

SENATOR MARY KIFFMEYER

District 30

Chair: State Government Finance and Policy and Elections Committee

Vice Chair: Redistricting Committee

Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

Finance Committee

Transportation Finance and Policy Committee



Senate

State of Minnesota

July 13, 2021

The Honorable Steve Simon
Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
180 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Secretary Simon,

As I am sure you are aware, in the past week concerns regarding the residency of Representative John Thompson, representing Minnesota House District 67A, have brought into question the process in place for verifying the candidacy of our elected officials.

Media reports have highlighted Mr. Thompson's use of a little-known provision in the law to keep a candidate's address private for security reasons. Additional reporting today suggests your office would not release the secondary document Mr. Thompson used to verify his address.

In the absence of a public verification process, which may be Mr. Thompson's right, can you provide in detail the steps you took to confirm Mr. Thompson's address was accurate? What is the form he provided to your office? What, if any, additional documents were requested and/or presented by Mr. Thompson to verify his residence? What tools or resources did you utilize to verify the address was in House District 67A, since the public cannot perform this simple fact check on their own? What, if any, documents were requested and presented by Mr. Thompson to verify his residence?

As it is your office's responsibility to implement the election laws passed by the legislature and to provide trust, clarity, and security in the process, answering these questions in a timely manner will help us all better understand the process that goes into residency verification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kiffmeyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Kiffmeyer
State Senator -District 30