

Web blogger denies Templeton claim

Written by

Tuesday, 16 October 2007 20:57

Committee for Change chair Jeff Templeton filed a formal complaint with Watauga County Board of Elections yesterday.

In the complaint, he alleges the Board of Elections showed favoritism in last week's election.

That favoritism was shown in the form of a leak, he alleges.

He says the Board of Elections showed favoritism to the Democratic party, and its picks of Mayor Loretta Clawson, council incumbents Lynne Mason and Bunk Spann, and Council candidate Liz Aycock.

According to Templeton, early absentee ballot totals were published on local discussion site www.wataugawatch.net before the polls closed.

He says Board of Elections Chair Stella Anderson's responsible.

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She was the only one besides Templeton that had the results written down, Templeton alleges.

He calls for her dismissal.

Early publication could make an impact on an election, he says. Templeton claims he was told explicitly to keep the early results confidential until after the polls closed.

With the four votes separating Aycock and Wilcox, it's likely the early publication made an impact, Templeton says.

Wataugawatch blogger Jerry Williamson, secretary of the Watauga County Democratic Chair who published the results in question, denied Templeton's claims on his website yesterday. He said the results were published after 7:30 when the polls had already closed.

"The time-stamp on the blog post is not placed there by my computer but by the Blogger.com host machinery in California," he wrote.

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As a resident of extraterritorial jurisdiction, Templeton cannot vote in a municipal election and does not have the legal right to file the claim locally. Templeton's claim will next be heard on a state level.