

DISMISSING THE ELECTION CONTEST RELATING TO THE
OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE FOURTEENTH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

APRIL 9, 2025.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. STEIL, from the Committee on House Administration,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. Res. 308]

The Committee on House Administration, having had under consideration an original resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida, report the same to the House with the recommendation that the resolution be agreed to.

DISMISSING THE ELECTION CONTEST IN THE FOURTEENTH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

The Committee on House Administration, having had under consideration an original resolution dismissing the election contest in the Fourteenth District of Florida, report the same to the House with the recommendation that the resolution be agreed to.

COMMITTEE ACTION

On March 11, 2025, by voice vote, a quorum being present, the Committee agreed to a motion to report the resolution favorably to the House.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with House rule XIII, clause 3(c)(1), the Committee states that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under House rule X, clause 2(b)(1), are incorporated into the general discussion section of this report.

STATEMENT OF BUDGET AUTHORITY AND RELATED ITEMS

The resolution does not provide new budget authority, new spending authority, new credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures and a statement under House rule XIII, clause 3(c)(2) and section 308(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is not required.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

In compliance with House rule XIII, clause 3(c)(3), the Committee states, with respect to H. Res. 308, that the Director of the Congressional Budget Office did not submit a cost estimate and comparison under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On November 17, 2024, Dr. Neelam Taneja Perry (“Contestant”) filed a Notice of Contest with the Clerk of the House of Representatives pursuant to the Federal Contested Elections Act (FCEA).¹ Contestant ran as a candidate in the August 20, 2024, closed Republican primary election for the office of Representative to the United States Congress representing the Fourteenth Congressional District of the State of Florida. Contestant finished in fourth place in the primary election, with 1,594 votes.² Robert Rochford received 15,575 votes and advanced to the general election as the Republican candidate.

BASIS OF CONTEST

In her Notice of Contest, Contestant asserts that irregularities and alleged misconduct took place during the Republican primary election and the general election for the Fourteenth District of Florida and, because these irregularities and misconduct occurred, the election results should thereby be invalidated. Contestant alleges election fraud, misconduct and procedural violations, corruption and abuse of authority, and conspiracy by officials in both the Republican and Democratic parties took place. Contestant is asking that the House disqualify Kathy Castor, the winner of the general election for the Fourteenth District of Florida, order a review to determine whether election law violations occurred, and nominate Contestant for the congressional seat.

STANDING

To have standing under the FCEA, a contestant must have been a candidate for election to the House of Representatives in the last preceding election and claim a right to the contested seat.³ FCEA also states that the House of Representatives has jurisdiction over official general and special elections, excluding a primary election, or a caucus or convention of a political party. Since Contestant was a candidate in the primary election for the Fourteenth Congress-

¹ 2 U.S.C. § 381–96.

² See *Florida’s 14th Congressional District*, Ballotpedia (last accessed Mar. 11, 2025), available at https://ballotpedia.org/Florida%27s_14th_Congressional_District.

³ 2 U.S.C. § 382(a).

sional District of Florida, and not a candidate in the general election, Contestant therefore lacks standing.

TIMING/NOTICE

The Notice of Contest was filed with the Clerk of the House of Representatives on November 17, 2024. However, the timing of Contestant's filing is not relevant to the determination of this claim, because Contestant lacks standing.

ANALYSIS

Under FCEA, the House of Representatives has jurisdiction over official general and special elections, but "election" does not include a primary election, or a caucus or convention of a political party.⁴ Contestant filed as a candidate in Florida for federal office with Republican party affiliation.⁵ Contestant was a qualified candidate in the primary election for the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida, who lost and was therefore not a candidate in the general election.⁶ The Committee finds that this claim must be dismissed due to lack of standing.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, the Committee therefore concludes that this contest should be dismissed.



⁴ 2 U.S.C. § 381(a).

⁵ See *Campaign Documents Search*, Division of Election, Florida Dep't of State (last accessed Mar. 11, 2025), available at <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/campaign-docs/?account=84242>.

⁶ See *Candidate Listing for 2024 General Election*, Division of Elections, Florida Dep't of State (last accessed Mar. 11, 2025) (showing that candidate Neelam Taneja Perry was "Eliminated" in the primary election), available at <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates/CanList.asp>.