



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

City Center East - Suite 1200 A
4700 MacCorkle Ave., SE
Charleston, West Virginia 25304
(304) 558-0169 • FAX (304) 558-0831

December 23, 2015

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 2015-26.

Dear Ms. :

Your recent request for an advisory opinion was reviewed by the Judicial Investigation Commission. The factual scenario giving rise to your request is as follows: You are a candidate for circuit judge. You would like to know if a city councilwoman who is not currently running for office can serve as a host for a meet and greet social for you as a judicial candidate.

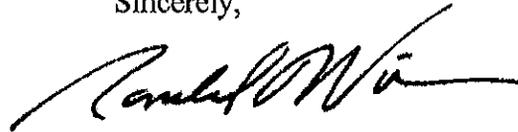
The Commission has reviewed Rules 4.1(A)(3) and 4.2(A)(1) and (2) of the Code of Judicial Conduct and its commentary to address the question which you have raised. Rule 4.1(A)(3) states that "a judge or judicial candidate shall not publicly endorse or oppose a candidate for any public office." Rule 4.2 provides in pertinent part:

- (A) A judge or candidate subject to public election shall:
 - (1) act at all times in a manner consistent with the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary;
 - (2) Comply with all applicable election, election campaign, and election campaign fund-raising laws and regulations of this jurisdiction;

The Commission is of the opinion that a city councilwoman who is not currently running for office may serve as a host for your meet and greet without violating the aforementioned Rules.

We hope this opinion fully addresses the issue which you have raised. If there is any further question regarding this matter do not hesitate to contact the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Wilson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ronald E. Wilson, Chairperson
Judicial Investigation Commission

REW/bjl