

MOCK CRITICIZES JAEGAR FOR LEAVING A STATEWIDE CANDIDATE OFF THE BALLOT

(BISMARCK, N.D.) – Today Secretary of State Al Jaegar admitted that he lost the paperwork of a libertarian Public Service Commissioner Candidate, causing the candidate to be left off the June 8th primary ballot.

According to the Associated Press, Joshua Voytek of Fargo turned in the necessary papers to run in the primary, “but they were lost in his office until after the April 9 filing deadline. The forms were attached to the some unrelated business paperwork.” [\[AP, 6/17\]](#)

Just last week, Jaegar remarked that “Our job is to make sure that the people are aware of their voting options ... and **to make sure that everything that happens on Election Day goes smoothly.**” [\[AP, 6/11\]](#)

“Obviously I’m disappointed to learn that Mr. Voytek’s name was left off the ballot. This is a serious incident that calls into question exactly what is going on under Al Jaegar’s watch,” said Secretary of State candidate Rep. Corey Mock. “Leaving a statewide candidate off the ballot is entirely unacceptable and the people of North Dakota need to know that they have a Secretary of State who can run elections.”

“Mr. Jaegar has been Secretary of State for almost 20 years. He has a record that he’s going have to take to the voters in November,” adds Mock. “This egregious error is part of his tired record as is his decision to sign a contract promoting a bankrupt, out-of-state company that he didn’t even know was bankrupt.”

Jaegar stated that the candidate will be included on the November ballot. While Mock certainly believes that the candidate deserves to be represented, he does not know what law Jaegar is following to put a candidate on the November ballot without being on the primary ballot.

According to the North Dakota Century Code, “No person may be deemed nominated as a candidate for any office at any primary election unless the candidate receives a number of votes equal to the number of signatures required, or which would have been required had the candidate not had his or her name placed on the ballot through a Certificate of Endorsement, on a petition to have a candidate’s name for that office placed on the primary ballot.” (NDCC § 16.1-11-36)

“I’m not sure that there is a way legally to put Mr. Voytek on the ballot, unless Jaegar is making up his own regulations. Another reason why we need a Secretary of State who is capable of doing the most important job of that office—running elections.”