The Counterfeit Lymans

What happened in the Utah 2024 General Election
in the gubernatorial race.



Utah's "Dan Sullivan"



In 2024, in Utah, a man named Phil Lyman ran for governor. His running mate was Natalie Clawson.

Phil won the Utah GOP state convention by 67% and got the party nomination.



Phil’s and Natalie’s GOP opponents were Spencer Cox and Deidre Henderson.

They lost the convention vote, badly.



Anticipating a convention loss, Cox gathered signatures to get on Utah's primary election ballot. 28,000 valid signatures were necessary for qualification.

Some signature gatherers had trouble collecting signatures for Cox. Some gatherers forged signatures, committing fraud. Cox did not get enough valid signatures. **But that's an entirely different story!**

An **old** law that qualified certain people to have access to voter lists / signature lists was blatantly broken during the 2024 campaign. Qualified people included government officials, political parties, and candidates for public office.

20A-2-104(4)

(a) As used in this Subsection (4), "qualified person" means:

(i) **a government official** or government employee acting in the government official's or government employee's capacity as a government official or a government employee;

(ii) a health care provider, as defined in Section 26-33a-102, or an agent, employee, or independent contractor of a health care provider;

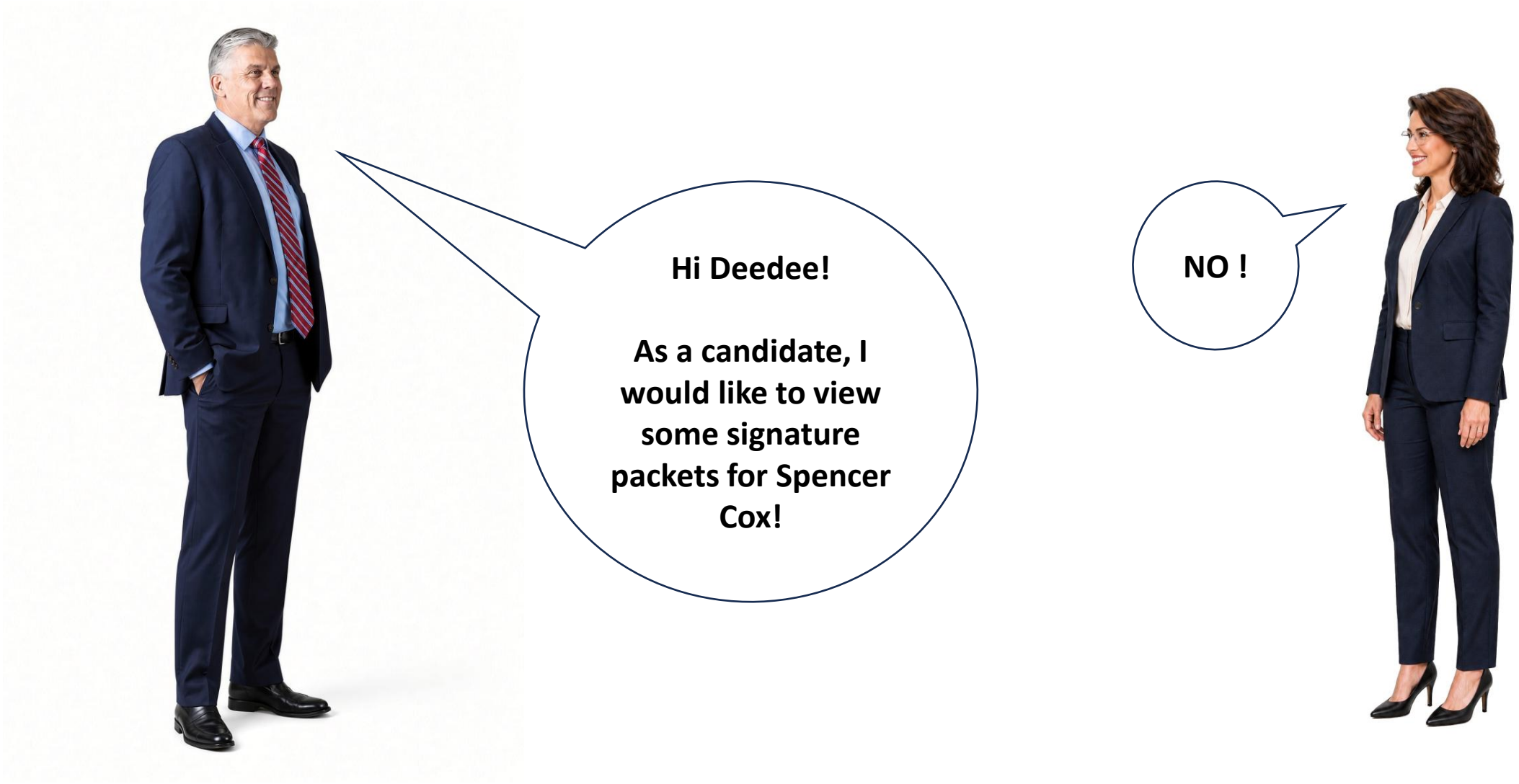
(iii) an insurance company, as defined in Section 67-4a-102, or an agent, employee, or independent contractor of an insurance company;

(iv) a financial institution, as defined in Section 7-1-103, or an agent, employee, or independent contractor of a financial institution;

(v) **a political party,** or an agent, employee, or independent contractor of a political party;

(vi) **a candidate for public office**, or an employee, independent contractor, or volunteer of a candidate for public office;

Well before the primary election, Phil Lyman had concerns about the quality of the Spencer Cox signatures. He was denied an opportunity to view signature packets!





The Lieutenant Governor made sure that she and Cox were on the primary ballot, even though they knew they did not have enough signatures.

Cox and Henderson “won” the June 2024 primary.

The state GOP chair, Rob Axson, asked to see signature packets and was denied. Rob Axson backed off and did not pursue it further.



Hi Deedee! The party has concerns about the signature gathering process and would like to inspect packets!

NO !



Many in the Utah GOP were furious that Phil would not just "shut up and go away."

Phil was questioning nomination and election processes. In countries like Brazil, this is treated as a crime.

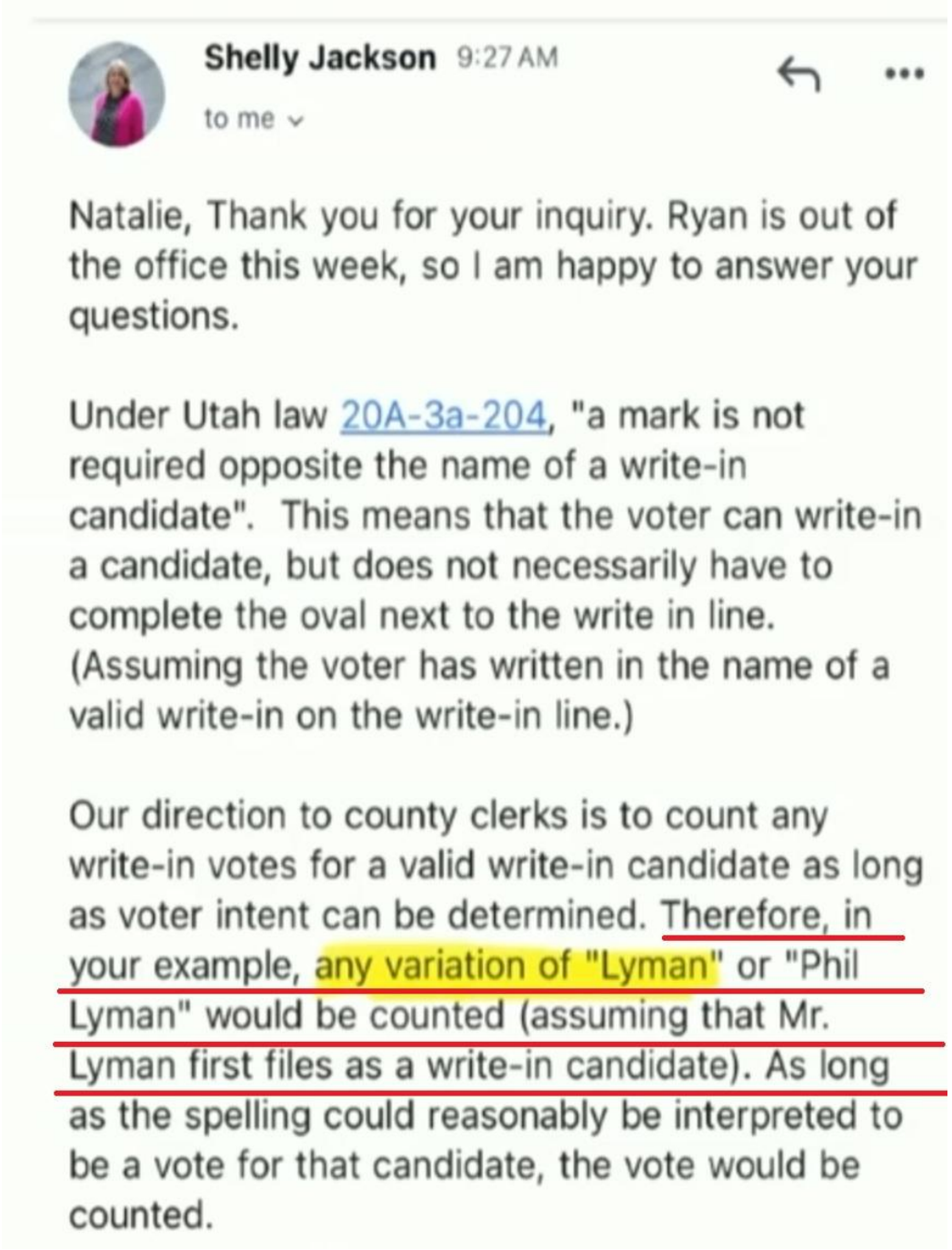
Two years earlier, US Senator Mike Lee, in cooperation with Deidre Henderson, penned an editorial crowing that it was our ability to accept election results that "makes the U.S. exceptional."



Undeterred, Phil and Natalie filed as write-in candidates August 19, 2024 for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

The deadline to file was September 3, 5 PM.

They met the filing deadline with ample time.



Shelly Jackson 9:27 AM

to me

Natalie, Thank you for your inquiry. Ryan is out of the office this week, so I am happy to answer your questions.

Under Utah law 20A-3a-204, "a mark is not required opposite the name of a write-in candidate". This means that the voter can write-in a candidate, but does not necessarily have to complete the oval next to the write in line. (Assuming the voter has written in the name of a valid write-in on the write-in line.)

Our direction to county clerks is to count any write-in votes for a valid write-in candidate as long as voter intent can be determined. Therefore, in your example, any variation of "Lyman" or "Phil Lyman" would be counted (assuming that Mr. Lyman first files as a write-in candidate). As long as the spelling could reasonably be interpreted to be a vote for that candidate, the vote would be counted.

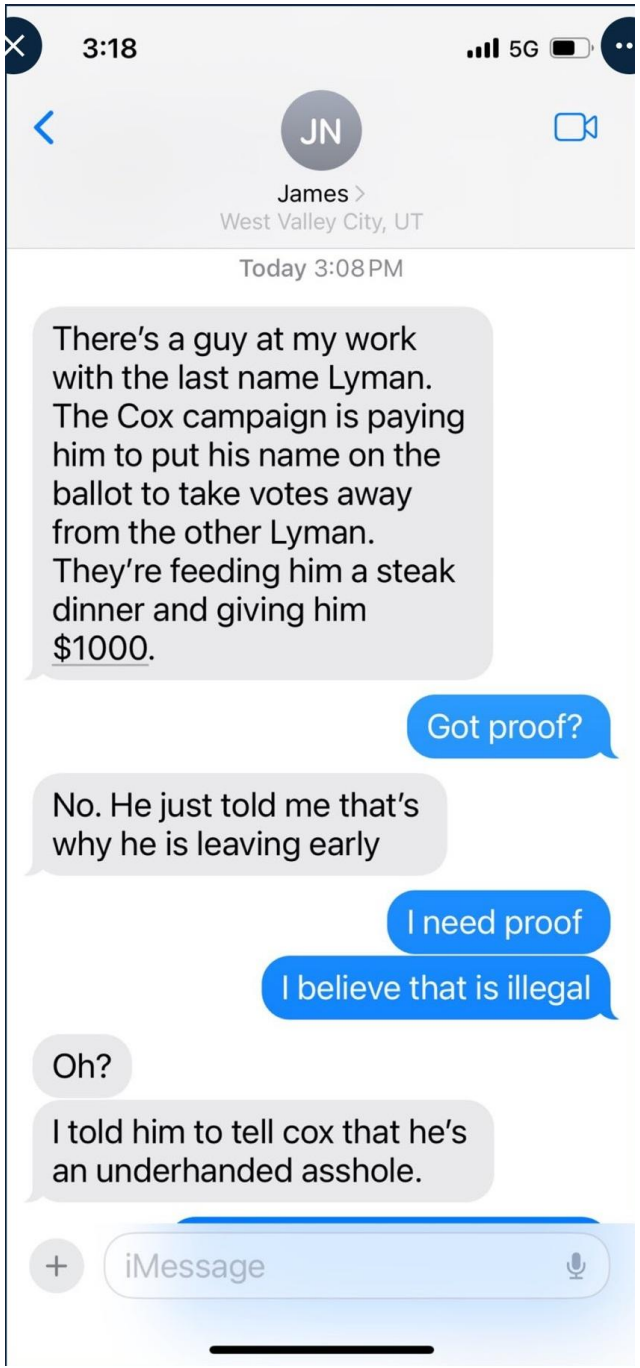
Natalie received an email from the Lieutenant Governor's office with assurance that writing in "Lyman" on the ballot would be accepted.

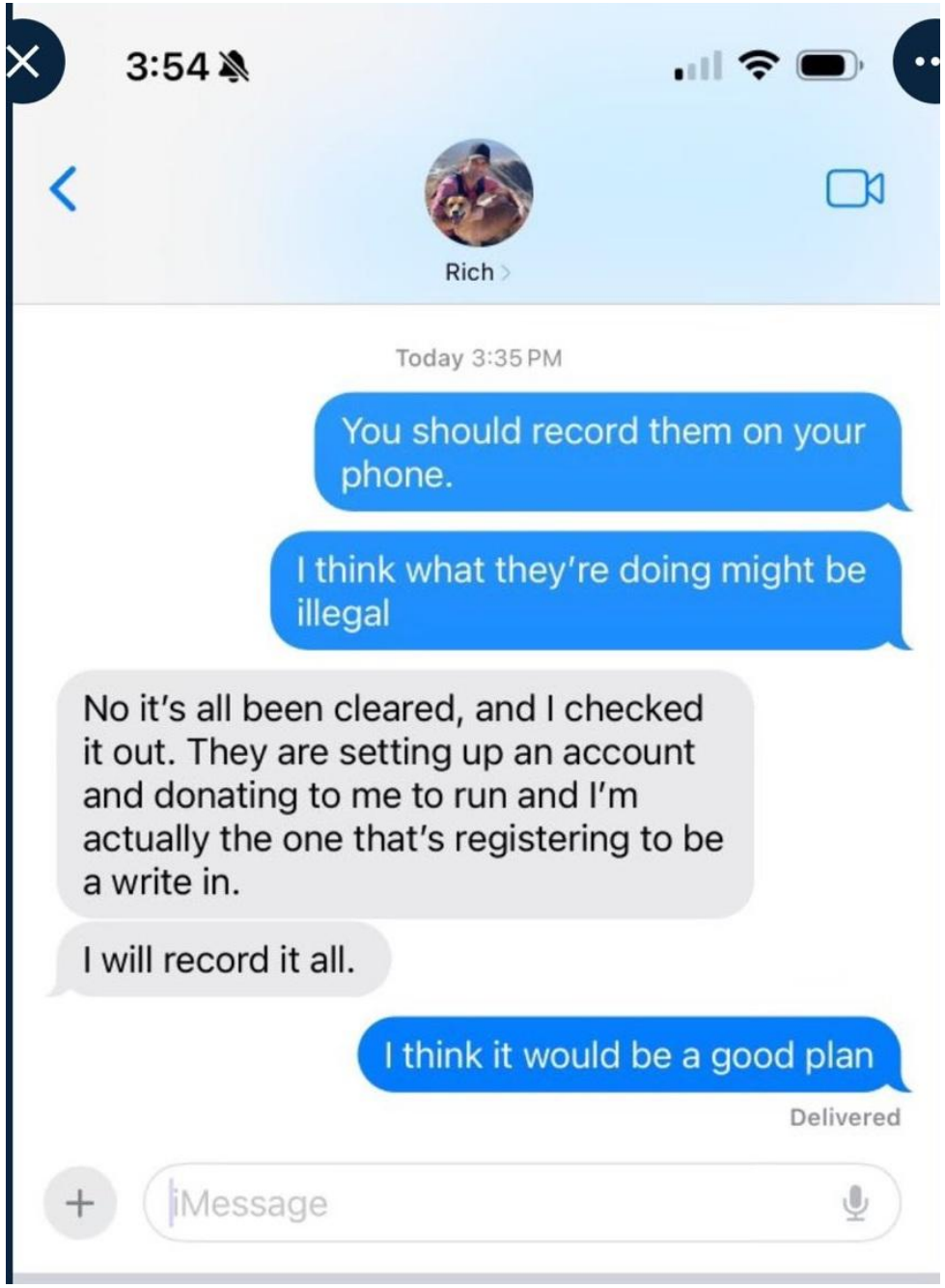


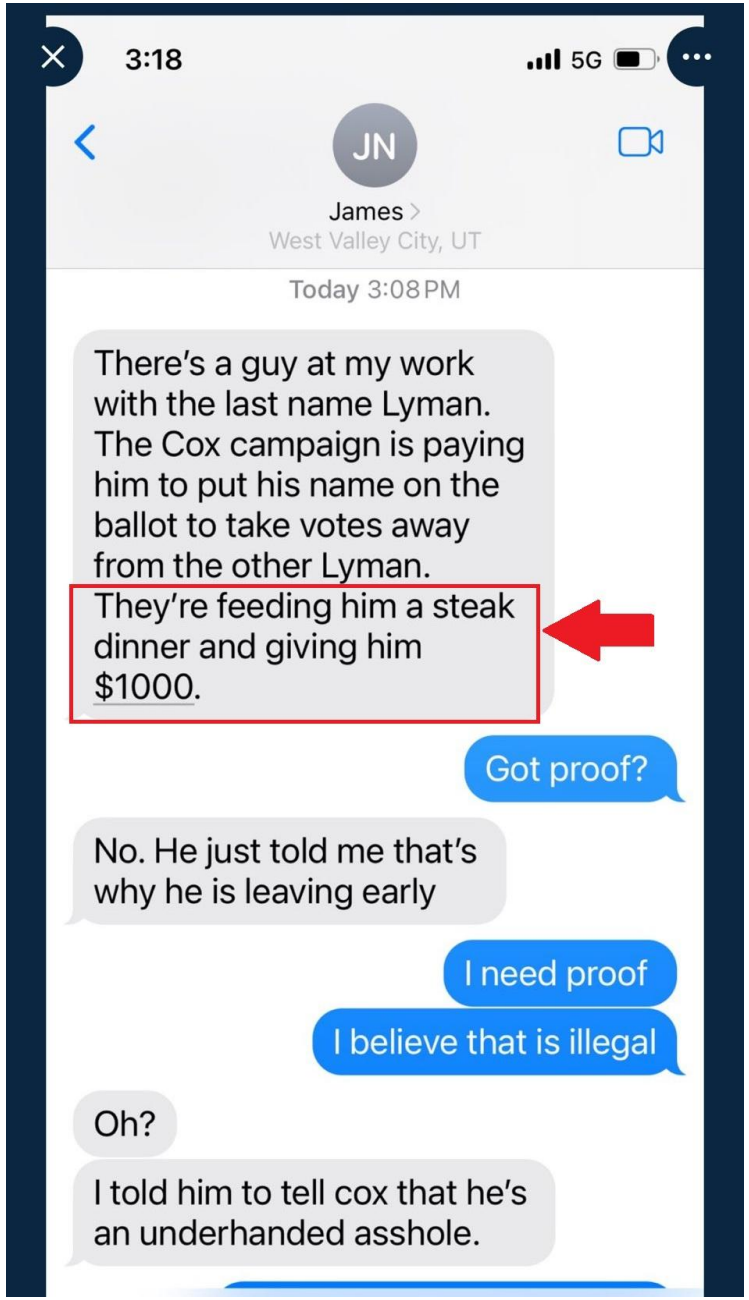
A week before the filing deadline, a whistleblower notified the Lyman campaign that a co-worker named Richard Lyman was filing to run for governor.

The whistleblower provided screenshots of his text exchange with the coworker, Richard Kennedy Lyman, talking about being recruited to run for governor.

Matt Lusty, Spencer Cox's campaign manager, denied any "official" payments as an inducement to get Richard Lyman to run. Lusty has not denied approaching Richard Lyman.


3:18
5G
JN
James
West Valley City, UT
Today 3:08 PM
There's a guy at my work with the last name Lyman. The Cox campaign is paying him to put his name on the ballot to take votes away from the other Lyman. They're feeding him a steak dinner and giving him $1000.
Got proof?
No. He just told me that's why he is leaving early
I need proof
I believe that is illegal
Oh?
I told him to tell cox that he's an underhanded asshole.
iMessage


3:54
Rich
Today 3:35 PM
You should record them on your phone.
I think what they're doing might be illegal
No it's all been cleared, and I checked it out. They are setting up an account and donating to me to run and I'm actually the one that's registering to be a write in.
I will record it all.
I think it would be a good plan
Delivered
iMessage



Let's look at the beginning of that text exchange again.

$1000 and a steak dinner are being offered to the Lyman decoy, according to the whistleblower.

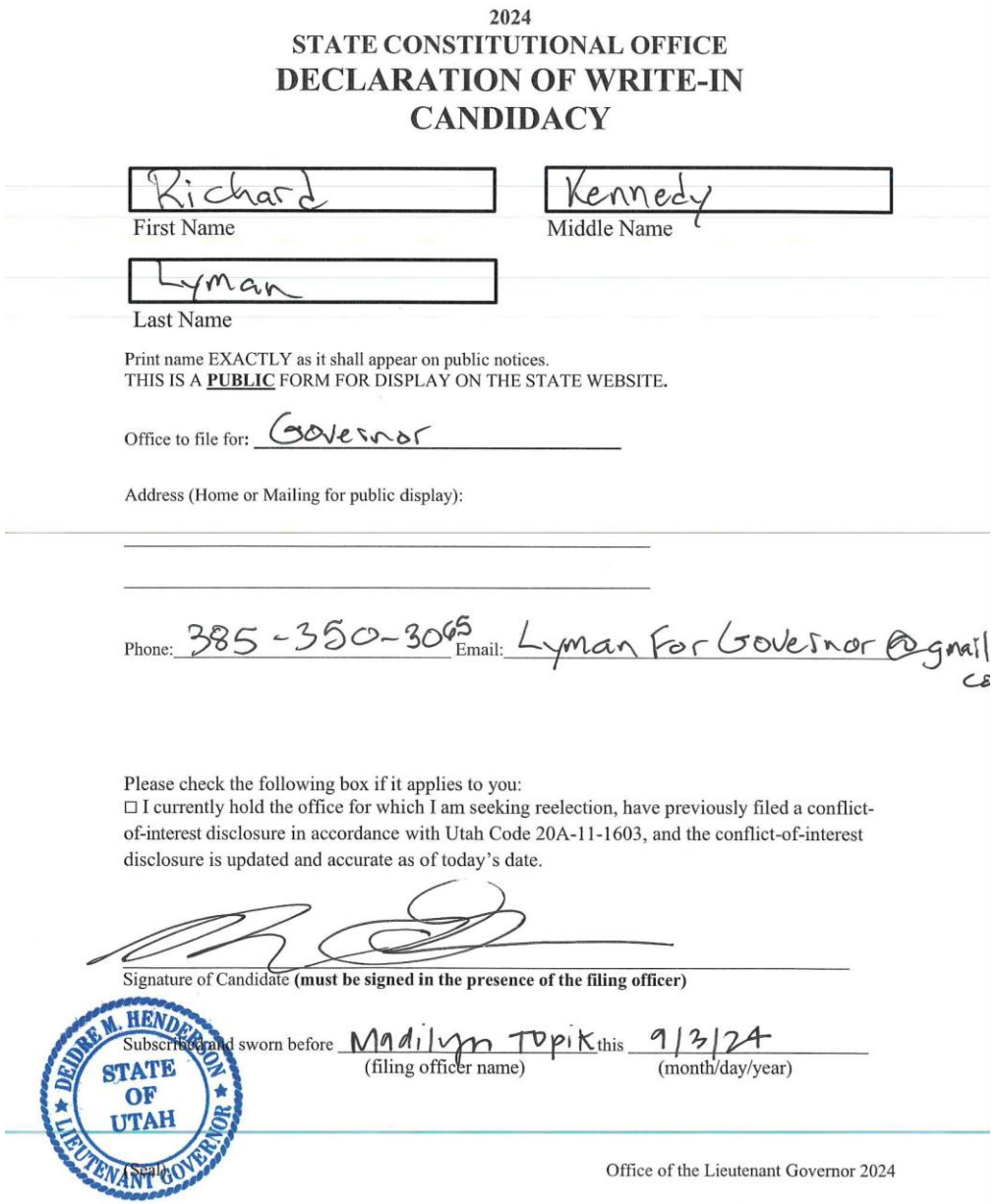
Utah GOP leadership has never called out this deception, designed to confuse voters, as wrongdoing. Yet they complain about what has happened to Senator Dan Sullivan of Alaska.

This hypocrisy is why much of the grassroots calls GOP leadership "Steak Dinner Republicans."

Richard Lyman filed two hours before the deadline.

The PHIL Lyman campaign was in disbelief and checked the filing website.

Sure enough, there was the filing.



2024
STATE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE
DECLARATION OF WRITE-IN CANDIDACY

Richard (First Name) Kennedy (Middle Name)
Lyman (Last Name)

Print name EXACTLY as it shall appear on public notices.
THIS IS A **PUBLIC** FORM FOR DISPLAY ON THE STATE WEBSITE.

Office to file for: Governor

Address (Home or Mailing for public display):

Phone: 385-350-3065 Email: LymanForGovernor@gmail
CS

Please check the following box if it applies to you:
☐ I currently hold the office for which I am seeking reelection, have previously filed a conflict-of-interest disclosure in accordance with Utah Code 20A-11-1603, and the conflict-of-interest disclosure is updated and accurate as of today's date.

Signature of Candidate **(must be signed in the presence of the filing officer)**

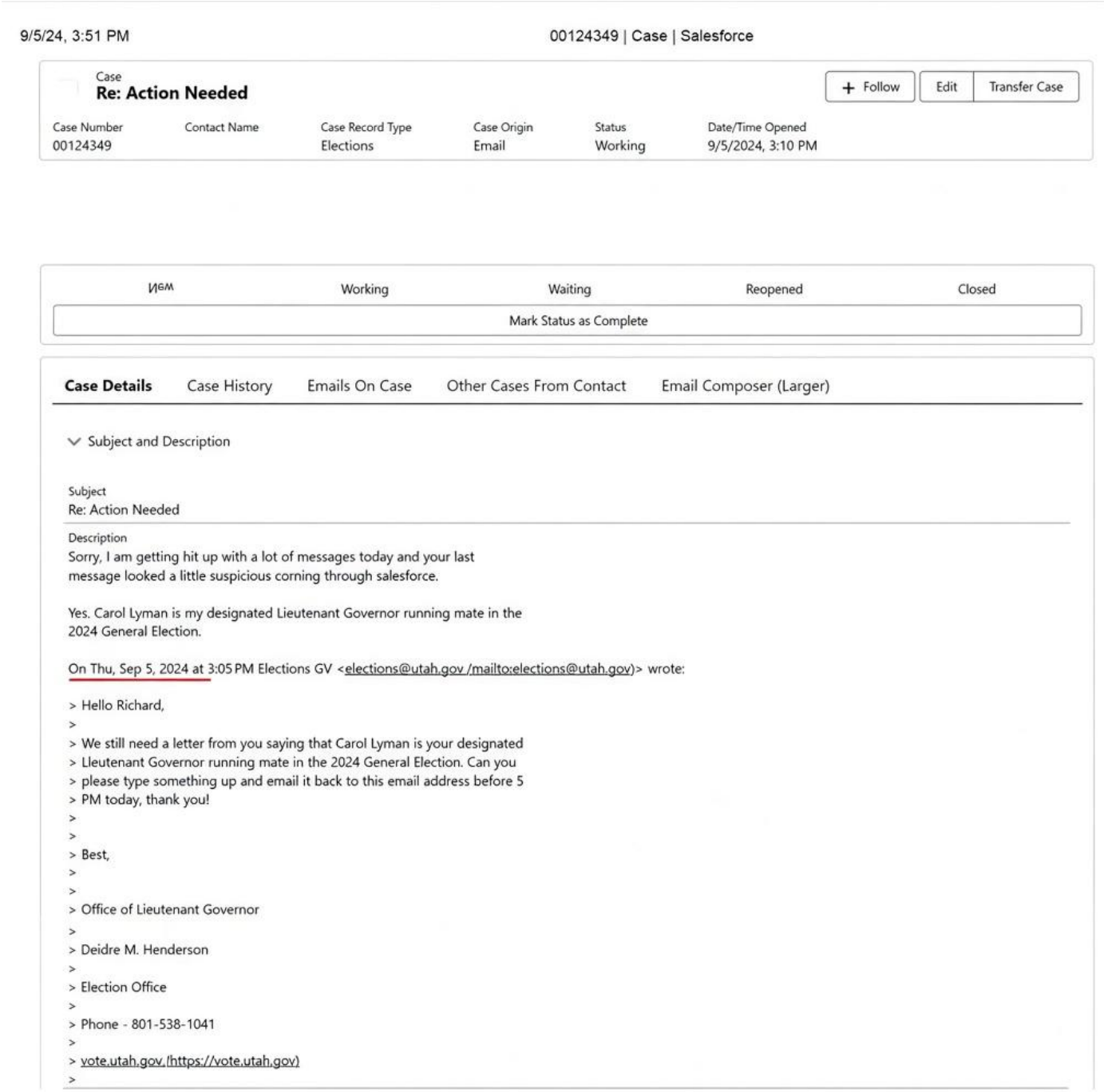
Subscribed and sworn before Madilyn Topik (filing officer name) this 9/3/24 (month/day/year)

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON ★ STATE OF UTAH ★ LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
(Seal)

Office of the Lieutenant Governor 2024

Carol Lyman's declaration of candidacy as Lieutenant Governor is dated September 3.

However, two days later, the LG sent an email to Richard Lyman stating that he had not filed a statement that Carol was his running mate.



9/5/24, 3:51 PM 00124349 | Case | Salesforce

Case
Re: Action Needed

+ Follow | Edit | Transfer Case

Case Number	Contact Name	Case Record Type	Case Origin	Status	Date/Time Opened
00124349		Elections	Email	Working	9/5/2024, 3:10 PM

New | Working | Waiting | Reopened | Closed

Mark Status as Complete

Case Details | Case History | Emails On Case | Other Cases From Contact | Email Composer (Larger)

Subject and Description

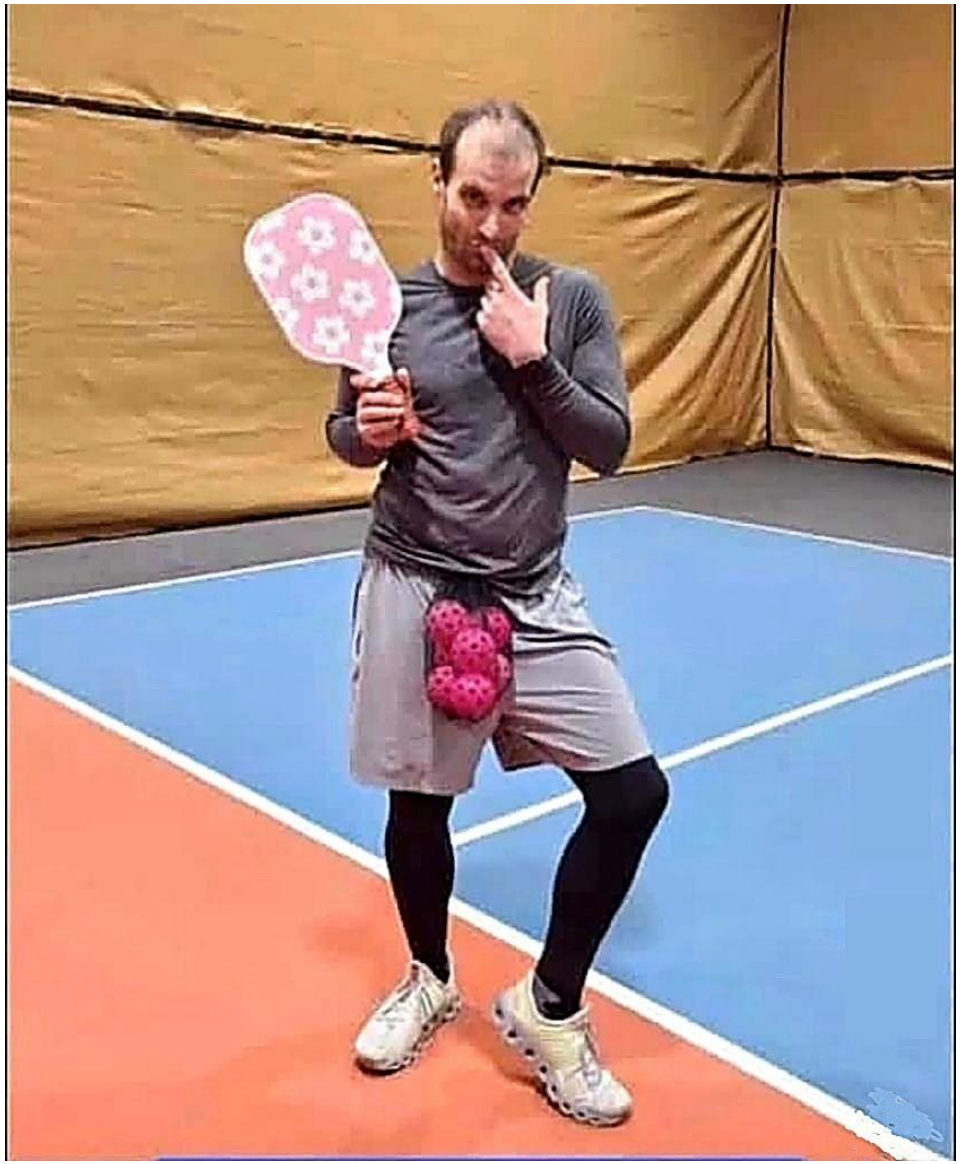
Subject
Re: Action Needed

Description
Sorry, I am getting hit up with a lot of messages today and your last message looked a little suspicious corning through salesforce.

Yes. Carol Lyman is my designated Lieutenant Governor running mate in the 2024 General Election.

On Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 3:05 PM Elections GV <elections@utah.gov /mailto:elections@utah.gov)> wrote:

> Hello Richard,
>
> We still need a letter from you saying that Carol Lyman is your designated
> Lieutenant Governor running mate in the 2024 General Election. Can you
> please type something up and email it back to this email address before 5
> PM today, thank you!
>
>
> Best,
>
>
> Office of Lieutenant Governor
>
> Deidre M. Henderson
>
> Election Office
>
> Phone - 801-538-1041
>
> vote.utah.gov.(https://vote.utah.gov)
>



This is the Richard Lyman who was running for governor.

A candidate debate, sponsored by a debate commission funded by the state legislature, excluded Phil on their debate eligibility ballot and refused to count LYMAN votes towards Phil's eligibility percentage to debate.

LIGHTHOUSE RESEARCH
UTAH DEBATE COMMISSION GOVERNOR SURVEY RESULTS

September 2024

Count	518
Survey Margin of Error	± 4.31%

	n=518	Percent
Spencer Cox (Republican)	249	48.1%
Tommy Williams (Independent American Party of Utah)	22	4.2%
Brian King (Democrat)	140	27.0%
Robert Latham (Libertarian)	35	6.8%
Tom Tomeny (Independent)	12	2.3%
Other (specify) - Not Read	32	6.2%
Undecided - Not Read	28	5.4%

Other Responses

- Curtis.
- Hecklefish.
- Lyman (7)
  - Phil Lyman (20)
  - Phil Lyman - Republican nominee from the convention
  - Philip Lyman
- Write in (unsspecified)

After being screened out by the Debate Commission, PHIL Lyman campaign volunteers now had to SCRAMBLE.

Signage and literature had to be repurposed from:

Write In Lyman

to

Write In PHIL Lyman

Signage had to change from LYMAN for GOVERNOR:



To LYMAN CLAWSON

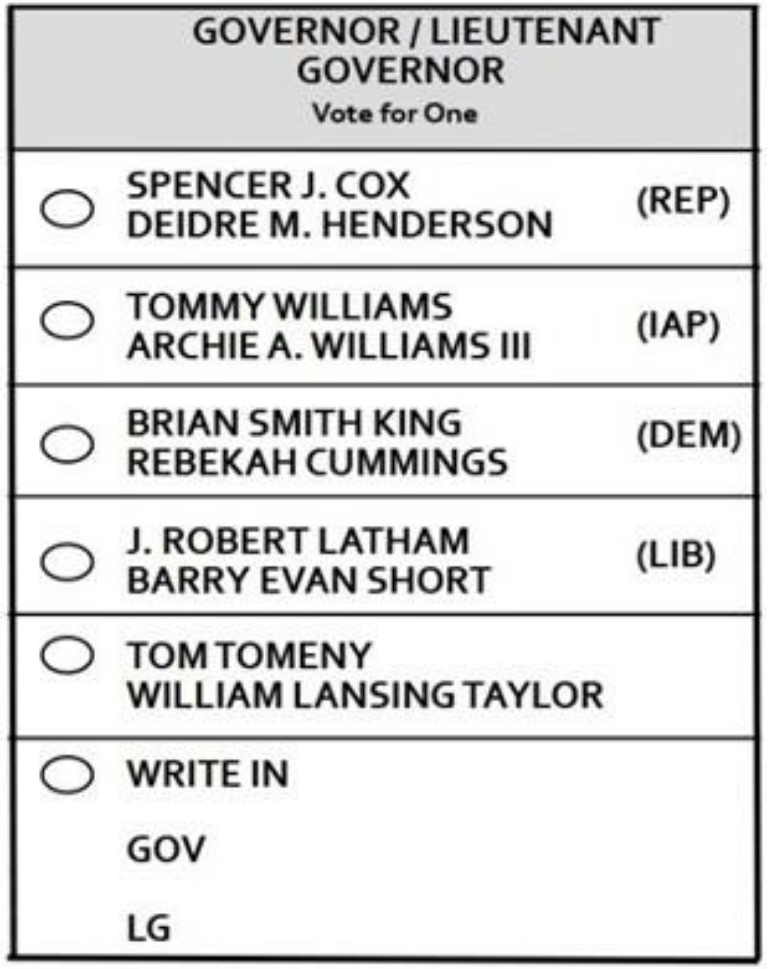


The ballot must specify EITHER

PHIL Lyman

or

Lyman and Clawson



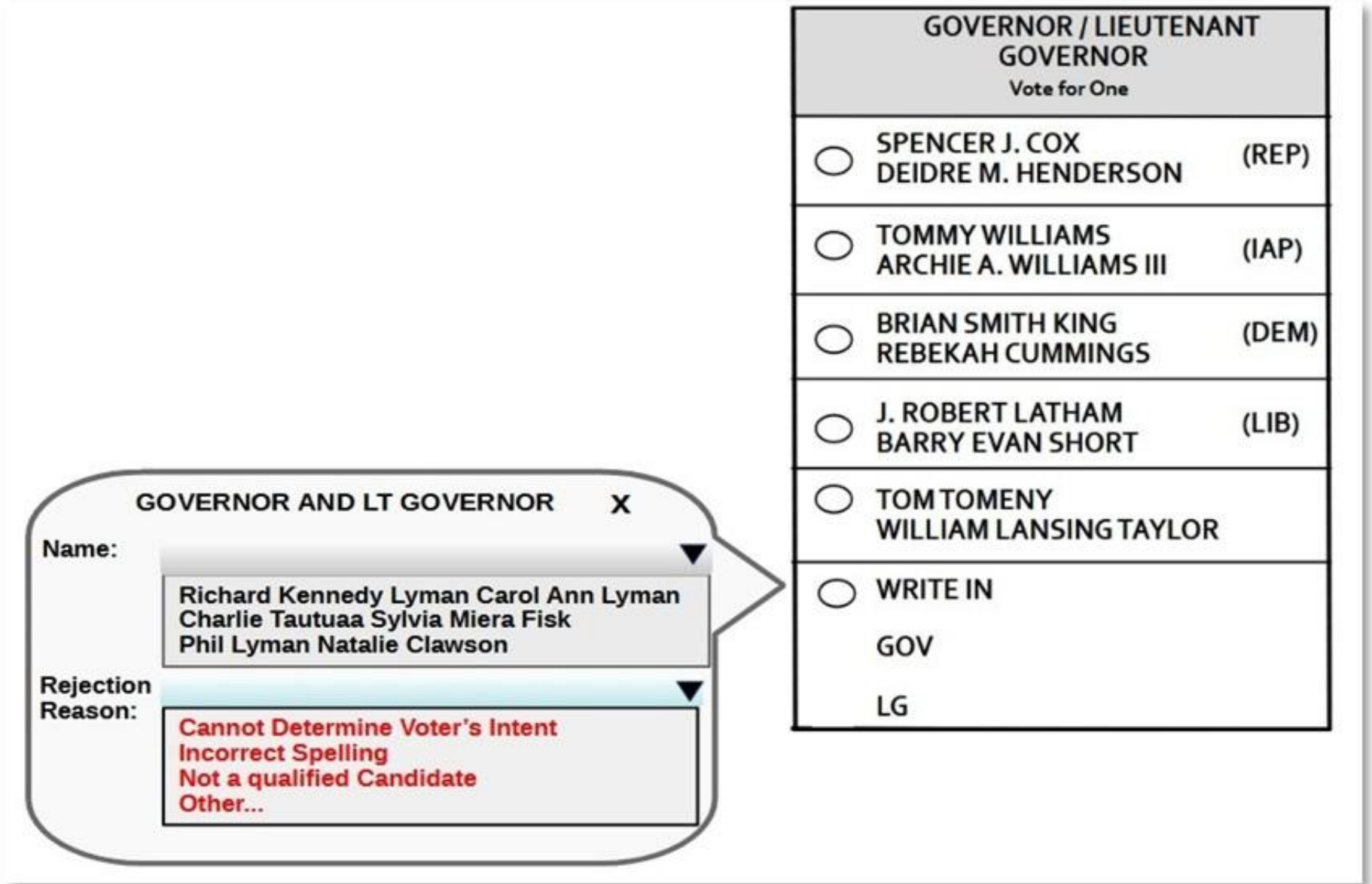
Write-ins can go wrong in numerous ways.

The write-in must be UNAMBIGUOUS for ballot adjudicators to accept the write-in choice.

Even specifying PHIL Lyman without a proper running mate leaves the ballot vulnerable to modification.

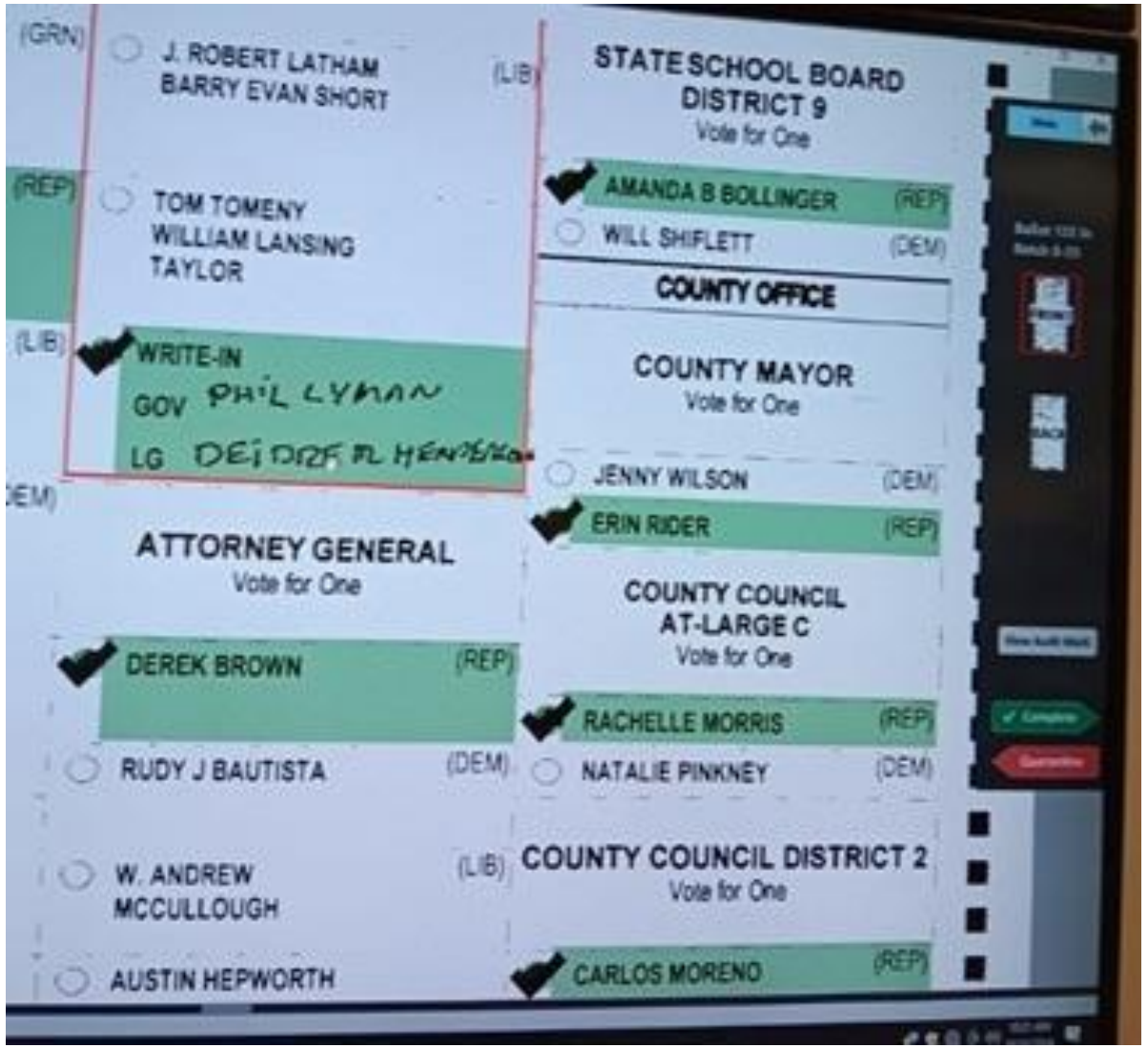
A clerk has to be on high alert that no attempts are made to modify a paper ballot by any election workers with possibly bad intentions.

County clerks programmed an adjudication menu before the election. This is what it looked like.



On this real adjudicated ballot, the voter put in the wrong running mate, causing the ballot to be rejected.

Prior to Richard Lyman's pending withdrawal, one poll watcher estimated that some 2 – 3% of the Lyman write-ins were rejected in her county.



The PHIL campaign talked to the RICHARD campaign about legal action. While withdrawal was being negotiated, a poll watcher noticed that ambiguous ballots that would have been rejected were now being quarantined.

About October 25, Deidre Henderson sent a notice to voters about Richard's and Carol's withdrawal. Mention of Phil Lyman still in the race was omitted.

Dear voter,

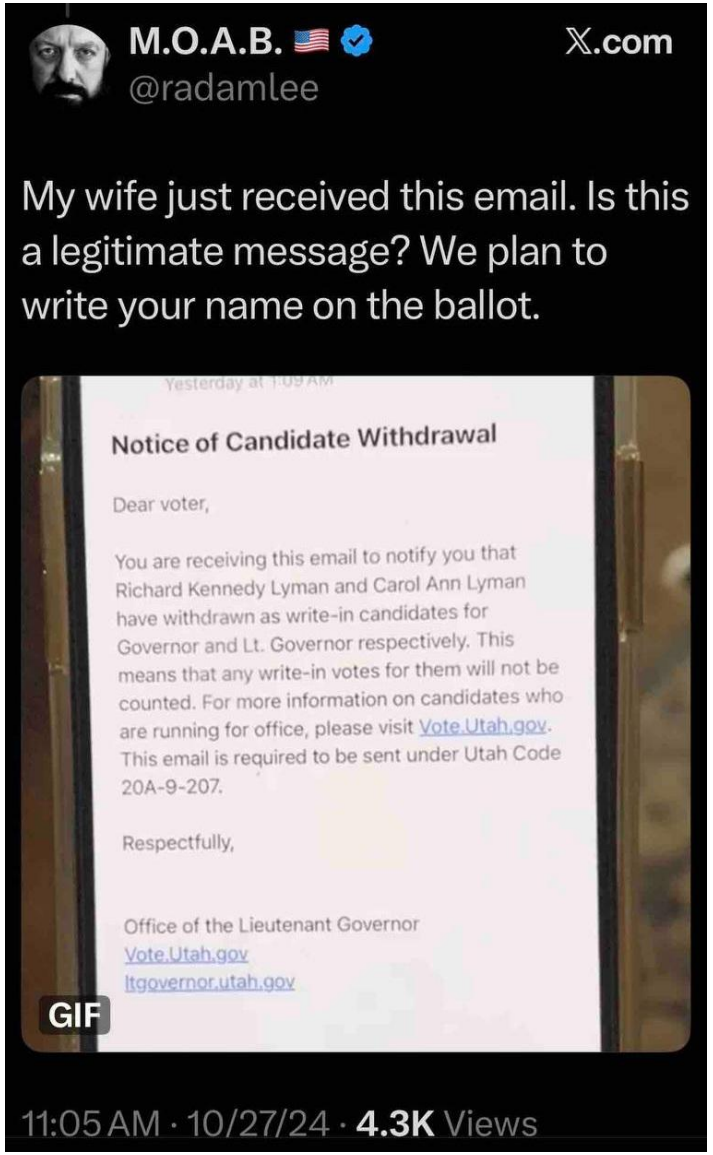
You are receiving this email to notify you that Richard Kennedy Lyman and Carol Ann Lyman have withdrawn as write-in candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor respectively. This means that any write-in votes for them will not be counted. For more information on candidates who are running for office, please visit Vote.Utah.gov. This email is required to be sent under Utah Code 20A-9-207.

Respectfully,

Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Vote.Utah.gov
ltgovernor.utah.gov

Confusion ensued. Voters thought that PHIL had dropped out. Phil's campaign was flooded with messages from voters. The media did their part to contribute to the confusion.



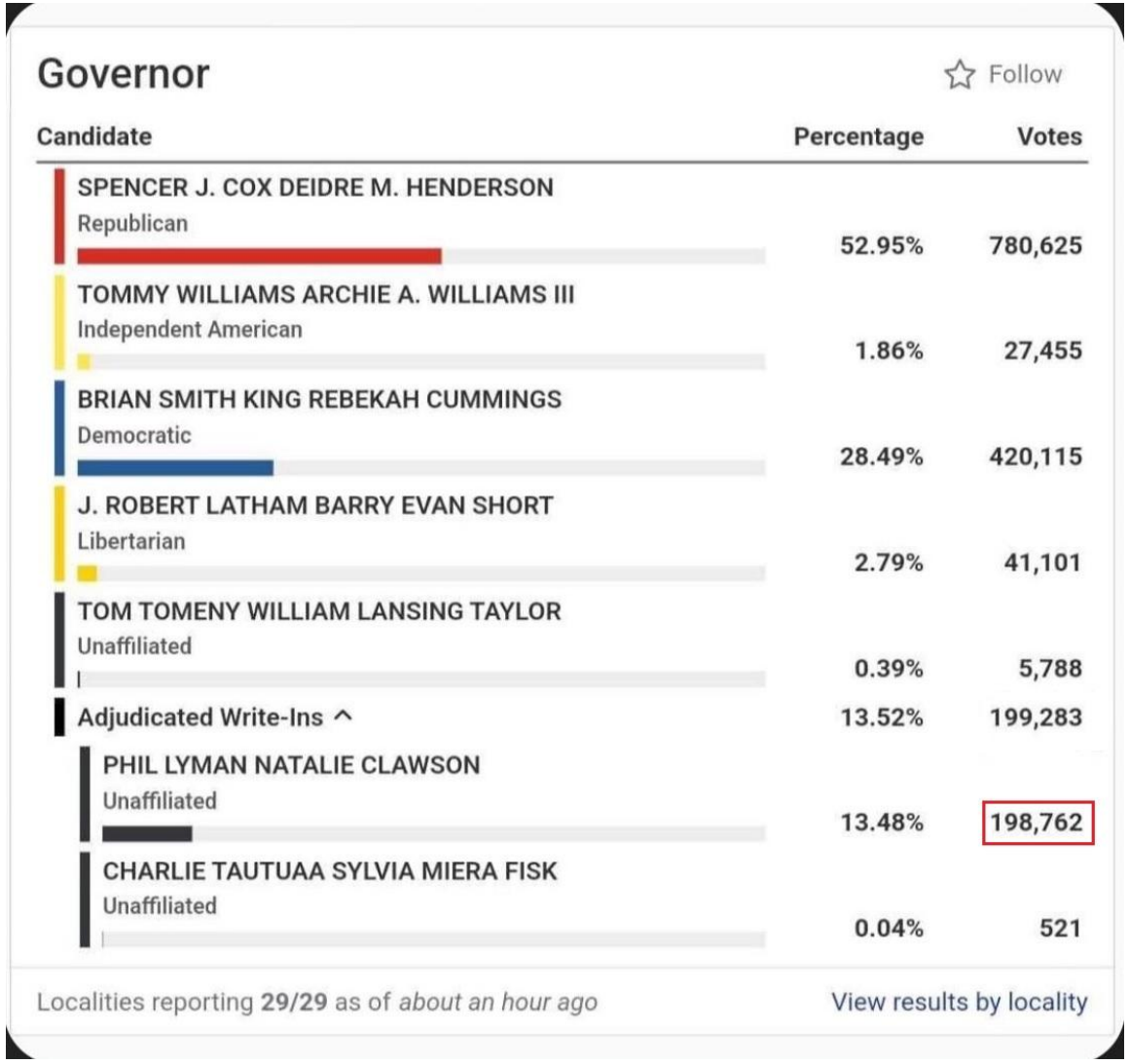


Quarantined ballots eventually were awarded to Phil. Ballots rejected prior to Richard Lyman's withdrawal were never reviewed.

As a write-in candidate, Phil Lyman broke records. The results of that gubernatorial race were:

Cox / Henderson (R)	781,431	52.89%
King / Cummings (D)	420,514	28.46%
Latham / Short (Lib)	41,164	2.79%
Williams / Williams (IAP)	27,480	1.86%
Tomeny / Taylor (UNA)	5,792	0.39%
Tautuaa / Fisk (write-in)	525	0.04%
Lyman / Clawson (write-in)	**200,551**	**13.57%**

While the votes were being counted, some watchers observed counting malfeasance, subtracting votes from Phil Lyman that were already awarded to him.



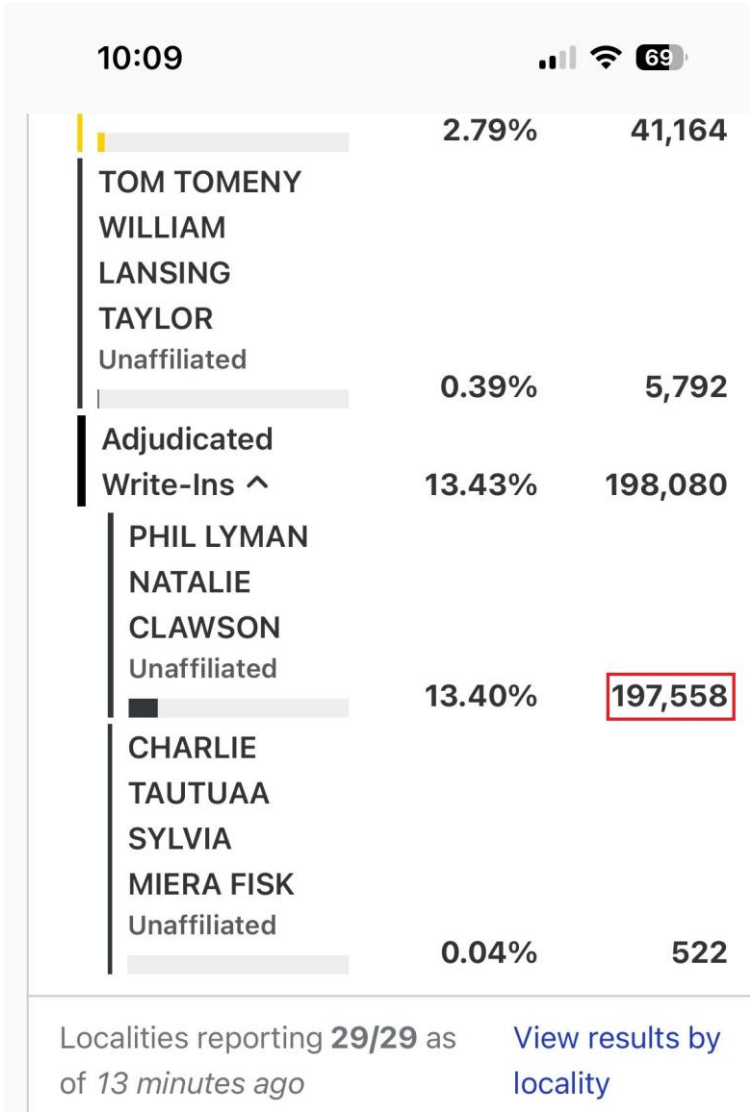
Governor

Follow

Candidate	Percentage	Votes
SPENCER J. COX DEIDRE M. HENDERSON Republican	52.95%	780,625
TOMMY WILLIAMS ARCHIE A. WILLIAMS III Independent American	1.86%	27,455
BRIAN SMITH KING REBEKAH CUMMINGS Democratic	28.49%	420,115
J. ROBERT LATHAM BARRY EVAN SHORT Libertarian	2.79%	41,101
TOM TOMENY WILLIAM LANSING TAYLOR Unaffiliated	0.39%	5,788
Adjudicated Write-Ins ^	13.52%	199,283
PHIL LYMAN NATALIE CLAWSON Unaffiliated	13.48%	198,762
CHARLIE TAUTUAA SYLVIA MIERA FISK Unaffiliated	0.04%	521

Localities reporting **29/29** as of *about an hour ago*

View results by locality

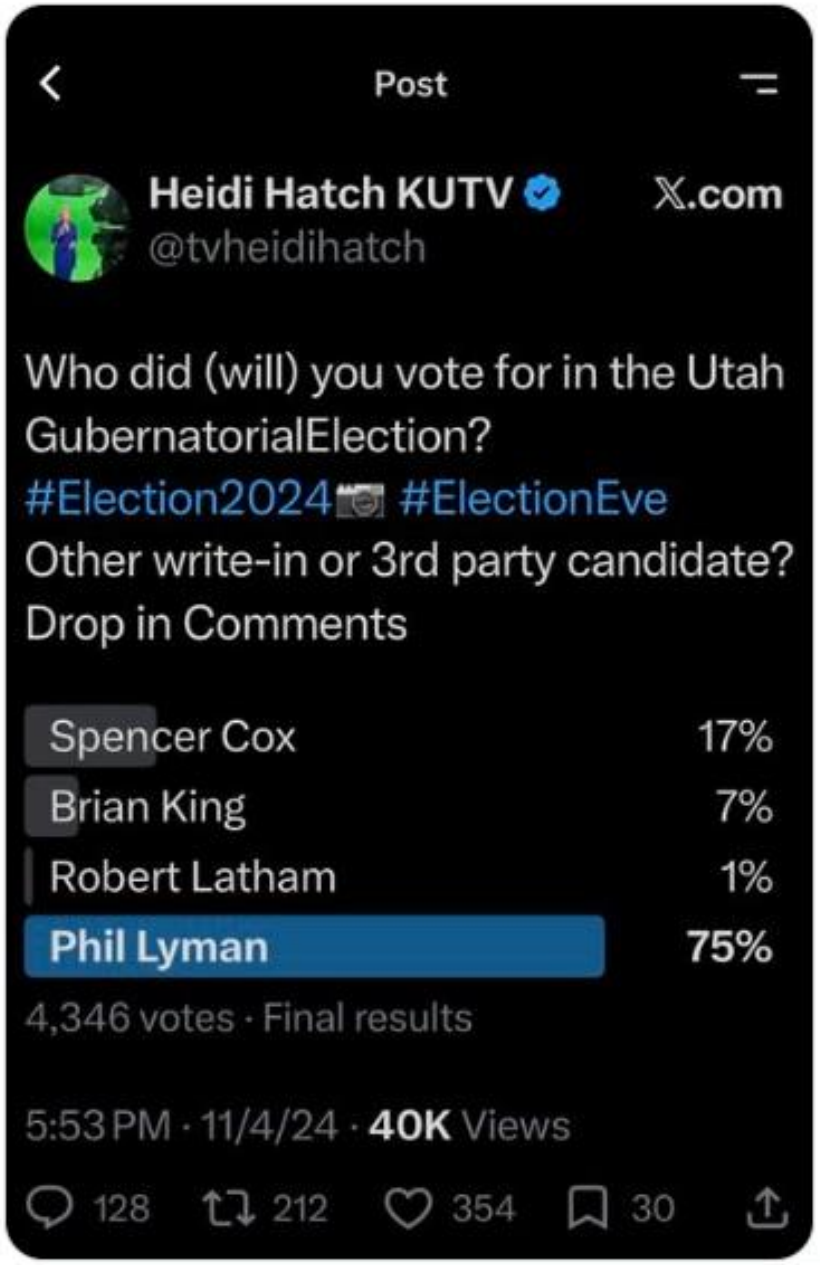


10:09

	2.79%	41,164
TOM TOMENY WILLIAM LANSING TAYLOR Unaffiliated	0.39%	5,792
Adjudicated Write-Ins ^	13.43%	198,080
PHIL LYMAN NATALIE CLAWSON Unaffiliated	13.40%	197,558
CHARLIE TAUTUAA SYLVIA MIERA FISK Unaffiliated	0.04%	522

Localities reporting **29/29** as of *13 minutes ago*

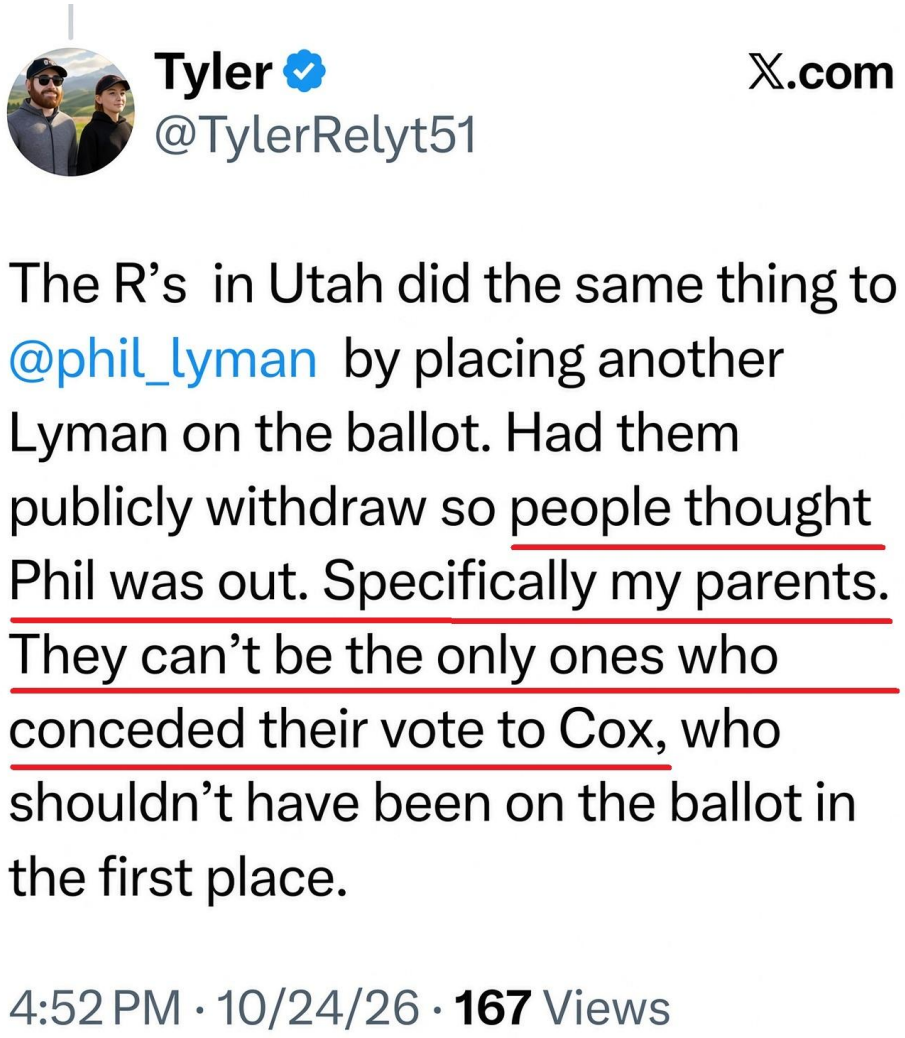
View results by locality



Phil Lyman, who was deliberately excluded by the Utah state legislature's debate commission, won over 200,000 write-in votes.

Libertarian candidate Robert Latham was included in the debate. Latham did not even get 42,000 votes.

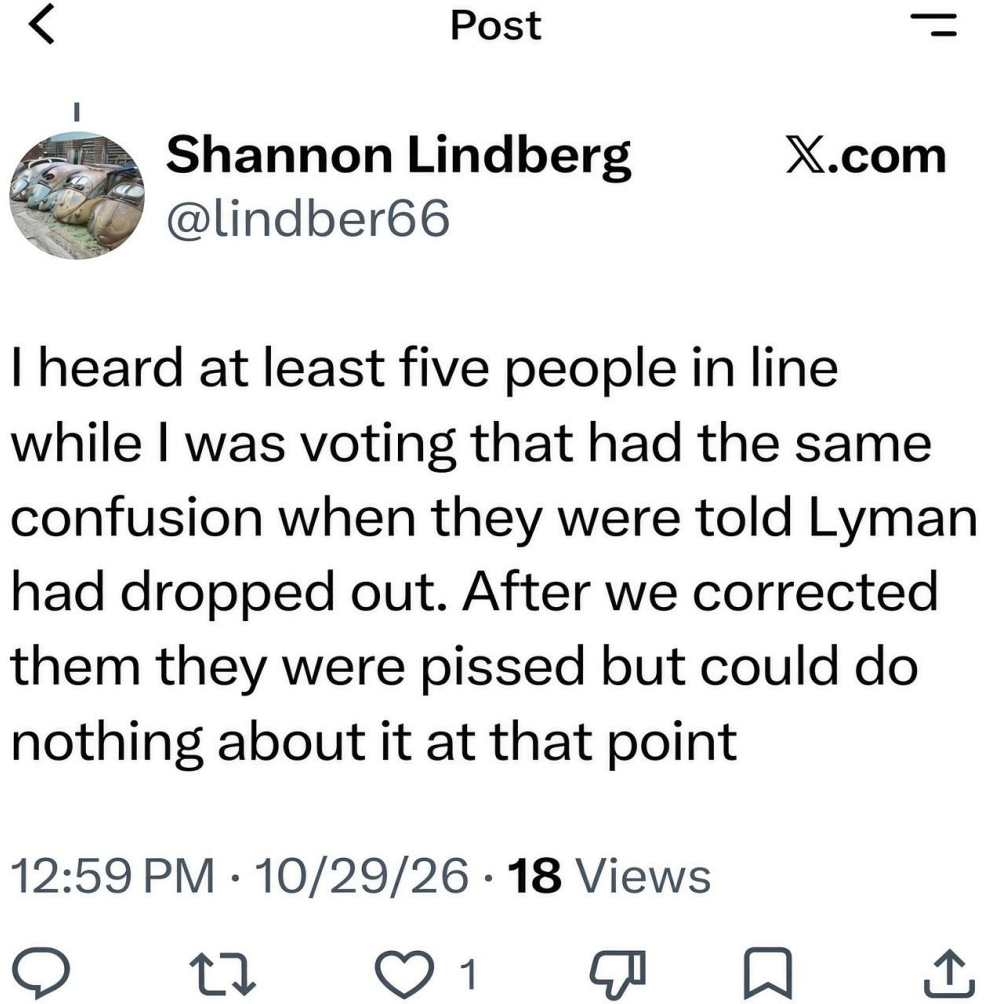
Many voters did not definitely know Phil's first name. They did not know the name of Natalie, his running mate.



Tyler
@TylerRelyt51
𝕏.com

The R's in Utah did the same thing to @phil_lyman by placing another Lyman on the ballot. Had them publicly withdraw so people thought Phil was out. Specifically my parents. They can't be the only ones who conceded their vote to Cox, who shouldn't have been on the ballot in the first place.

4:52 PM · 10/24/26 · **167** Views



Post

Shannon Lindberg
@lindber66
𝕏.com

I heard at least five people in line while I was voting that had the same confusion when they were told Lyman had dropped out. After we corrected them they were pissed but could do nothing about it at that point

12:59 PM · 10/29/26 · **18** Views

1

In a General Oversight Committee hearing on May 22, 2025, in which this election interference was described by Natalie Clawson, State Senator Dan McCay lamented this fiasco as “cute games,” though he did say it “stopped being cute.”

He came within an inch of saying she was “emotional” about the 2024 election.

Rather than saying that election interference occurred, and it was wrongdoing, he would only say that election processes could be improved. After all, those “serving” in the capitol are just human beings, right?

Senator McCay was more concerned about the lives of the signature forgers, with criminal charges hanging over them.

le.utah.gov/av/committeeArchive.jsp?mtgID=20066

There was collusion between Spencer Cox, Deidre Henderson, the state legislature, other state officials, and the state GOP party to sweep this election interference under the rug. The major media outlets went along with it.

This election interference collusion is so pervasive that one Utah citizen filed a RICO case against a number of high-ranking Utah officials and GOP party officials.

utahcorruption.com

What happened to Phil Lyman, Utah's "Dan Sullivan," was just one incident.