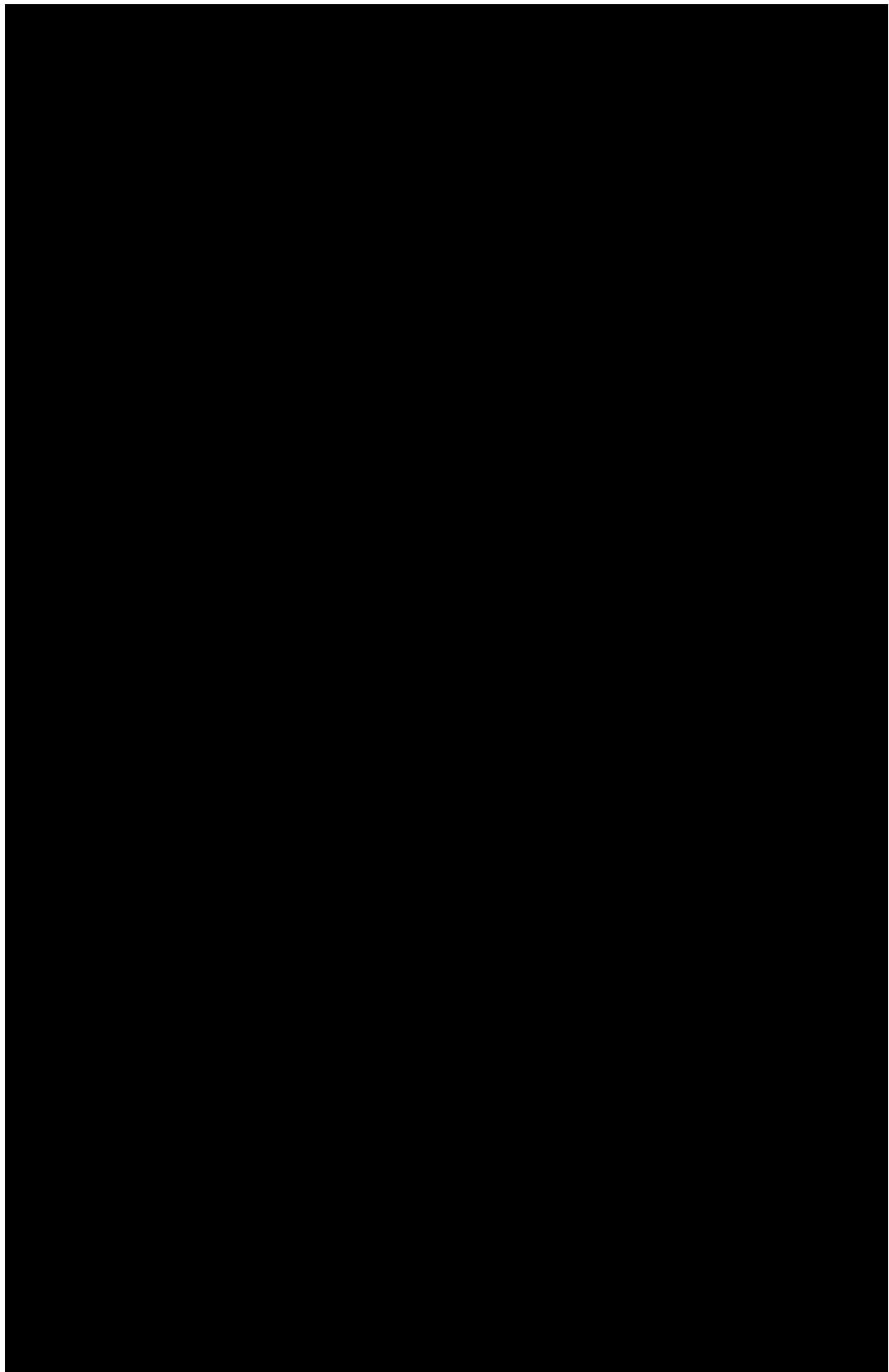
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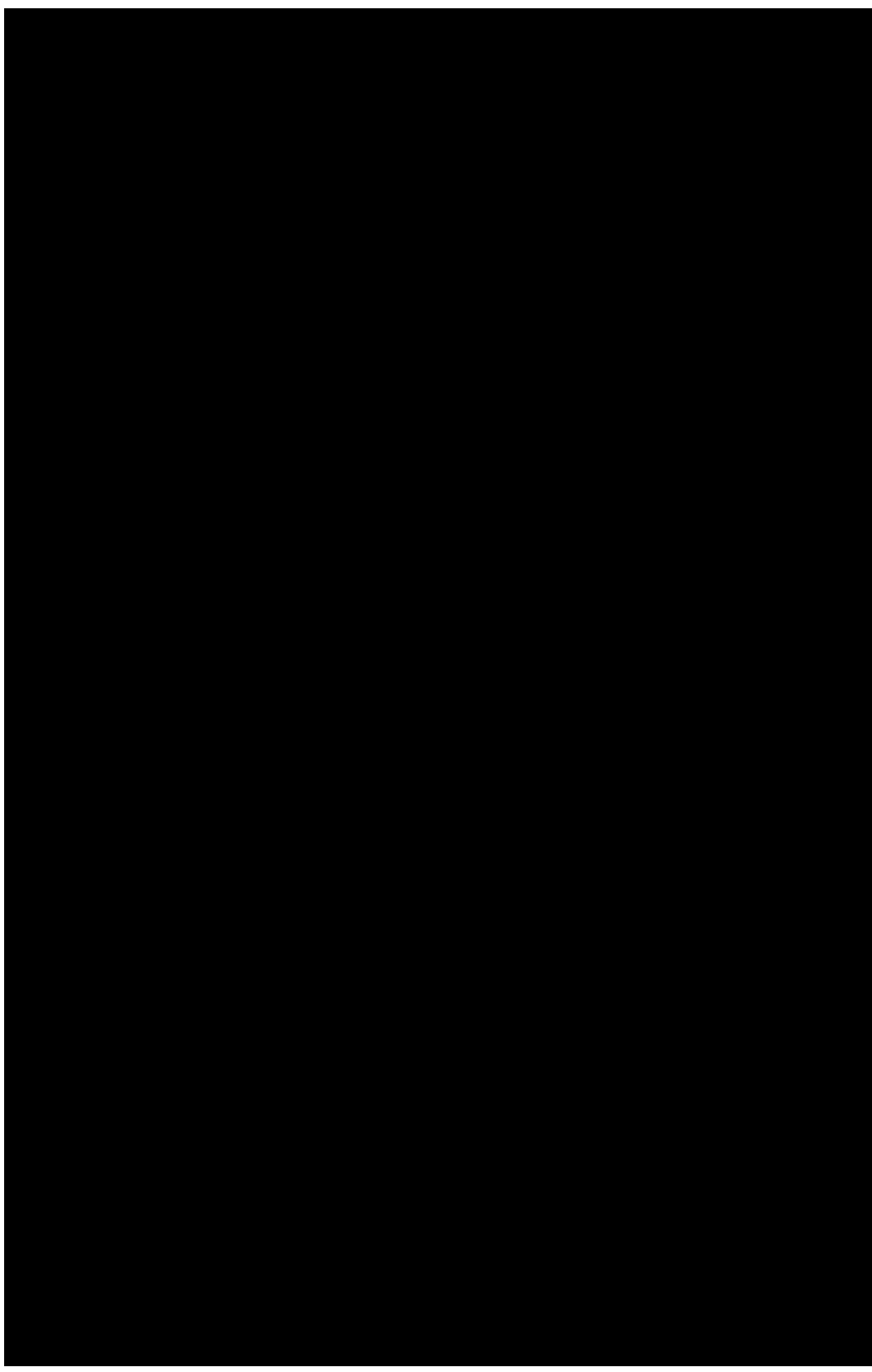
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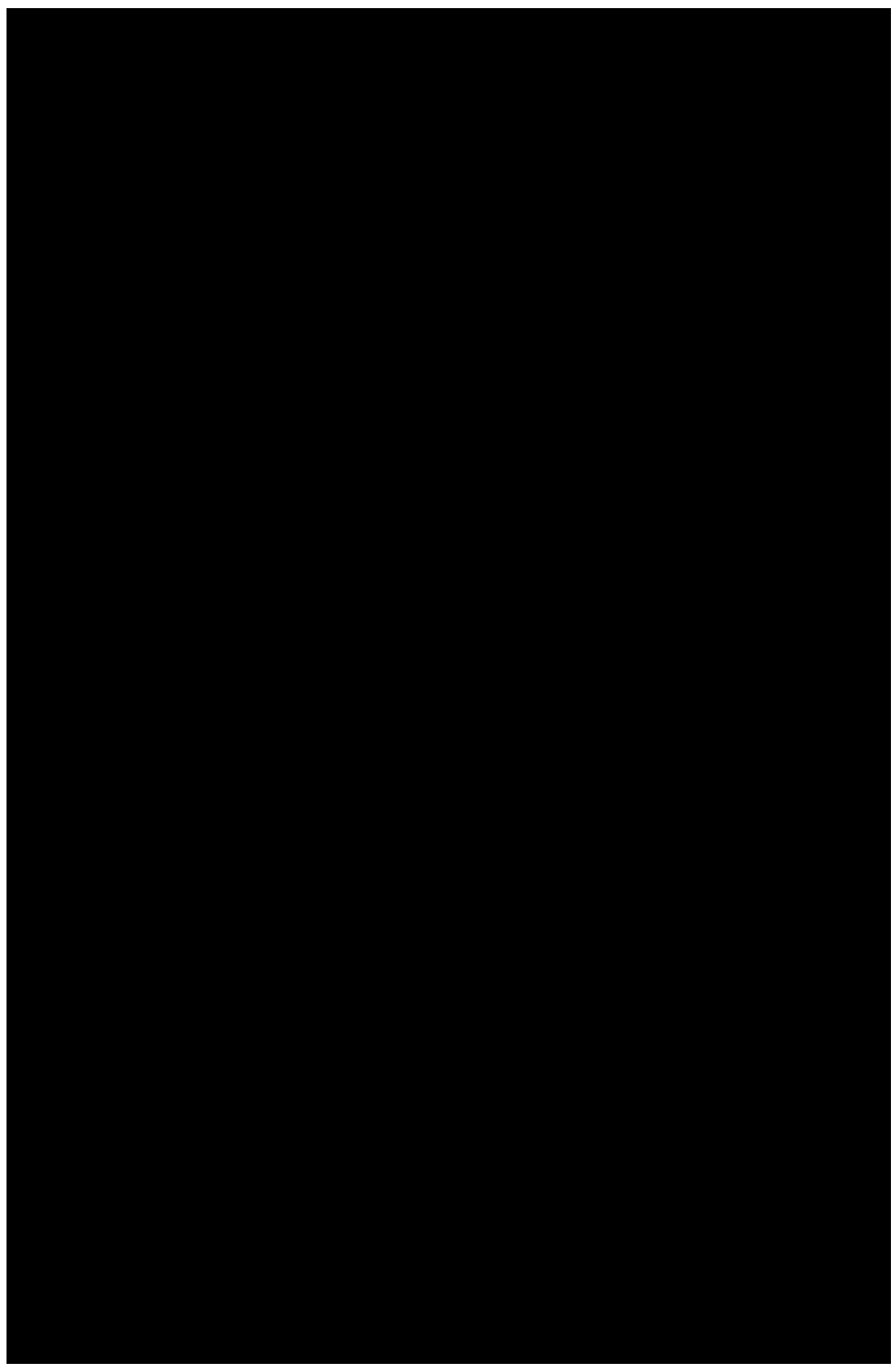
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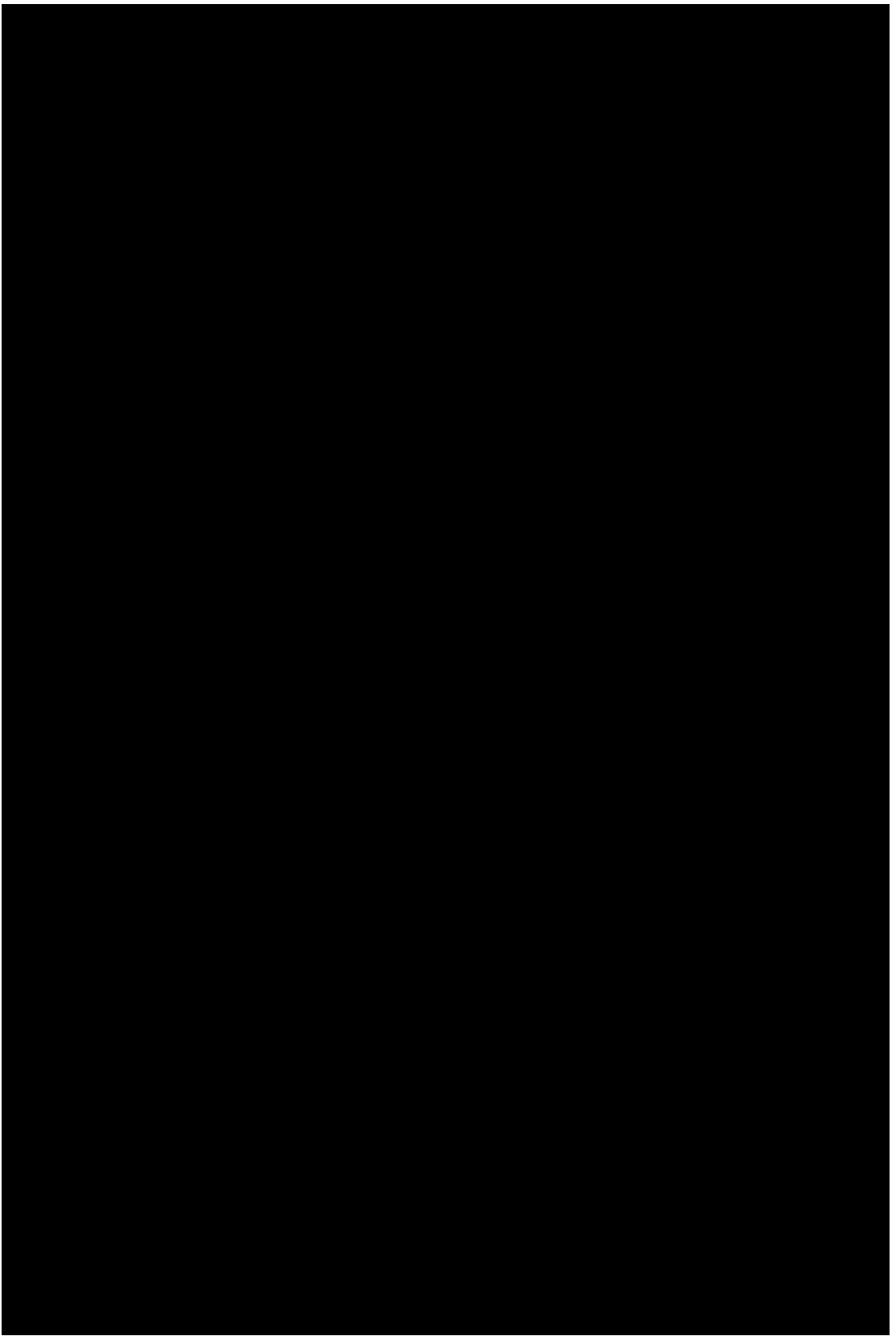
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MS. BOYCE: Any other questions?

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Thoughts?

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MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: What about

23

Ms. DeWester, she want to --

24

MS. BOYCE: They each get two

25

minutes. We skipped over that part; I

1 apologize. You have two minutes.

2 MS. DEWESTER: Are we both doing it  
3 or was that considered his rebuttal?

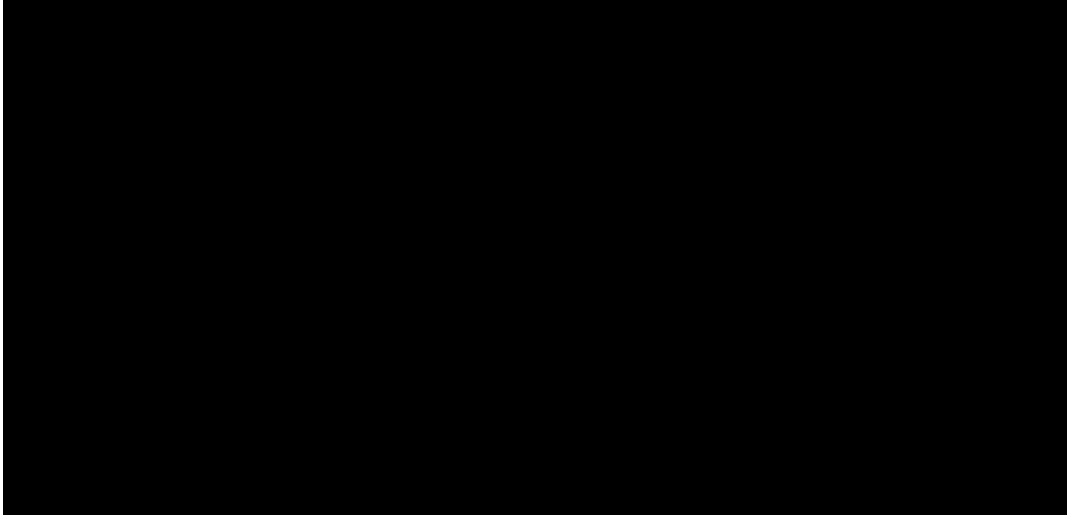
4 MS. WAYCHA: Those were questions. I  
5 was going to say each of you do get two  
6 minutes. Are you done with questioning? All  
7 right. I will start the clock with the two  
8 minutes. Did we say in the order who got to  
9 go first?

10 MR. BOPP: I think I've adequately  
11 said my piece. Thank you for the questions.

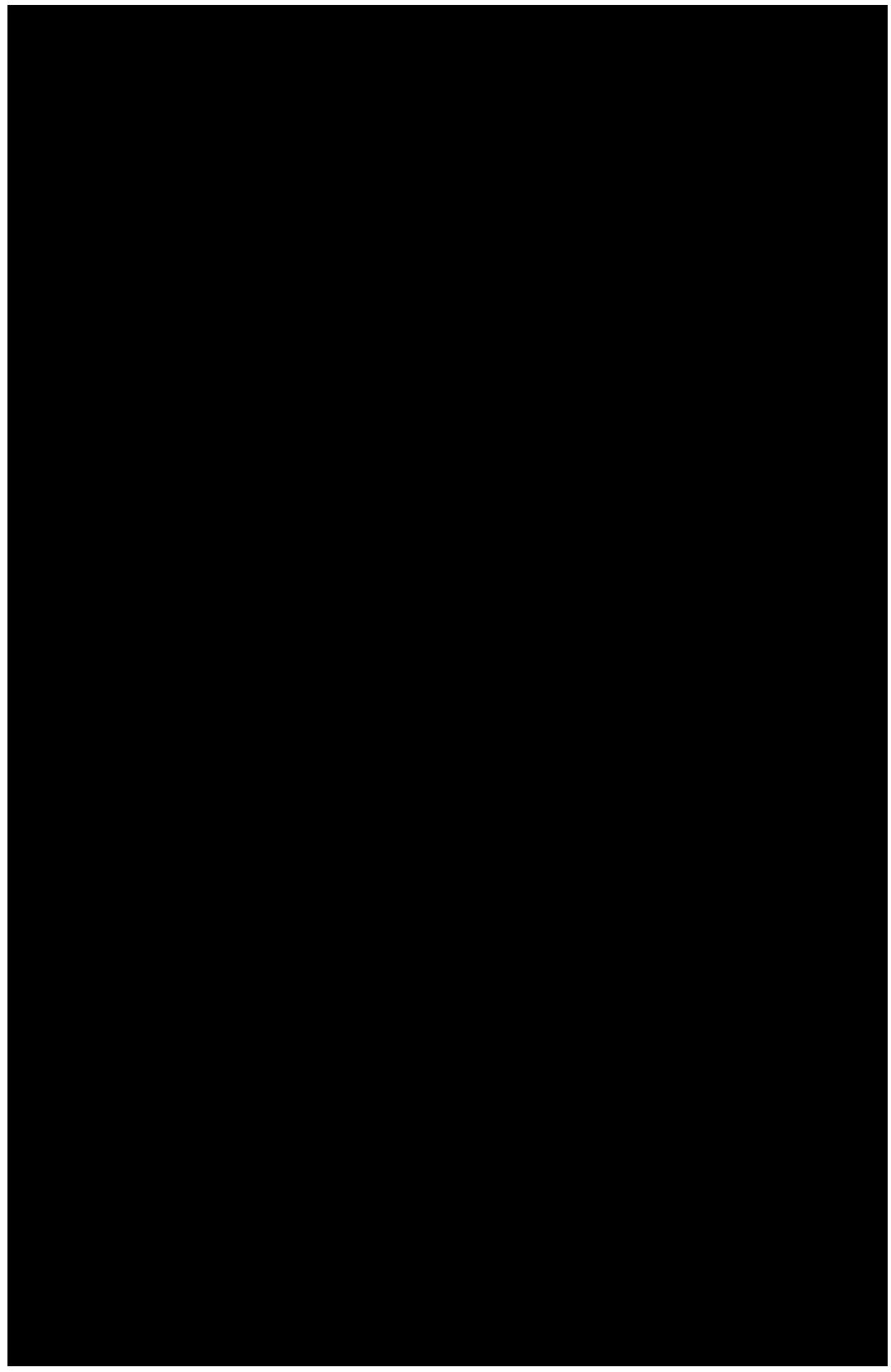
12 MS. WAYCHA: Ms. DeWester, I'll start  
13 the two minute timer for you.

14 MS. DEWESTER: Thank you. Thank you,  
15 guys, for listening to all this because it is  
16 extremely important to me as someone that's  
17 never missed an election since I was 18 and

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██████████  
So I would ask that you please deny the challenge and allow her to remain on the ballot.

MS. BOYCE: Okay. Okay. Any other follow-up questions? Thoughts? I would entertain a motion then on this challenge Cause No. 2026-16.

MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: I'll move to deny the challenge.

MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I'll second.

MS. BOYCE: We have a motion and a second to deny the challenge. All those in favor say please signify by saying "aye."

MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.

MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

MS. BOYCE: Opposed?

MR. WESTERCAMP: No.

MS. BOYCE: No. Okay. Yes, so in that case we have a two-two motion. I would ask for an opposite motion to exhaust administrative remedies in the event of an appeal to a court.

MR. WESTERCAMP: So moved.

MS. BOYCE: Second. So in this

1 case --

2 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Could you  
3 explain because I thought the opposite  
4 motion -- so you're not moving to approve the  
5 challenge?

6 MR. WESTERCAMP: I thought that's  
7 what we were doing.

8 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Cause,  
9 administrative remedy --

10 MR. WESTERCAMP: That's that --

11 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: So what is  
12 the language in the motion again?

13 MR. WESTERCAMP: He suggested that we  
14 exhaust -- we grant a motion exhausting  
15 administrative remedies, so --

16 MS. BOYCE: So we need to uphold the  
17 challenge?

18 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Grant the  
19 challenge.

20 MR. WESTERCAMP: To grant, the  
21 reciprocal of what you just said.

22 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: I'm just saying  
23 they exhaust administrative remedies, that  
24 seems like there has to be a ruling on both  
25 options of the motion, and then after that

1 there are administrative remedies that can be  
2 pursued, but moving to exhaust the  
3 administrative remedies seems premature at  
4 this point because who knows what's going to  
5 happen if you move -- because right now there  
6 hasn't been a motion to grant.

7 MR. WESTERCAMP: Are you suggesting  
8 two more motions?

9 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: One more.  
10 Well --

11 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: I don't care if  
12 you move to grant it or not, but it -- what  
13 does Valerie --

14 MS. WAYCHA: Yes. The idea is that  
15 we vote to uphold the challenge and then not  
16 to uphold the challenge, that we vote both  
17 ways so that if they go to court they can say  
18 these administrative remedies were exhausted  
19 and that way if they appeal to a circuit or  
20 superior court the court has jurisdiction.

21 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Moving to  
22 exhaust administrative remedies seems odd to  
23 me because --

24 MS. BOYCE: So just to clarify the  
25 motion --

1 MR. WESTERCAMP: I'm moving to grant  
2 the challenge on the matter before us and that  
3 we're exhausting administrative remedies  
4 through this motion. Are you --

5 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: It's up to the  
6 parties to argue whether they're exhausting  
7 administrative remedies.

8 MS. WAYCHA: I think her point it  
9 is --

10 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: The party, if  
11 they take judicial -- if you're assuming  
12 they're going to take judicial review, then  
13 they are argue whether or not they've  
14 exhausted administrative remedies, that's  
15 the -- I don't know why we are moving on  
16 whether administrative remedies have been  
17 exhausted.

18 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: If one side  
19 wants to say, oh, you didn't exhaust  
20 administrative remedies, we don't want to,  
21 ourselves, be in the middle of that. All we  
22 want to do is say we denied it, we granted it,  
23 failed, whatever.

24 MR. WESTERCAMP: It's my motion, so  
25 you can vote against it, but I've made the

1 motion. Is there a second?

2 MS. BOYCE: Yes, which I already did  
3 make that second. So all those in favor of  
4 upholding the challenge signify by saying  
5 "aye."

6 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

7 MS. BOYCE: Aye. Opposed say "nay."

8 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Nay.

9 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Nay.

10 MS. BOYCE: Okay. In this case that  
11 motion fails. So since it has not received  
12 the three votes required for official action  
13 by the Commission, both motions having failed,  
14 the Election Division is directed to include  
15 the name of Mr. Wilson on the certified list  
16 of primary candidates sent to the county  
17 election boards. Thank you.

18 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Mr. Bopp,  
19 thank you again. I love a good-spirited  
20 discussion. I know we can always get that.  
21 Thank you.

22 MS. BOYCE: Okay. Let's see, up next  
23 is Item D, which is 2026-03, Niemeyer v.  
24 Nelson. This is for the Republican Party  
25 nomination for Indiana State Representative

1 District 12.

2 MS. NUSSMEYER: Madam Chair, if I  
3 might, and, Valerie and Brad, I don't know if  
4 you've looked at your emails, but Joe sent  
5 over an email during this last hearing  
6 regarding Mr. Nelson, who submitted a letter  
7 to the office Joe file stamped and sent to us  
8 essentially admitting that he lacked the vote  
9 history. So I don't know if that is something  
10 you want to read into the record as part of  
11 the start of the hearing, but I just wanted to  
12 raise it so you knew that that had happened.

13 MR. KING: Madam Chair, if I might,  
14 the Joe that is referenced in my counterpart's  
15 statement just now is Joe McClain. He is my  
16 executive assistant Republican  
17 (unintelligible) of the Election Division.

18 MS. WAYCHA: I would say just to  
19 follow precedent, I believe we have a default  
20 here. I do not see Mr. Nelson present, and I  
21 would recommend going with a default that  
22 we --

23 MS. BOYCE: How about we let you  
24 state your name again, spell it for the court  
25 reporter, just to acknowledge that you are

1 here.

2 MR. NIEMEYER: Randy Niemeyer,  
3 R-A-N-D-Y N-I-E-M-E-Y-E-R, Lake County  
4 Republican Party Chairman, and you all have  
5 figured out the key to shutting up a  
6 politician, so congratulations.

7 MS. BOYCE: Okay. So at this point,  
8 since the other party is not here, I would  
9 look for a motion to address this challenge.

10 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I move that  
11 because the other side is not -- the person  
12 being challenged has not shown, so, therefore,  
13 defaulted and I move to dismiss the challenge.

14 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: To uphold the  
15 challenge.

16 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: To uphold  
17 the challenge, yes, sorry.

18 MS. BOYCE: So we have a motion. Do  
19 we have a second?

20 MR. WESTERCAMP: Second.

21 MS. BOYCE: Okay. We have a motion  
22 and a second to uphold this challenge. All  
23 those in favor signify by saying "aye."

24 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

25 Ms. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.

1 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

2 MS. BOYCE: Opposed say "nay." Very  
3 good. Motion passes. Thank you very much.

4 MR. NIEMEYER: Thank you for your  
5 service.

6 MS. BOYCE: Okay. Up next is Item E,  
7 Cause No. 2026-08, Crispin v. Townsend. This  
8 is for the Democratic Party nomination for  
9 Indiana State Representative District 36.  
10 Good morning. Okay. If all of you could --  
11 all of you were sworn in. Now, were you  
12 sworn? I was thinking maybe -- sorry; I  
13 thought you came in later.

14 If you could all state your name and spell  
15 your name for the court reporter, please.

16 MS. TOWNSEND: Kimberly Townsend,  
17 K-I-M-B-E-R-L-Y, Townsend, T-O-W-N-S-E-N-D.

18 MS. BARTLETT: Good morning. Ali  
19 Bartlett here on behalf of the challenger,  
20 Birjan Crispin. My name is A-L-I  
21 B-A-R-T-L-E-T-T.

22 MR. CRISPIN: Good morning, Madam  
23 Chairman, members of the Commission, my name  
24 is Birjan Crispin, the challenger, a  
25 registered voter the in Madison County House

1 District 36. First name is B-I-R-J-A-N, last  
2 name Crispin, C-R-I-S-P-I-N.

3 MS. BOYCE: Thank you. Looks like  
4 there's papers.

5 MS. WAYCHA: This is from, I believe,  
6 Ms. Townsend.

7 MS. BOYCE: Okay. So at this point  
8 we will begin with the challenger, and you all  
9 receive seven minutes, so once Valerie's ready  
10 with our timekeeper here. You can get  
11 started.

12 MS. BARTLETT: Good morning, Madam  
13 Chairwoman, and members of the Commission. I  
14 thank you for having us. My name is Ali  
15 Bartlett. Like I said, I'm here on behalf of  
16 the challenger, Birjan Crispin, who is a  
17 registered voter House District 36.

18 We're here today to rightfully bring this  
19 challenge to the candidacy of Ms. Townsend for  
20 Indiana State Representative of House  
21 District 36.

22 Pursuant to Indiana Code 3-8-1-5(d)(6)  
23 candidate must be disqualified if the person  
24 is subject to the Hatch Act or the Little  
25 Hatch Act.

1           The Little Hatch Act, codified at 5 U.S.C.  
2 1502; provides that a state or local officer  
3 or employee may not [] if the salary of the  
4 employee is paid completely, directly or  
5 indirectly, by loans or grants made by the  
6 United States or a Federal agency, be a  
7 candidate for elective office. (Source #1- 5  
8 U.S.C. 1502).

9           Because Ms. Townsend is currently  
10 employed, jointly, as Chief Executive Officer  
11 and Executive Director of the Anderson Housing  
12 Authority, a public housing agency, and  
13 Anderson Housing, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit,  
14 and the salary for the position of Director of  
15 the Anderson Housing Authority is fully funded  
16 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
17 Development (HUD), Ms. Townsend is subject to  
18 the Little Hatch Act and, therefore,  
19 disqualified from remaining a candidate  
20 pursuant to IC 3-8-1-5(d)(6)(A).

21           Ms. Townsend holds two positions two  
22 titles, two entities. One of these positions,  
23 which has a publicly reported, individualized  
24 salary, is completely funded through federal  
25 funds. Because Ms. Townsend is, as such, an

1 employee paid completely by a federal  
2 agency, she may not become a candidate for  
3 elective office pursuant to the Little Hatch  
4 Act.

5 A publicly available audit report of the  
6 Anderson Housing Authority, mandated by the  
7 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
8 Development, for which Ms. Townsend is  
9 publicly identified in the role of Chief  
10 Executive Officer and Executive Director,  
11 directly states that her position is fully  
12 funded from operating funds from Sections 8  
13 and 9 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937.

14 Ms. Townsends salary from this position  
15 was listed as \$101,240.56 at the time of  
16 publication of this latest report (2023).

17 This figure was publicly reported in the  
18 most recently published copy of HUD Form  
19 52725, which is required for publication by  
20 the federal government.

21 The Form also states that Ms. Townsends  
22 salary is completely funded by the  
23 aforementioned Sec. 8 and 9 federal  
24 funds.

25 As required for reporting on this Form, it

1 was reported and attested, under penalty of  
2 perjury, that the aforementioned salary was  
3 paid to Ms. Townsend for her service in this  
4 role with Anderson Housing Authority. The Form  
5 also reports that \$0 was paid from sources  
6 other than the Sec. 8 and 9 federal funds.

7 Hence, Ms. Townsend is an employee paid  
8 completely by a federal agency, and,  
9 therefore, may not become a candidate for  
10 elective office pursuant to the Little Hatch  
11 Act.

12 The report produced in conjunction with  
13 HUD Form 52725 mirrors the reporting to the  
14 State of Indiana by the Anderson Housing  
15 Authority.

16 In its required reporting to the State of  
17 Indiana (specifically, the SBOA), the Anderson  
18 Housing Authority has separated the  
19 administrative expenditures for salaries  
20 between the Anderson Housing Authority and  
21 Anderson Housing, Inc., which explicitly  
22 highlights Anderson Housing, Inc. as an  
23 entity separate from Anderson Housing  
24 Authority.

25 While Ms. Townsend may argue that, because

1 she holds dual roles, only one of which is  
2 paid completely through federal funds, she is  
3 not subject to the provisions of the Little  
4 Hatch Act, the facts and precedent  
5 say otherwise.

6 An advisory opinion published by the US  
7 Office of Special Counsel in 2013 provides  
8 that only an individuals salary is included  
9 when considering whether or not the  
10 restrictions of the Hatch Act apply.

11 Specifically, it provides that other  
12 sources of compensation, retirement, or  
13 benefit should not be considered in that  
14 analysis.

15 In addition, the U.S. Office of Special  
16 Counsel provides published guidance 2, which  
17 provides that the Hatch Act restricts the  
18 political activity of individuals principally  
19 employed in positions completely financed  
20 with federal funds, and goes on to explain  
21 that, usually, employment with a state, D.C.,  
22 or local agency constitutes the principal  
23 employment of the employee in question.  
24 However, when an employee holds two or more  
25 jobs, principal employment is generally deemed

1 to be that job which accounts for the most  
2 work time and the most earned income.

3 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: We can't see  
4 that. Were you going to introduce them as  
5 exhibits?

6 MS. BARTLETT: Yeah. We have that  
7 right here. We can provide them to you, yeah.

8 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Is there a  
9 copy of the particular provision of the Little  
10 Hatch Act that you're relying on?

11 MS. BARTLETT: I'm not sure if  
12 there's a copy -- we don't have the law, but I  
13 can get it to you.

14 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: What is  
15 that? I'll look it up.

16 MS. BARTLETT: Yeah, absolutely. The  
17 citation is 5 U.S.C Section 1502.

18 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Right here  
19 on the front page.

20 MS. BARTLETT: So just to kind of put  
21 a bow on that point, as such, Ms. Townsend  
22 could have any number of streams of income  
23 from salaried positions, rental income,  
24 selling things on Facebook Marketplace,  
25 whatever if she holds a salaried position

1 that is 100% funded by federal loans or  
2 grants, she is subject to the restrictions  
3 under the Hatch Act and the Little Hatch Act.

4 In conclusion, Ms. Townsend holds the  
5 position of Executive Director of the Anderson  
6 Housing Authority, which, as was most recently  
7 publicly reported, pursuant to penalty of  
8 perjury, is paid completely in federal funds,  
9 with \$0 reported from other sources. This  
10 federal report mirrors the reports made by AHA  
11 to the Indiana State Board of Accounts.

12 As such, Ms. Townsend holds a position  
13 that subjects her to the restrictions of the  
14 Little Hatch Act, which prohibits an employee  
15 paid completely in federal funds from becoming  
16 a candidate. Thank you.

17 MS. BOYCE: Thank you. Okay. Seven  
18 minutes.

19 MS. TOWNSEND: So the attachments  
20 that you have received from me, first it talks  
21 about housing authorities using combined CEO  
22 and executive director titles. And it's  
23 listed here even (unintelligible) Indiana that  
24 we use the CEO executive titles but it doesn't  
25 mean we hold two positions. I hold one

1 position, that is the chief executive officer  
2 and executive director as referred by HUD for  
3 one entity, the Anderson Housing Authority.

4 And the key take away, regardless of the  
5 wording, these titles describe a single  
6 leadership position responsible for  
7 operational management, policy, organizational  
8 strategy, and stakeholder engagement.

9 You'll see further that under the housing  
10 authority is a nonprofit that manages  
11 properties. I would be the managing agent or  
12 the representative from Anderson Housing  
13 Authority to manage those properties.

14 That entity that they're referencing, I'm  
15 not employed by them. All the properties we  
16 manage, we split all revenue across the board,  
17 rental income, my salary from HUD, et cetera.

18 The third page the challenge points of  
19 reference and attachments. Crispin begins  
20 alleging that I, Kim Townsend, is in violation  
21 of the Little Hatch Act, but you will find  
22 that in Attachment A, back on June 13 before I  
23 even filed to run in this position, I knew I  
24 was interested in public office, so quite  
25 naturally I wanted to get that opinion from

1 the federal government. And I described fully  
2 my position at that time, and I received that  
3 there was no violation because I am not 100  
4 percent paid with federal funds under the one  
5 position.

6 It is true that I do get funds from the  
7 federal government, but not 100 percent of my  
8 salary is paid with federal funds, which is  
9 what I needed to prove. Attachment B is an  
10 email from the United States Department of  
11 Housing and Urban Development Indianapolis  
12 Field Office, who also used all of this  
13 vetting to the office of general counsel, and  
14 they upheld the opinion of the OFC.

15 Attachment C is what the OFC gave me when  
16 it further gave me, I will say, guardrails for  
17 running for elected office. And that was  
18 my -- using my official title and -- but,  
19 namely, the Hatch Act was amended so that  
20 qualified candidates would no longer be  
21 precluded from running for political office or  
22 elected office.

23 Crispin goes on to state in paragraph 2  
24 that Townsend is employed jointly by two  
25 different entities with two boards.

1           Attachment D we'll see my employment  
2           contract with the Anderson Housing Authority.  
3           The figure she gave was only the federal  
4           portion of my salary, but it's not -- it  
5           wasn't my full salary at the time.

6           MR. WESTERCAMP: Can I just clarify a  
7           question?

8           MS. TOWNSEND: Sure. Sure.

9           MR. WESTERCAMP: A second ago you  
10          said you're not employed, but I'm going to  
11          refer to one is the Authority and one is the  
12          nonprofit.

13          MS. TOWNSEND: Yes.

14          MR. WESTERCAMP: Because they sound  
15          very similar.

16          MS. TOWNSEND: They do.

17          MR. WESTERCAMP: It's very confusing.

18          MS. TOWNSEND: Yes. It's Anderson  
19          Housing Authority and then Incorporated.

20          MR. WESTERCAMP: I'm sorry to  
21          interrupt you, but you had said that you were  
22          not employed by the Authority a second ago; is  
23          that right? Did I hear you incorrectly?

24          MS. TOWNSEND: I'm not employed by  
25          the incorporation.

1 MR. WESTERCAMP: By the corporation?

2 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes. It's like AHA  
3 and then AHI.

4 MR. WESTERCAMP: Okay.

5 MS. TOWNSEND: I'm sorry if you're  
6 confused by that. I tried to write it all out  
7 for you.

8 MR. WESTERCAMP: That was my only  
9 clarifying question.

10 MS. TOWNSEND: And so we were just  
11 managing agent. We manage other properties,  
12 too, in Anderson. We receive those rent  
13 proceeds and everybody that works in these  
14 programs, we pay across the board.

15 No. 3, Crispin states AHI is not on  
16 Townsend's statement of economic interest, and  
17 board meeting documents show Townsend as  
18 staff. On Attachment E you'll see the board  
19 minutes from Anderson Housing Authority,  
20 Incorporated from February 15. The staff  
21 means all staff from the Housing Authority  
22 that manages these AHI properties.

23 Page 2 shows Resolution 2023-01 that sets  
24 forth future hiring by this entity. At this  
25 time there were no employees, and you'll see

1 that there is one further down, but it's not  
2 me. But that was a resolution that the board  
3 had to pass. I have the authority to hire for  
4 AHA because I'm its CEO. I have no authority  
5 to hire under AHI because I'm not their  
6 executive.

7 Also, Attachment G, letter-affirming  
8 relationship of AHA and AHI, and  
9 Attachment H, email from HUD requesting  
10 breakdown from Townsend's salary. Our field  
11 office here in Indianapolis, they know what  
12 our -- how our entity is made up. They just  
13 wanted to see that along with my federal  
14 dollars, that I'm also paid with nonfederal  
15 dollars, and those dollars make up my full  
16 salary, federal and nonfederal, not because of  
17 me holding two executive positions over the  
18 two entities, but that were managing  
19 properties.

20 And, finally, No. 4, Crispin references  
21 the joint hiring of Kevin Sulc from both  
22 entities. Attachment I is a press release and  
23 article from Herald Bulletin of the Kevin  
24 Sulc's hiring per the documentation on 3B.  
25 Mr. Sulc is the Anderson Housing Authority's

1 chief operating officer. He's Anderson  
2 Housing Incorporated's director of  
3 development. That resolution was passed so  
4 that they would hire Mr. Sulc.

5 Further, Mr. Sulc is an elected official.  
6 He is a Republican Anderson Township Trustee  
7 board member and also a Republican precinct  
8 committee member. And I also stated this was  
9 widely known across the Republican Party that  
10 not only is he an officeholder, but that he  
11 works for the Anderson Housing Authority and  
12 Anderson Housing Incorporated.

13 You'll also see the agenda for both boards  
14 on Attachment J. Townsend is listed as  
15 executive director for Anderson Housing  
16 Authority and as managing agent, along with  
17 her team, for Anderson Housing Incorporated.  
18 So I'm here to -- oh, I'm sorry.

19 MS. TOWNSEND: That's okay. Timer  
20 just went off.

21 MS. BOYCE: I did have a question  
22 about what you were just saying. I didn't see  
23 that. What were you just referring to,  
24 Attachment J?

25 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes. It's an agenda

1 and -- it's two agendas, I'm sorry. Yeah, two  
2 agendas.

3 MS. BOYCE: Yeah. One's on the back.

4 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes, one's on the  
5 back. I just got the first page of the  
6 agenda, so you can see that I'm not listed as  
7 their executive. I represent the Housing  
8 Authority as a managing agent of property.

9 MR. WESTERCAMP: Can I just clarify  
10 the issues because it's kind of a little bit  
11 of morass of lots of papers, lots of statutes,  
12 this and that. I want to kind of narrow the  
13 field of what's being disputed just so I and  
14 everybody else on this Commission can  
15 understand.

16 So I think my first question is is this  
17 authority, which is the nonprofit, for  
18 clarification?

19 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes.

20 MR. WESTERCAMP: Do you stipulate  
21 that it's a state or local agency?

22 MS. TOWNSEND: It is a  
23 quasi-governmental agency who's set up under  
24 Indiana Statute.

25 MR. WESTERCAMP: Okay.

1 MS. TOWNSEND: Housing Authority.

2 MR. WESTERCAMP: For purposes of the  
3 Little Hatch Act, because we have definitions  
4 for the Little Hatch Act in Section 1501,  
5 "State or local agency is defined as a state  
6 municipality or other political subdivision of  
7 a state or an agency or department thereof, or  
8 the executive branch of the District of  
9 Columbia agency or department thereof." Are  
10 you stipulating that --

11 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Are you  
12 reading from inside these?

13 MR. WESTERCAMP: No. I just pulled  
14 the statute. This is from the definition --  
15 this is from Section 1501 of the Little Hatch  
16 Act, the Little Hatch Act defined terms.

17 So are you saying that the Authority is a  
18 state or local agency as defined by the Little  
19 Hatch Act?

20 MS. TOWNSEND: We are -- the  
21 Authority is a -- it has been what's created  
22 under state statute, as you will see. It's  
23 under 536-7, I believe. I am not an appointed  
24 official, but I'm a hired employee under  
25 contract --

1 MR. WESTERCAMP: Yes.

2 MS. TOWNSEND: -- with that agency.  
3 We receive federal dollar dollars to run two  
4 major housing programs, plus affordable  
5 housing programs.

6 MR. WESTERCAMP: I take your answer  
7 that you're agreeing that it is a state or  
8 local agency under the Little Hatch Act; is  
9 that right?

10 MS. TOWNSEND: I'm not 100 percent  
11 for sure, but I know we're in the state law --  
12 I mean, we're under state statute, I'm sorry.

13 MR. WESTERCAMP: So, second, you are  
14 employed, in fact, by the Authority --

15 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes.

16 MR. WESTERCAMP: -- state or locally,  
17 so it seems to me like the only question that  
18 we need to determine is if the salary of the  
19 employees paid completely, directly or  
20 indirectly, by loans or grants made by the  
21 United States Government or federal agency; is  
22 that right? Is that the only contention that  
23 we have here?

24 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes.

25 MR. WESTERCAMP: Really? I guess I'm

1 going to pause a second just because I thought  
2 it would be helpful to clarify, like, what are  
3 the different things that we're -- seems like  
4 the argument, in my opinion, is solely over  
5 funding.

6 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: I think that  
7 simplifies it, yes.

8 MS. TOWNSEND: Can I just make one  
9 clarification?

10 MR. WESTERCAMP: Please do.

11 MS. TOWNSEND: As you are weighing  
12 this, I guess what I had to put all those  
13 other documents in place is to show that  
14 there's one salary that comes from a variety  
15 of locations, federal and nonfederal funds.

16 MR. WESTERCAMP: Can you just walk us  
17 through your argument for that again.

18 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes.

19 MR. WESTERCAMP: Where's the money  
20 coming from because that seems like that's the  
21 crux --

22 MS. TOWNSEND: Goes to attachment --  
23 Indianapolis Field Office asked me to break  
24 down my salary. Okay. Attachment H. It's an  
25 email that I responded to them and they

1           accepted that.  It's kind of sideways.

2                       MS. BOYCE:  Yeah, yeah.

3                       MS. TOWNSEND:  This is just a  
4           copy/paste from our budget that was passed by  
5           the authority.  So if you go down, and this is  
6           last year, you'll see proposed or current  
7           annual and proposed, that first number is  
8           coming from public housing, that second number  
9           is coming from the Section 8 voucher program,  
10          and the third number is our entity, Anderson  
11          Housing, Incorporated, Westwood Estates,  
12          that's what -- some of the properties are  
13          tax-credit properties, so we just -- all the  
14          proceeds that we get -- and that's how the  
15          board makes up my salary.

16                      They don't just make it up just under the  
17          Authority, but because we do a lot of property  
18          management and -- I don't know if you've ever  
19          heard this term, repositioning, this is what  
20          the federal government is requiring housing  
21          authorities to do to reposition their assets  
22          to move out of the public housing business so  
23          we know that we're going to be moving  
24          employees in the future from this public  
25          housing platform because the funding will go

1 away from HUD.

2 So those are the -- that's how we break  
3 out my full salary, taking into consideration  
4 all duties under my role as the CEO/executive  
5 director for Anderson Housing Authority, which  
6 is detailed in my employment contract, which  
7 is also in the packet.

8 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: In your  
9 packet you have two documents. One is from  
10 the Office of the Special Counsel --

11 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes.

12 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: -- who  
13 states that you're not in violation of the  
14 Little Hatch Act; correct?

15 MS. TOWNSEND: Correct.

16 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: And then you  
17 also have one from the state equivalent of  
18 that; correct?

19 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes.

20 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Department  
21 of Housing and Urban Development, and it also  
22 says that it does not believe that your  
23 candidacy violates the Little Hatch Act.

24 MS. TOWNSEND: Right.

25 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: So those are

1 two offices that specialize in that area, I do  
2 not. So, Ms. Ali, I would ask you, why do you  
3 think that the Office of Special Counsel and  
4 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
5 Development are wrong?

6 MS. BARTLETT: Yeah. So I think it  
7 was good to get to the root of the questioning  
8 here so that we're kind of all talking about  
9 the same thing. Two things. So Ms. Townsend  
10 mentioned that she's being paid one salary. I  
11 would say, first and foremost to that,  
12 congress has specifically addressed that and  
13 has said that they have put mechanisms in  
14 place -- and I can provide the citation -- to  
15 streamline multiple salaries coming from  
16 related entities.

17 So in a situation like where this is a  
18 fully-funded government entity that may have a  
19 related 501(C)(3) beneath it, congress has  
20 recognized that and put in place an  
21 administrative mechanism to streamline -- to  
22 give people one paycheck.

23 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Okay. So  
24 are you saying that you don't think the Office  
25 of Special Counsel or the Housing and Urban

1 Development knew that at the time they issued  
2 the opinion? Because the HUD opinion came in  
3 2026, and the last one's in 2025.

4 MS. BARTLETT: I would say, first and  
5 foremost, I haven't been able to read the  
6 email or anything.

7 MS. BOYCE: You don't have a copy?

8 MS. BARTLETT: No.

9 MS. BOYCE: Get her a copy of those.

10 MS. BARTLETT: Which I be'd happy to.  
11 And, obviously, more than happy to read them.

12 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Take an  
13 opportunity to look at that.

14 MR. WESTERCAMP: Would you like a  
15 minute to review?

16 MS. BARTLETT: Yeah. I would love a  
17 minute to review. But I would like to also  
18 just say one more thing for you guys to  
19 consider -- I'll review these and then respond  
20 directly to your question, Commissioner,  
21 because it's very valid, and I do want to  
22 respond to it -- I wanted to point out the  
23 streamlining mechanism because I think it's  
24 relevant.

25 The second thing I just wanted to point

1 out is that because congress has put in place  
2 those streamline mechanisms for one payment,  
3 that does not preclude the fact that there are  
4 still two roles that are publicly recorded in  
5 the documents that we provided. They're  
6 reported as two roles, and those two entities  
7 are governed by separate boards, so they have  
8 to be separate roles.

9 The Anderson Housing Authority and the  
10 501(c)(3), the Authority and the 501(c)(3)  
11 each have independent boards, so it's not even  
12 really possible to say that they're one role.  
13 They can be paid for together because congress  
14 has chosen to streamline administrative  
15 payment process, but those two entities are  
16 certainly governed by separate boards.

17 And I will say so they're reported  
18 separately to the federal government and to  
19 the State Board of Accounts in Indiana,  
20 they're governed by separate boards, and in  
21 that reporting there was zero compensation  
22 from the 501(c)(3) role reported.

23 So whatever way you spin it, they're two  
24 roles, zero compensation reported for one, all  
25 compensation reported for the other under

1 penalty of perjury, and the compensation that  
2 was reported was also publicly reported as  
3 coming fully from federal funds. So I really  
4 just don't know how you get around that.

5 But also, you know, again, I think it was  
6 absolutely diligent and good, awesome you  
7 reached out to clarify that, Ms. Townsend. I  
8 also think, you know, this is the body that  
9 decides the election law matters and  
10 eligibility in the State of Indiana, so we can  
11 take those emails as guidance and dig into  
12 them.

13 But at the end of the day, this is the  
14 proper forum for that decision to be made and  
15 so would yield to the determination of the  
16 Commission.

17 MS. BOYCE: I'll tell you what, if  
18 it's pleasing to the Commission, we're going  
19 to rest for five minutes and provided those  
20 documents for you to quickly review.

21 MS. BARTLETT: Thank you.

22 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Other  
23 documents, did you give her copies?

24 MS. Townsend: May I say one thing  
25 before you convene?

1 MS. BOYCE: Yes, I'm so sorry.

2 MS. TOWNSEND: I just want to make a  
3 note on what is being referenced. You are not  
4 going to see that on the Anderson Housing  
5 Authority. I mean, Anderson Housing,  
6 Incorporated's ledger. It's not a salary  
7 that's being paid; it's management fees. And  
8 we have management fees from several  
9 properties that go into the make-up of those.

10 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Are those  
11 paid then directly to the Housing Authority?

12 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes. So we're able to  
13 use those to spread across our programs to  
14 compensate everybody or to, really, pay back  
15 to Authority for the use of its employees on  
16 this entity.

17 So that is important because you're not  
18 going to see that. And I just maintain that  
19 I'm one employee, and I work for the Anderson  
20 Housing Authority; my contract proves it.

21 MS. BOYCE: So we're going to call it  
22 11:50 because it should change quickly, so  
23 we'll reconvene at 11:55 here in Room 401.

24 (A short recess is taken.)

25 MS. BOYCE: We will reconvene this

1 hearing. Sorry; few minutes longer than five.  
2 Sort of reset here. We had kind of shared  
3 each of the documentation with each of you  
4 from your opposing parties, and I believe the  
5 question, we had left it, maybe, where the  
6 question was asked about those initial emails  
7 that were provided by Ms. Townsend, so if  
8 you'd like to -- you had a minute.

9 MS. WAYCHA: We can give each side  
10 their two more minutes for rebuttal.

11 MS. BOYCE: Perfect.

12 MS. WAYCHA: So I will start the  
13 timer. Are you ready?

14 MS. BARTLETT: Yes.

15 MS. WAYCHA: Go ahead.

16 MS. BARTLETT: And thank you so much.  
17 I wanted to answer the Commissioner's question  
18 regarding the emails, which was a good one.  
19 And, again, I think it's awesome that you took  
20 the time to reach out and get the opinion.

21 I noted in the email from the Office of  
22 Special Counsel that we were talking about  
23 that the attorney from the Office of Special  
24 Counsel noted that -- so in the email it says,  
25 "Thank you for contacting the U.S. Office of

1 Special Counsel Hatch Act Unit. The Hatch Act  
2 does not prohibit you from running for  
3 political office." And then within the  
4 explanation it says, "It would apply to you"  
5 -- I'm paraphrasing -- "however, you indicated  
6 that your salary is not completely funded by  
7 federal loans or grants."

8 So this response is in reliance on  
9 Ms. Townsend's own assertion that her position  
10 is not completely funded by federal loans or  
11 grants. Obviously, our position is that it  
12 is, and so I think it kind of comes back to  
13 the crux of the argument that we have before  
14 us right now. It says -- it goes on to say,  
15 "Because you have some duties in connection  
16 with federally financed activities, you are  
17 subject to the other two provisions of the  
18 Hatch Act."

19 So I think that that kind of goes to show  
20 you that the Office of Special Counsel is  
21 saying you are governed by the Hatch Act,  
22 however, you, Ms. Townsend, indicated to us  
23 that your salary is not completely made up by  
24 federal loan or grants, which, again, is per  
25 position here today. So I think it kind of

1 just brings us back full circle to our  
2 argument here.

3 So I would say the last point I wanted to  
4 just quickly address based on what --

5 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Can I ask a  
6 question?

7 MS. BARTLETT: Sure.

8 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Okay. So  
9 you said salary not -- now, when you're saying  
10 she has a salary that is completely funded by  
11 federal money, you're referring to the  
12 foundation salary?

13 MS. BARTLETT: I'm referring to the  
14 salary that's publicly recorded by the  
15 Anderson Housing Authority. So there are  
16 two -- we have the Housing Authority that I  
17 think we were calling the Authority and the  
18 501(c)(3), which are reported as two separate  
19 entities, two separate boards.

20 Per the public reporting, Ms. Townsend's  
21 paid a salary listed under the Anderson  
22 Housing Authority. The last reported amount  
23 was somewhere around \$100,000, little over,  
24 and it is reported that that salary is paid  
25 completely in federal funds under Section 8

1 and 9 of the U.S. Housing Act. There is zero  
2 dollars reported from the other position,  
3 although it is reported as a separate position  
4 with the nonprofit, so I think that's the  
5 crux.

6 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: So you're  
7 basing it solely upon that the Housing  
8 Authority is completely federally funded?

9 MS. BARTLETT: Yes.

10 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: And so,  
11 therefore, she then would be qualified -- and  
12 it doesn't --

13 MS. BARTLETT: Yes.

14 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: -- really  
15 matter about the foundation?

16 MS. BARTLETT: Right.

17 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: That's an  
18 aside, right, we're just focusing upon the  
19 Housing Authority?

20 MS. BARTLETT: Yes, and I just wanted  
21 to be clear because I don't want to -- you  
22 know, I want to acknowledge that she does --  
23 the reporting does list those two positions,  
24 yes, but there's only salary or compensation  
25 reported for one of them, and it states very

1 clearly, again, under penalty of perjury, that  
2 those funds come completely from Section 8 and  
3 9 of the U.S. Housing Act federal funds.

4 MR. WESTERCAMP: Can I just clarify  
5 one thing? So what is "that," what is the  
6 thing that you're referring to, Counsel?

7 MS. BARTLETT: Oh, I'm sorry, that  
8 would be the HUD Form 52725, which is also  
9 directly mirrored in their reporting to the  
10 State Board of --

11 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: You're  
12 talking about the second to last exhibit here  
13 in the notebook; right?

14 MS. BARTLETT: Yes.

15 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: That was my  
16 next question. Is that this -- because it  
17 doesn't say where this came from.

18 MS. BARTLETT: I can also provide you  
19 guys copies of -- like, I have citations  
20 listed, if that would be helpful.

21 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: This form,  
22 so is this form done every year?

23 MS. BARTLETT: I don't know.

24 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: This one  
25 appears to be, like, close to four years old,

1 so I don't --

2 MS. BARTLETT: 2023, yeah. So I know  
3 that that's for --

4 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: It says  
5 4/2022.

6 MS. BARTLETT: So I know that they're  
7 reported in arrears, I would assume, so it  
8 would be reporting for the prior year. I  
9 would assume that the next reporting would  
10 come out at some point this year. That was  
11 the last publicly available version that we  
12 could find, although, the reporting is  
13 required publicly.

14 And I just -- I also just wanted to point  
15 out, again, the guidance that kind of  
16 clarifies the term principal employment, so  
17 even if we wanted to go back to the two roles  
18 as kind of a fall-back, the guidance under the  
19 Hatch Act that was issued by the Office of  
20 Special Counsel just says this is related to  
21 principal employment, which, again, is where  
22 the majority of one's salary comes from, that  
23 is considered principal employment.

24 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I think  
25 Ms. Townsend had said she doesn't get anything

1 from the foundation.

2 MS. BARTLETT: Yeah, exactly.

3 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: We're  
4 focused upon the Housing Authority salary?

5 MS. BARTLETT: Yes.

6 MR. WESTERCAMP: Counsel, I'd like to  
7 clarify, because I'm looking at -- this is  
8 your binder; correct?

9 MS. BARTLETT: Yes.

10 MR. WESTERCAMP: Can you just take me  
11 through -- I'm looking at this.

12 MS. BARTLETT: Okay.

13 MR. WESTERCAMP: That's what you  
14 referred me to, is that the right one? I  
15 don't see anything on here that has her name  
16 or any number.

17 MS. BARTLETT: Let me find --

18 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: While we're  
19 asking that, it's not an executed form and  
20 while you're looking at her exhibits could I  
21 point out the next exhibit, and that's -- so  
22 the next exhibit in your binder, which is this  
23 printout with the list of Authority -- I mean,  
24 it -- you know, I just realized I don't see  
25 her name on this either. So this printout,

1           whatever this is, can you look at this.

2                   MS. BARTLETT:   Yes.

3                   MS. WILSON OVERHOLT:   So this is all  
4           2022 dates, so Ms. Townsend's name isn't on  
5           this either, and it looks like for calendar  
6           year 2022.

7                   So we're talking about employment in 2026.  
8           So you haven't presented -- I mean, there's  
9           nothing in anything you provided that talks --  
10          that is addressing her current compensation.

11                   MR. WESTERCAMP:   Can I piggyback on  
12          your comment --

13                   MS. WILSON OVERHOLT:   Sure, yeah.

14                   MR. WESTERCAMP:   Because we're going  
15          down the same path here, I think.   In your  
16          exhibits, Counsel, you have a breakdown of  
17          operating revenues that stipulates that not  
18          all of it is coming from grant money --  
19          government grants.   It says tenant revenue and  
20          miscellaneous.   I know this is dated March 31,  
21          2025, so it's one year out of date, but this  
22          would seem to indicate that this is not a  
23          fully-funded government entity.   Do you have  
24          evidence contrary to this?

25                   MS. BARTLETT:   Yes.   We are supposed

1 to have the fully executed version of this HUD  
2 form, and I don't know why it's not in here,  
3 but we can get it for you. I know it exists.  
4 I've seen it. I didn't put these binders  
5 together, so let me -- I can get it.

6 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: No. Now's your  
7 chance.

8 MS. BARTLETT: Okay. These are all  
9 public documents that do exist. But, yeah, I  
10 mean, I think all I can say is that these  
11 are -- should have been copies of the fully  
12 executed forms, and that this is all public  
13 information. And I apologize that it's not  
14 the correct one. And, yeah, that's all I can  
15 say.

16 I guess the question would be I think one  
17 of the Commissioners pointed out that  
18 Ms. Townsend, herself, has said that she does  
19 receive one salary from the Anderson Housing  
20 Authority, which even in her own materials, as  
21 acknowledged by the Special Counsel's Office,  
22 is a federal agency receiving federal funds.

23 The email that she gave us says that she  
24 has duties in connection with federally  
25 financed activities and you are subject to the

1 other two provisions of the Hatch Act. I  
2 guess I would fall back on that and just say  
3 that, I, again, I think we're kind of all  
4 saying the same thing, but understanding that  
5 we should have had that in here for your  
6 review.

7 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Actually, I  
8 think we're saying different things. I mean,  
9 I think what you said has mischaracterized  
10 what you received from the Office of --  
11 because I want to make sure we're clear on the  
12 record so that our record is straight, but the  
13 email -- and it is very rare that we have  
14 people presenting us with advisory opinions  
15 and guidance from federal Offices of Special  
16 Counsel.

17 And I know that actually in the candidate  
18 handbook that, I mean, that we give deference.  
19 Because there's a point where we got to stop  
20 questioning the questioning the questioning  
21 the questioning. I mean, you know, but,  
22 anyway, this email from the Hatch Act Office  
23 of Special Counsel dated June 13 of 2025, I  
24 mean, it actually says you work for the  
25 Anderson Housing Authority in Anderson,

1 Indiana, Public Housing Authority established  
2 pursuant to Indiana State Law. Employees of  
3 public housing authorities are generally  
4 considered to be employed by a state or local  
5 agency for purposes of the Hatch Act.

6 So your statement that she's working  
7 for -- you just said she's worked for a  
8 federal agency, federal employee, that is not  
9 the case. I mean, even without this opinion I  
10 would say that's not the case because the  
11 housing -- I mean, local housing authorities  
12 are not federal agencies, they are local.

13 MS. BARTLETT: Right. I think our  
14 statement, just to clarify, was that the  
15 Anderson Housing Authority is funded through  
16 Section 8 and 9 funds under the U.S. Housing  
17 Act, and so --

18 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: There's a  
19 distinction --

20 MS. BARTLETT: -- so the Agency  
21 receives federal funds.

22 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Right. It does  
23 receive federal funds, but the other thing  
24 that is key, you keep talking about whether  
25 she's she got a single salary. The question's

1           whether her salary is fully funded by federal  
2           dollars. I think -- I mean, there are some  
3           very specific nuances here because there are a  
4           whole lot of people working at nonprofits  
5           elsewhere that -- you know, if you don't  
6           read -- if these laws are not applied as  
7           they're written, I mean, there are a lot of  
8           folks who would end up being disqualified from  
9           running for office, and that's -- I mean, this  
10          is -- the Hatch Act prevents certain specific  
11          people from types of folks from running for  
12          office, and so we need to be careful in the  
13          language we use and how we look at that  
14          language.

15                   MS. BARTLETT: Absolutely. And I  
16          wish I had the accurate documents to give to  
17          you guys.

18                   MR. WESTERCAMP: Can I just clarify  
19          for our record, too, like, do you have any  
20          witness or any documents that show that her  
21          salary is paid completely --

22                   MS. BARTLETT: Yeah, so --

23                   MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: By federal  
24          dollars.

25                   MS. BARTLETT: There's a November

1 2025 audit report from the Anderson Housing  
2 Authority to the Indiana State Board of  
3 Accounts --

4 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Point us to  
5 the tab --

6 MS. BARTLETT: That details some of  
7 this. Again, apologize, I didn't put these  
8 binders together. I thought they were in here  
9 and maybe they're not.

10 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: So we don't  
11 have a copy?

12 MS. BARTLETT: I don't have it, but  
13 that's what I looked at to understand the  
14 details here. And we don't have it here, at  
15 least not in mine, so that's our fault.

16 MS. WAYCHA: Ms. Bartlett, you have  
17 20 seconds. I did stop it so you can could  
18 ask questions, but I'll give you your 20  
19 seconds, Ms. Bartlett.

20 MS. BARTLETT: Sure. Yeah. Bottom  
21 line, I think, you know, the paper trail that  
22 we've created simply can show that the  
23 Anderson Housing Authority is receiving its  
24 operating funds from Sections 8 and 9 of the  
25 U.S. Housing Act. We can see, obviously,

1 that Ms. Townsend is employed and receives a  
2 salary as a CEO and would ask you to consider  
3 it.

4 MS. BOYCE: Thank you. Okay. So you  
5 have two minutes.

6 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Before you  
7 begin, may I ask one question, the Housing  
8 Authority --

9 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes.

10 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: -- how is it  
11 funded?

12 MS. TOWNSEND: The Housing Authority  
13 is funded through public housing and through  
14 administrative dollars and under the Section 8  
15 program because it's rental assistance.

16 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Okay.

17 MS. TOWNSEND: That's how the  
18 Authority and also through its nonprofit arm  
19 because we manage rental properties.

20 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Okay. So  
21 the housing authority itself receives  
22 Section 8, you said?

23 MS. TOWNSEND: Section 8 public  
24 housing -- section 8 administrative funds,  
25 public housing, operating and capital.

1 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Public  
2 housing operating and capital?

3 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes.

4 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Where does  
5 that come from?

6 MS. TOWNSEND: It comes from HUD.

7 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: So far we  
8 have three federal sources.

9 MS. TOWNSEND: No, we have two.

10 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Two.

11 MS. BOYCE: Section 8 and public  
12 housing.

13 MS. TOWNSEND: Section 8 and public  
14 housing and rental proceeds from our nonprofit  
15 entity.

16 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Okay. So  
17 the nonprofit entity --

18 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes.

19 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: -- is it  
20 completely funded by its rental proceeds?

21 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes.

22 MS. BOYCE: And this is rental income  
23 from just citizens of --

24 MS. TOWNSEND: From properties that  
25 we manage for them.

1 MR. WESTERCAMP: No federal dollars?

2 MS. TOWNSEND: No federal --

3 MS. BOYCE: This is Attachment H;  
4 correct?

5 MS. TOWNSEND: Yeah. So, real quick,  
6 the only thing I really want to say is on  
7 Attachment D -- they're voting today. I  
8 missed my board meeting, for the  
9 Commissioners. They're going to sign this  
10 contract today, February 25, 2026.

11 So this breakdown you received on  
12 Attachment H, if my proposed salary is  
13 \$145,000, and if you add only public housing  
14 and Section 8, that doesn't equal that amount.  
15 This is -- the amount's in my contract that  
16 they're getting ready to pass today.

17 So you have to have the entity that helps  
18 support total salary of Kimberly Townsend from  
19 the Anderson Housing Authority.

20 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: So salaries  
21 come out of the operating side of the budget;  
22 is that right?

23 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes.

24 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: The  
25 operating side of the budget is then funded by

1 different revenue streams?

2 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes.

3 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: And you're  
4 saying -- and those aren't restricted in any  
5 way -- well, some of the federal dollars would  
6 be specifically restricted, maybe not allowed  
7 to go towards salary or whatever.

8 MS. TOWNSEND: Yes.

9 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: But of the  
10 dollars that are allowed to go unrestricted  
11 and allowed to go towards salary, you have the  
12 federal funds and then you are also saying  
13 that the dollars that are received from  
14 managing the properties for the foundation  
15 also fund the operating cost and are not  
16 restricted from being used for salary; is that  
17 correct?

18 MS. TOWNSEND: Exactly.

19 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Okay.

20 MS. TOWNSEND: That's provable also.

21 MS. WAYCHA: Are you done with  
22 questions? Ms. Townsend, I'll start the  
23 timer. You have two minutes. Because they  
24 asked you questions, I stopped the timer. You  
25 get two minutes uninterrupted, so I'll start

1 that now if you're ready.

2 MS. TOWNSEND: If you talk to me  
3 again next year, I'm going to tell you there's  
4 probably about five people working for AHI,  
5 the nonprofit entity, because we are moving  
6 out of the public housing business. We're  
7 trying to get away from the federal  
8 government. We're not trying to be -- but, in  
9 all honesty, it's no different than somebody  
10 gave a great example, if a law firm has  
11 several clients and all the clients are  
12 paying, you know, into the law firm for their  
13 cases, that doesn't mean I work for all those  
14 clients. I work for the law firm, but I'm  
15 working on different cases.

16 And that is the case here. I walked into  
17 this situation in 2018 already established  
18 that as part of my duties I would be managing  
19 this entity that holds property that we  
20 support. And so my -- I have maintenance  
21 staff that work on the property, I have a  
22 receptionist, a chief financial officer, and,  
23 you know, that's our role.

24 Also, I just really want to come back  
25 around, I know I was talking fast on my seven

1 minutes, but I do have an employee that could  
2 be what they're describing because he's half  
3 the employee for the incorporation, but  
4 they're the ones that made the decision to  
5 hire him because I don't have the authority to  
6 do that. Thank God we do have two boards,  
7 that keeps the record straight and that keeps,  
8 you know, funds from being commingled.

9 But I am Anderson Housing Authority's  
10 bonafide employee. I have one job, but many  
11 duties.

12 MS. WAYCHA: Perfect timing.

13 MS. TOWNSEND: Thank you.

14 MS. BOYCE: Board, any additional  
15 questions, follow-up, thoughts from the  
16 members of the Commission? If not, yeah, we  
17 would entertain a motion.

18 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: I would move to  
19 deny the challenge.

20 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I will  
21 second it.

22 MS. BOYCE: Okay. So in Cause  
23 2026-08 we have a motion and a second to deny  
24 the challenge. All those in favor signify by  
25 saying "aye."

1 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

2 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.

3 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

4 MS. BOYCE: Opposed say "nay."

5 Motion passes.

6 MS. TOWNSEND: Thank you.

7 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I would also  
8 like to say that today has been so great  
9 because we've seen some great lawyering. Ali,  
10 I know you feel badly that you didn't have  
11 those pages and everything, but you raise some  
12 excellent points. Thank you for coming in.

13 MS. BARTLETT: Thank you.  
14 Congratulations. Never wanted to keep anybody  
15 off that's rightfully allowed to run.

16 MS. TOWNSEND: Thank you.

17 MS. BOYCE: I would say, just to  
18 follow up on that, I guess, in general, you  
19 know, if there are things being referred to,  
20 obviously, it's just crucial for us to be  
21 given the opportunity to review that.

22 MS. BARTLETT: Of course. Thank you  
23 guys so much. I appreciate it.

24 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Look forward  
25 to seeing you again, Ms. Ali.

1 MS. BOYCE: Okay.

2 MS. WAYCHA: Madam Chair, you might  
3 direct staff to keep the individual on the  
4 ballot, is that the terminology we typically  
5 use for that, just for this particular case?

6 MS. BOYCE: Thank you, which I think  
7 we're going to do at the end, but...

8 MR. KING: That was the decision that  
9 the Commission came to earlier was for  
10 efficiency sake to make that direction to  
11 staff at the end of the proceeding.

12 MS. NUSSMEYER: I understand that,  
13 but we also made the motion for the one where  
14 it was 2-2 that we were ordered to keep that  
15 person on the ballot, so that's why I just --  
16 I made the assumption that what was happening  
17 at the end was a motion to remove individuals  
18 and maybe these one-offs would be handled  
19 separately, but as long as we just don't  
20 forget that we did that for the one.

21 MR. KING: And, Madam Chair, I mean,  
22 I appreciate my counterpart, but openly we are  
23 not the members of the Commission, you are.

24 MS. WAYCHA: I guess you can -- I  
25 need to keep one for the record.

1 MS. BOYCE: We'll address that at the  
2 end.

3 MS. WAYCHA: Madam Chair, if I might,  
4 the next -- we have one case with the Hamilton  
5 County Chair, and I have actually talked to  
6 the candidate. He knows he does not have the  
7 two primary vote history, and I think he's  
8 here. And the next four cases for Johnson,  
9 Mr. Jason Clark has entered an appearance for  
10 all of the challengers and would like to  
11 consolidate those, and then that would just  
12 leave us one other.

13 MS. BOYCE: So we have three?

14 MS. WAYCHA: We have three really,  
15 just so you know.

16 MS. BOYCE: So let's move on then to  
17 Item F, which is Cause No. 2026-10,  
18 Massillamany v. Qian. I hate to say it, but I  
19 don't know how to pronounce your name. Not  
20 yours, I know your name.

21 MR. QIAN: My name?

22 MS. BOYCE: Yeah.

23 MR. QIAN: You can just call me  
24 Billy.

25 MS. WAYCHA: Could you state and

1 spell your full name, both of you, please.

2 MR. MASSILLAMANY: My name is Mario  
3 Massillamany. I gave my card. It's  
4 M-A-S-S-I-L-L-A-M-A-N-Y. I'm the Hamilton  
5 County Republican Chairman.

6 MR. QIAN: My first name's  
7 J-I-A-M-I-A-N, pronounced Jiamian, last name's  
8 Q-I-A-N.

9 MS. BOYCE: Okay. Very good. Thank  
10 you. Okay. So what we will do first is hear  
11 from our challenger. So, Mario, you have  
12 seven minutes.

13 MS. MASSILLAMANY: I'm not going to  
14 take seven minutes. I'm going to just rely on  
15 my petition. I'm going to, Madam Chair,  
16 members of the Commission, I believe that,  
17 unfortunately, this candidate does not qualify  
18 under our state party rules. He does not have  
19 a two-vote history. And, additionally, his  
20 residency is also in question as it pertains  
21 to where he lives; he does not qualify for the  
22 district that he's applying.

23 MS. BOYCE: Okay. Then in response  
24 you have seven minutes. Unless there's any  
25 questions, you can go.

1 MR. QIAN: I'll try to make it quick  
2 since we've been here for a while. So my  
3 name's Jiamian Qian, Billy Qian. I'm herein  
4 before you here today not to contest the  
5 factual grounds of the challenge, but out of  
6 profound respect for this Commission, our  
7 election laws, and leadership of the Hamilton  
8 County Republican Party.

9 Because of the statutory deadline  
10 voluntarily withdrawing my name had past by  
11 the time I received the formal challenge, and  
12 I felt it was my duty to come here in person  
13 and look you in the eye and formally address  
14 my candidacy.

15 I want to briefly share why I originally  
16 filed to run for State Representative  
17 District 39. Having gone to school in this  
18 area for five years -- actually graduated in  
19 2024 from high school -- I have seen a growing  
20 and a lot of tension between the left and  
21 right, and particularly my own generation.

22 As a young (unintelligible) first  
23 generation immigrant, I'm fiercely proud and  
24 privileged to be an American, but I've also  
25 watched the rhetoric of social

1 (unintelligible) among my peers. My family  
2 and I know exactly where this path leads, and  
3 we came to the United States from China, we  
4 grew up CCP, so that was the lead greatly and  
5 practice our Christian faith without fear.  
6 America is beacon of freedom and still is and  
7 seeing the rise (unintelligible).

8 I ran because I want to be a bridge for  
9 the younger generation and the future of our  
10 country. We must find unity and learn to  
11 disagree in peace, the deterioration of our  
12 civic discourse is not what America is and it  
13 will not be what America becomes, not while  
14 I'm here.

15 Our leadership requires wisdom and respect  
16 for the rule of law. I acknowledge this  
17 statutory requirement regarding my residency  
18 and primary voting history that Chairman  
19 Massillamany rightfully pointed out. Having  
20 proudly taken my oath as a United States  
21 citizen just last summer, I simply have not  
22 yet the opportunity to build the multi-primary  
23 voting history required by state law. It is  
24 required my deep respect and why I look  
25 forward to fulfilling in elections to come.

1           And beyond those technical requirements,  
2           the process of giving me the opportunity to  
3           reply, I realize that truly to achieve my goal  
4           in serving this district and this country,  
5           effectively I need to gain more experience and  
6           just build deeper engagements in the local  
7           GOP. I need to put in the work at the  
8           grassroots level before I actually ask to  
9           represent my party at state level.

10           I am stepping back from this race today,  
11           but I will never be stepping away from the  
12           fight for conservative values. I will concede  
13           to the challenge presented, and I want to  
14           offer my full endorsement to Representative  
15           Danny Lopez. I wish him all the best and for  
16           his success in the general election. I look  
17           forward to working along side with Chairman  
18           Massillamany and the party to ensure victory  
19           for our community.

20           Thank you for your time and your service  
21           to the State of Indiana and thank you for your  
22           attention to this matter.

23           MS. BOYCE: Thank you.

24           MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I have a  
25           question.

1 MR. QIAN: Yeah. Absolutely.

2 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: First of  
3 all, I want to comment, it's Hamilton County,  
4 you got an incoming last name Lopez and then  
5 we have our county chair here.

6 MR. MASSILLAMANY: Who's first  
7 general generation originally from Sri Lanka  
8 myself.

9 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: And then we  
10 have our challenge person here, the times they  
11 are indeed a changing. But one of the  
12 questions I wanted to ask is just in the  
13 documentation that was submitted. How did,  
14 Mr. Qian --

15 MR. QIAN: Yeah.

16 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: How did his  
17 citizenship documentation end up in here?

18 MR. MASSILLAMANY: I believe that  
19 that was provided to us because that was  
20 required to show proof of voter history. He  
21 did not have proof of voter history at the  
22 time when he was providing that information to  
23 the clerk's office because they needed that  
24 proof of citizenship for them to put him on  
25 the ballot or put him on the ballot and also

1 register him to vote, is my understanding.

2 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Is that  
3 correct; Directors?

4 MS. NUSSMEYER: What I would make the  
5 assumption, Commissioner, is it appears that  
6 registered to vote on or around November 29,  
7 2025, and by that point the state law where if  
8 an individual has a temporary credential on  
9 their record, they would be sent a request for  
10 the proof of citizenship. Does that sound  
11 familiar? Like, you got notice in the mail  
12 and then the proof of citizenship  
13 documentation would be included on the  
14 registration record to remove that flag so  
15 that he would not have to provide that in the  
16 future. So that is how I presume that was  
17 included because this appears to be  
18 documentation out of our statewide voter  
19 registration system.

20 MR. KOCHEVAR: I need to ask about  
21 the record because we got -- yes, part of this  
22 record, did this proof of citizenship, was it  
23 given by the Hamilton County Board of --  
24 voting registration official?

25 MR. MASSILLAMANY: I'm not sure if we

1 got it from there or from just --

2 MS. NUSSMEYER: It was -- yeah. It's  
3 file stamped.

4 MR. KOCHEVAR: It is?

5 MS. NUSSMEYER: Yeah.

6 MR. KOCHEVAR: Yeah. If this came  
7 from the county voter registration office,  
8 that proof of the citizenship is confidential  
9 under state law, so just out of abundance of  
10 caution, at some point today -- we've done  
11 this before once -- and Vice Chair can correct  
12 me on how we did this because I remember last  
13 time we had an issue with a confidential  
14 document of striking it from the record so  
15 it's not there so that it is not in anything  
16 and we are clear that we will not give this as  
17 a matter of public record because this is a  
18 confidential document.

19 MS. MASSILLAMANY: I would ask that  
20 it be struck from the record. It was just  
21 information that was provided to me to use in  
22 support of my challenge so I would not want to  
23 do anything inappropriate.

24 MR. KING: Madam Chair, I want to  
25 indicate my agreement with the factual

1 analysis that my counterpart presented. And  
2 with regard to Mr. Kochevar's remarks on the  
3 protection when the Commissioner's afforded a  
4 confidential records in similar situations in  
5 the past, I'll defer to Valerie to address  
6 that as well.

7 MS. WAYCHA: I agree with everything  
8 that has been said. This is confidential. It  
9 is a new law, so we will follow up with the  
10 counties once again to reiterate that this is  
11 not public information. And I have the  
12 official record behind me, and I will pull  
13 this piece of information out from the record.

14 MR. WESTERCAMP: Mr. Qian, thank you  
15 for your respectful comments to this  
16 Commission today. I just want to clarify for  
17 myself and everybody else here, so you're not  
18 contesting at all?

19 MR. QIAN: No.

20 MR. WESTERCAMP: You're not providing  
21 any defense?

22 MR. QIAN: No, I'm not contesting.

23 MR. MASSILLAMANY: And I look forward  
24 to see him more active and involved in the  
25 party. I've already shared his information

1 with a couple other individuals, and, you  
2 know, we need young people, no matter what  
3 party they want to affiliate with, being  
4 involved in this process.

5 MS. BOYCE: Okay. So could we --

6 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: I would move  
7 that the challenge be upheld.

8 MR. WESTERCAMP: Second.

9 MS. BOYCE: We have a motion and a  
10 second to uphold the challenge in Cause  
11 No. 2026-10. All those in favor signify by  
12 saying "aye."

13 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

14 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.

15 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

16 MS. BOYCE: Opposed say "nay."

17 Motion passes.

18 MR. MASSILLAMANY: Thank you. Very  
19 much.

20 MS. BOYCE: So if we look to the  
21 agenda, under the next three items.

22 MS. WAYCHA: Four.

23 MS. BOYCE: Four, sorry, G, H, I and  
24 J all deal with the same candidate, so we have  
25 four challengers for the one. At this point

1 you guys are the only two here.

2 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

3 MS. WAYCHA: Okay. Are you  
4 Mr. Johnson?

5 MR. JOHNSON: I am.

6 MS. BOYCE: And you are?

7 MR. CLARK: Jason Clark representing  
8 the challenger.

9 MS. BOYCE: You all can sit and  
10 introduce yourselves. So this is -- well,  
11 okay. So you're representing all four?

12 MR. CLARK: That's correct.

13 MS. BOYCE: So we will --

14 MS. WAYCHA: First, let's have them  
15 identify for the record. And then Mr. Clark  
16 in his appearance did ask for consolidation,  
17 so a motion would be appropriate.

18 MS. BOYCE: Both of you introduce  
19 yourself and spell your names for the record.

20 MR. CLARK: Jason Clark, J-A-S-O-N  
21 C-L-A-R-K, counsel for the challengers in each  
22 of these four cause numbers before you today.

23 MR. JOHNSON: Jacob Johnson,  
24 J-A-C-O-B J-O-H-N-S-O-N, candidate for  
25 District 73.

1 MS. BOYCE: Okay. So let's look for  
2 a motion from the board to the Commission to  
3 consolidate the four of those, if that's  
4 pleasing to the group.

5 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Can we ask  
6 if Mr. Johnson has any objection to that?

7 MR. JOHNSON: To Consolidate them,  
8 no.

9 MS. BOYCE: Okay.

10 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: I move that  
11 they be consolidated, the four matters  
12 regarding Mr. Johnson's candidacy be  
13 consolidated.

14 MR. WESTERCAMP: Second.

15 MS. BOYCE: We have a motion and a  
16 second to consolidate Items G, H, I, and J on  
17 our agenda today. All those in favor signify  
18 by saying "aye."

19 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

20 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.

21 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

22 MS. BOYCE: Opposed say "nay."  
23 Motion passes. Okay. As the challenger or  
24 the person representing the challengers,  
25 you'll have seven minutes so Valerie will get

1 that going.

2 MR. CLARK: Thank you very much. I  
3 will keep it very, very brief. This is a very  
4 simple challenge. As we see it, Mr. Johnson,  
5 unfortunately, does not have the requisite  
6 primary voting history to qualify for  
7 Republican Party nomination, so on that basis  
8 we have challenged and we ask that this  
9 Commission sustain the challenge and remove  
10 him from the ballot.

11 Additionally, because of the prevailing  
12 statute, it's an either/or, an A or B.  
13 Mr. Johnson also has not secured the  
14 certification of the county chairman of his  
15 county of residence, which is Shelby, so  
16 that's the challenge brought by Mr. King, and  
17 no certification was provided in any records  
18 for candidacy. Because both of those prongs  
19 have not been satisfied, we ask this  
20 Commission to sustain the challenge. Thank  
21 you.

22 MS. BOYCE: Okay. Okay. If no  
23 questions, then we'll allow Mr. Johnson his  
24 seven minutes.

25 MR. JOHNSON: I have some emails I'm

1           referencing. I'll give those to you guys.

2                   MS. WAYCHA: I will take them.

3           Mr. Johnson, just so you're aware, the clock  
4           is still running.

5                   MR. JOHNSON: My name is Jacob  
6           Johnson. I'm a resident of Shelby County.  
7           I'm a husband, father, and working Hoosier and  
8           candidate for Indiana State Representative  
9           District 73. I stand before you today not  
10          because I broke the law, not because I'm  
11          unqualified, not because I failed to meet --  
12          but because I failed to meet the requirements  
13          of the Republican Party affiliation under  
14          internal party rules.

15                  Yes, I voted as a Democrat in the primary  
16          in 2024. This is a matter of public record.  
17          I do not dispute it. However, one vote in one  
18          primary does not erase a lifetime of  
19          conservative beliefs or my good-faith decision  
20          to run as a Republican.

21                  More than year a before -- not more than a  
22          year -- last year before filing I contacted  
23          local Republican party leadership expressing  
24          my desire to be involved. And with the  
25          Commission's permission, I'd like to briefly

1 read that email in the record.

2 I stated, "My name is Jacob Johnson, and  
3 I'm reaching out because I'd like to get more  
4 involved with the Shelby County Republican  
5 Party.

6 "In my early 20s, I served as Chair of the  
7 Libertarian Party here in Indiana. At that  
8 time I was drawn to leaders like Thomas Massie  
9 and Rand Paul who stood firmly on conservative  
10 principles. Over time, I realized the  
11 Libertarian movement did not align with my  
12 conservative values I believe in, so I made  
13 the move to the Republican Party.

14 "Today my focus is on advancing  
15 conservative ideas and giving a platform to  
16 voices that stand for faith, family, and  
17 freedom. I run a media company and host The  
18 Real Right Network, a podcast dedicated to  
19 highlighting conservative perspectives and  
20 strengthening our movement.

21 "I'd like to put my time, skills, and  
22 platform to work for Shelby County  
23 Republicans -- whether that's volunteering,  
24 assisting with communications, supporting  
25 campaigns, or serving in any role where I can

1 add value. My goal is to contribute  
2 meaningfully and help build momentum here at  
3 the local level.

4 "Could you let me know the best way to get  
5 started? I'd be glad to meet in person or  
6 attend the next meeting to introduce myself."

7 I received nothing back from Chris King or  
8 the (unintelligible), who's the vice chair for  
9 the Republican Party. I am conservative. I  
10 believe in limited government, personal  
11 responsibility, law and order, protection of  
12 life; those beliefs did not begin with a  
13 single primary vote and they have not changed.  
14 I filed as a Republican because this platform  
15 (unintelligible) of the policies I intend to  
16 pursue. Removing -- sorry; that's all I have.

17 MS. BOYCE: Could I ask, if you  
18 expressed interest in 2025 in being a part of,  
19 which we see these emails, why did you vote in  
20 the Democratic Primary in 2024?

21 MR. JOHNSON: I never voted in a  
22 primary at that point. I went there, and  
23 clicked the button and I could not go back.  
24 And just being completely honest, in lieu of  
25 looking weird in public, calling attention to

1 myself, I continued to vote that.

2 Personally, we are -- where I come from,  
3 we're a Red district, we always go Red, so I  
4 believe it was no harm, no foul at that point  
5 as I was not voting against the --

6 MR. WESTERCAMP: Mr. Johnson, do you  
7 dispute that you don't have two most recent  
8 primary votes as a Republican?

9 MR. JOHNSON: I do not dispute that.

10 MR. WESTERCAMP: Okay.

11 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Mr. Johnson,  
12 we just went through this watching the Marion  
13 County Election Board in the same way. You do  
14 realize the law's the law and we have  
15 absolutely no discretion to do anything other  
16 than as the law directs us?

17 MR. JOHNSON: Understand.

18 MS. BOYCE: Okay. Any other  
19 questions? Thoughts? Motion?

20 MR. WESTERCAMP: I would move to  
21 accept the challenge and remove Mr. Johnson  
22 from the ballot.

23 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Second.

24 MS. BOYCE: So we have a motion and a  
25 second to uphold. Since we have consolidated

1 these, it's actually four challenges. I'm  
2 going to read the cause numbers just for the  
3 record. 2026-14, 2026-11, 2026-12, and  
4 2026-13. All those in favor signify by saying  
5 "aye."

6 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

7 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.

8 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

9 MS. BOYCE: Opposed, "nay." Motion  
10 passes.

11 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

12 MR. CLARK: Thank you.

13 MS. WAYCHA: Madam Chair, I would  
14 just like to say that we only have one cause  
15 left, and Ms. Eldridge has sent an email to  
16 Matthew and I while we were here and saying  
17 that she is unable to get here. And I'm sorry  
18 to be informal, but she has asked for Megan --  
19 I'm sorry; I don't know your last name --

20 MR. RUDDIE: Ruddle.

21 MS. WAYCHA: -- to present her case.

22 MS. BOYCE: Okay.

23 MR. WESTERCAMP: Is she filing a  
24 notice of appearance?

25 MS. WAYCHA: She did via email just

1 to Matthew and I. It just came within the  
2 last 15.

3 MS. BOYCE: Okay. So we are on our  
4 last item on the agenda, which is Item K,  
5 Cause No. 2026-15, Eldridge v. Sikand. Yes,  
6 we have one person present, so state your name

7 MS. RUDDIE: Absolutely. Well, good  
8 afternoon, Board and Chairman. It's Megan,  
9 M-E-G-A-N, Ruddle, R-U-D-D-I-E, and I'm here  
10 to represent Myla.

11 MS. BOYCE: Who is in this case?

12 MS. RUDDIE: The challenger.

13 MS. WAYCHA: And I would note that we  
14 do not see that Mr. Sikand is here, so I  
15 believe we have a default.

16 MS. RUDDIE: I just want to  
17 appreciate everyone's flexibility for the  
18 last-minute change.

19 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: I would move,  
20 given the fact the candidate's not appeared,  
21 that we uphold the challenge.

22 MR. WESTERCAMP: Second.

23 MS. BOYCE: We have a motion and a  
24 second to uphold the challenge in Cause  
25 No. 2026-15. All those in favor signify by

1 saying "aye."

2 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

3 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.

4 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

5 MS. BOYCE: Opposed, "nay." Motion  
6 passes.

7 MS. RUDDIE: Thank you very much for  
8 all of your time today.

9 MS. BOYCE: Thank you.

10 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: And to do the  
11 clean up we referenced, I would move that  
12 for all challenges that have been upheld, that  
13 those candidate names be removed from the  
14 ballot and that for all challenges that have  
15 been denied, that those candidates names  
16 remain on the respective ballot. Does that  
17 cover it?

18 MS. NUSSMEYER: With the exception of  
19 Cause No. 2026-16, which is the one cause  
20 where you as a Commission had already adopted  
21 that that individual would remain on the  
22 ballot because you did not neither grant nor  
23 deny it.

24 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Okay.

25 MS. BOYCE: Excluding Item C.

1 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Excluding  
2 2026-16.

3 MS. WAYCHA: If it would be helpful,  
4 I can just tell you the names that were  
5 removed. Mayers, Lovely, Nelson, Qian,  
6 Johnson, and Sikand.

7 MS. BOYCE: Yes. Then, of course,  
8 because the others already withdrew.

9 MR. KING: Madam Chair, if I could  
10 suggest to the Commission a further clarifying  
11 motion to be Commission's directing the  
12 co-director of the election division to make  
13 the appropriate amendment to the certification  
14 that goes to the respective candidates.

15 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: I would accept  
16 that amendment. All the amendments from over  
17 there I accept.

18 MS. BOYCE: Okay.

19 MR. WESTERCAMP: I second the  
20 amendment.

21 MS. BOYCE: Okay. So we have a  
22 motion and a second for all of those clean-up  
23 sort of to finalize our activity from today.  
24 All those in favor signify by saying "aye."

25 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

1 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.

2 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

3 MS. BOYCE: Opposed, "nay." Very  
4 good. Okay. So unless there's anything for  
5 the Good of the Order, the Indiana Election  
6 Commission has finished its business for  
7 today. Is there a motion for us to adjourn?

8 MR. WESTERCAMP: So moved.

9 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Second.

10 MS. BOYCE: Those in favor say "aye."

11 MS. WILSON OVERHOLT: Aye.

12 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Aye.

13 MR. WESTERCAMP: Aye.

14 MS. BOYCE: Opposed, "nay." The ayes  
15 have it and the Indiana Election Commission  
16 meeting is adjourned.

17 (The public session is concluded at  
18 12:47 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF INDIANA )  
2 COUNTY OF BOONE )

3  
4 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

5 I, Lindsay Bola, the undersigned Court  
6 Reporter and Notary Public, residing and  
7 maintaining offices in the City of Whitestown,  
8 County of Boone, State of Indiana, do hereby  
9 certify:

10 That at the time and place described in this  
11 transcript, the witnesses presented themselves  
12 before me for administration of an oath of  
13 truthfulness, which oath I then administered;

14 That I then reported to the best of my ability  
15 in machine shorthand all of the words spoken by all  
16 parties in attendance during the course of the  
17 ensuing proceedings, including objections, if any,  
18 made by all counsel present;


19 That I later reduced my stenographic notes  
20 into the foregoing typewritten form, which  
21 typewritten transcript is a true record of the  
22 testimony given by this witness as stated above;

23 I do further certify that I am a disinterested  
24 person in this cause of action, that I am not a  
25 relative or attorney or employee of any of the

1 parties, that I am not a relative of an employee of  
2 such attorney or counsel, and that I am not  
3 financially interested in this action.

4 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have affixed my Notarial  
5 Seal and subscribed my signature this 2nd day of  
6 March, 2026.

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Lindsay Bola  
Lindsay Bola  
NOTARY PUBLIC - SEAL  
STATE OF INDIANA  
COMMISSION NUMBER NP0744352  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 10/18/2030