



merits. In conforming to the rules of the **Rules and Bylaws Committee and the Credentials Committee of the Democratic National Convention**, the Committee applied the clear and convincing standard, which is an elevated standard of proof.

In submitting the argument for the challenge, PRCC Allikian presented as evidence;

In regards to question 1: Candidate Straw's email signature, which lists a Washington, DC address, Candidate Straw's significant body of United States based legal activity, the lack of mention of the Philippines in Candidate Straw's Curriculum Vitae, a June 22, 2019 article written by Candidate Straw which refers to "preparing to return to the US" from the Philippines AND

In regards to question 2: Candidate Straw's listing on political-candidate-information-website Ballotpedia showing Candidate Straw as an Independent candidate for Virginia's 8th Congressional District against incumbent Democratic Representative Don Beyer. Investigation by the Committee also uncovered FEC candidate filings for the Virginia 8th Congressional District using Mr. Straw's DC address, yet no reports beyond 2019 were submitted.

In responding to the challenge, Candidate Straw presented as evidence;

In regards to question 1: An affidavit attesting to an address in the Philippines and a phone number in the Philippines and attesting to his use of the DC address for legal activity but not residency, a Certificate of Pending Asylum from the Philippines Department of Justice dated October 2, 2019 and valid through January 3, 2020, a Certificate of Pending Asylum Extension from the Philippines Department of Justice dated January 20, 2020 and valid through July 19, 2020 AND

In regards to question 2: A response to the Committee attesting to the use of filing as an independent candidate for the purposes of legal standing and the withdrawal of that candidacy once legal standing was gained, and a response to the Committee attesting that the "Disability Party is like a caucus or club and allows its members to be members of other political parties" and "We use denominations like: Disability Party Democrat."

The Committee finds in regards to question 1, while it is a responsibility of members of Democrats Abroad to provide accurate information regarding address, PRCC Allikian's assertion that this inconsistency of address within the claimed country of residence invalidates eligibility as decided by the Committee is not supported by the Democrats Abroad Charter. PRCC Allikian provided no counter evidence to refute the evidence provided by Candidate Straw. The burden of proof is on the challenger, and it appears clear regardless of whatever legal activity use

Candidate Straw's Washington, DC address serves, eligibility is clearly defined by **Democrats Abroad Charter, Sec. 7.2:**

***"All Democrats Abroad DNC Members must have their principal residence abroad and their number shall be equally divided between men and women."***

Based on the uncontroverted Straw Affidavit, the Committee finds that Candidate Straw's *principal residence* is in the Philippines.

Further, in regard to question 2, the Committee finds the pertinent question is not whether Candidate Straw engaged in any specific political affiliation or political activity outside of the Democratic Party, but whether Candidate Straw's affiliations and/or activities are not in harmony with the Democratic principles of Democrats Abroad and participation in the Democratic processes of Democrats Abroad. The Committee recognizes numerous examples throughout Democratic Party history of multiple, shared, allied, and merged affiliations.

The Committee was not provided with, nor did it discover, any evidence showing Candidate Straw had an active Congressional campaign past the initial FEC filings in 2019. The Democrats Abroad International Secretary Jeffrey Cheng supplied to the Committee Candidate Straw's records of membership in Democrats Abroad as a member from the Philippines and participation in the Global Presidential Primary, a Democratic process of Democrats Abroad, both having occurred after the aforementioned FEC filings. The Committee recognizes the binding nature of political affiliation upon joining Democrats Abroad which supersedes any previous affiliation.

For the foregoing reasons, the Committee finds in favor of respondent Candidate Straw, confirming eligibility to stand as candidate for DNC Member from the Asia-Pacific Region of Democrats Abroad.

This decision is final and may be challenged pursuant to Section VIII of the Delegate Selection Plan. *See* Section III.C.6.a.(iv).