

ALABAMA DEMOCRATS

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DECISION AND ORDER **REGARDING SHOW CAUSE DEMAND RELATING TO THE DEMOCRATIC** **NOMINEE FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE 17TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

This matter came before this subcommittee (the “Subcommittee”) of the Alabama State Democratic Executive Committee, appointed by Alabama State Democratic Executive Committee Chair Dr. Randy B. Kelley (the “Chair”), for hearing on August 2, 2024 at the headquarters of the Alabama Democratic Party in Montgomery, Alabama. The Subcommittee consisted of Dr. Randy B. Kelley, Ben H. Harris, III, Dr. Joe L. Reed, Rebecca Marion, and Barbara Turner. The Chair appointed the Subcommittee pursuant to Article VIII, which in turn has reference to Article VII, Section 2, Paragraph (d), of the Amended and Restated Bylaws of the State Democratic Executive Committee of Alabama to hear a show cause demand by a number of residents of the 17th Judicial District of Alabama. Those residents demanded that the Hon. Gregory S. Griggers show cause why his nomination by the Alabama Democratic Party as its candidate for Circuit Judge of that district should not be withdrawn.

For the reasons set forth herein, the Subcommittee finds that the residents did not submit sufficient evidence to warrant the withdrawal of Mr. Griggers’ nomination, and that the evidence supplied by Mr. Griggers showed sufficient cause that he remain the nominee. It is the decision of the Subcommittee that Mr. Griggers remain the nominee.

The residents submitted with their demand a printout, purporting to be from the website of the Federal Elections Commission, reflecting contributions, purportedly made by Gregory S. Griggers in 2010 and 2016, and by “Greg Griggers” in 2020 and 2021. The printout reflected that the 2010 and 2016 contributions by Gregory S. Griggers were to a Democratic candidate for the United States House of Representatives, Earl Hilliard, and to the Alabama State Democratic Executive Committee. The printout reflected that the 2020 and 2021 contributions by “Greg

Griggers” were to Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., Make America Great Again PAC, and, through Winred (which, according to its website is “the official secure payments technology designed to help GOP candidates and committees win across the US”), to those entities and other Republican causes. The printout does not specify the dates (beyond the year) or amounts of the contributions.

Mr. Griggers filed a response to the show cause demand denying that he made the contributions attributed to “Greg Griggers.”

Mr. Lorenzo French, Chair of the Greene County Democratic Executive Committee, represented the residents who made the demand at the hearing. Mr. Griggers appeared at the hearing, represented by William Pompey, Esq., an attorney and Chair of the Wilcox County Democratic Executive Committee, and by other counsel.

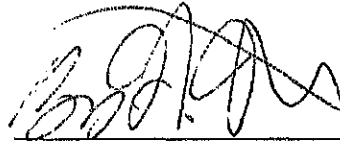
Mr. French testified under oath that he printed the printout from the Federal Elections Commission website. He testified that he did not have additional evidence regarding the contributions reflected on the website.

Mr. Griggers testified under oath that he did not make the contributions attributed on the printout to “Greg Griggers.” Additionally, he produced at the hearing an affidavit from the Hon. Eddie Hardaway, the current Circuit Judge for the 17th Judicial District and Chair of the Sumter County Democratic Executive Committee. Judge Hardaway’s affidavit attached a similar printout from the Federal Elections Commission website reflecting contributions, purportedly made by Judge Hardaway, to Republican candidates and causes around the United States, apparently through Winred. Judge Hardaway denied, in the affidavit, making any such contributions. The printout supplied by Judge Hardaway also showed the contributions in his name to be amounts of \$0.64 and \$0.65, which the exception of one for \$50.00.

The Subcommittee determines that there is insufficient evidence to warrant the withdrawal of Mr. Griggers' nomination as the Democratic candidate for Circuit Judge in the 17th Judicial District, and that Mr. Griggers presented sufficient evidence to warrant that he remain the nominee. It is the decision of the Subcommittee that he remain so.

An appeal of this decision to the Alabama State Democratic Executive Committee as a whole may be taken by filing the appeal with the State Chair within 10 days of the date of this decision. No appeal shall be considered on the ground that the decision of the Subcommittee was not supported by any substantial evidence unless a transcript of all the evidence proceedings before the Subcommittee, provided at the expense of the party taking the appeal, shall be filed with the State Chair within 20 days after the appeal is filed.

Dated: August 5, 2024



Ben Harris
Alabama State Democratic Executive Committee
Vice Chair for County Affairs
Subcommittee Chair