

Richard Nixon Presidential Library
Contested Materials Collection
Folder List

<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>	<u>Document Date</u>	<u>No Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Document Type</u>	<u>Document Description</u>
51	27	11/18/1968	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Letter	From Peggy Steinman to RN RE: outcome of the election in Pennsylvania. 3 pgs.

Presidential Materials Review Board

Review on Contested Documents

Collection: President's Personal Files
Box Number: 188

Folder: R.N. Notes on Letters [14 of 16; S]

<u>Document</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
171	Return Private/Political

DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL RECORD [NIXON PROJECT]

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE OR CORRESPONDENTS	DATE	RESTRICTION
<p>21 [171]</p>	<p>Ltr</p>	<p>Steinman to R22 RE: Outcome of election in Pennsylvania</p>	<p>11/18/68</p>	<p>C</p>

FILE GROUP TITLE

PPF

BOX NUMBER

188

FOLDER TITLE

R22 Notes on Letters [14/16, 8]

RESTRICTION CODES

- A. Release would violate a Federal statute or Agency Policy.
- B. National security classified information.
- C. Pending or approved claim that release would violate an individual's rights.
- D. Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy or a libel of a living person.

- E. Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial financial information.
- F. Release would disclose investigatory information compiled for enforcement purposes.
- G. Withdrawn and return private and personal material.
- H. Withdrawn and returned non-historical material.

CONESTOGA HOUSE

1608 MARIETTA AVENUE

LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

TELEPHONE 717-397-5353

Pennsylvania

November 18, 1968

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon
Apartment 5 A
810 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Mr. President:

I sincerely feel I must write this letter in light of the outcome of the election in Pennsylvania. I hope that it will aid you in any decision you may make in the future regarding appointments or official recognition given to Pennsylvania officials and citizens.

The predominating factor, of course, is the present unpopularity of the Shafer administration. The election of all of the state-wide Democratic candidates, with the exception of Senator Clark, would attest to this fact. I feel this dramatically illustrates the lack of trust and confidence in the present administration by the people. You were a victim of the anti-administration feeling in Pennsylvania. It does not matter to whom one talks, or in what walk of life they come from, be it black or white; there is one definite thought I constantly hear and that is the intense dislike of Governor Shafer.

Further, I know there was a definite lack of enthusiasm for your candidacy by all those in power. As you well know, Governor Shafer, Senator Scott and the present administration supported Mr. Rockefeller for the nomination. Approximately a week after your nomination, Governor Shafer made a statement on television that he still considered Mr. Rockefeller to be the best qualified man. This attitude on his part was unbelievable and did not enhance your election.

I do know that Governor Shafer had prevailed upon those backing your nomination to stay away from the convention in Miami. His excuse being he did not want to embarrass anybody. I might also add that those from Pennsylvania who were for you at Miami were given absolutely no consideration by Shafer and his associates - to the extent they were not even courteous.

I have heard it said repeatedly that you merely received lip service from this administration. There certainly appeared to be a lack of interest and dedication to your candidacy that was required to obtain victory in Pennsylvania. This lack of enthusiasm started at the top with Governor Shafer and, as a result, went straight down through the ranks. Governor Shafer in Pennsylvania did very little on your behalf except when you would appear and only then he appeared genuinely interested in your candidacy!

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We know that no man can succeed at a job unless he can devote all of his energy and interest to what he is doing. It was obvious that people who were avid Nixon backers were either ignored or gotten out of Shafer's way. The Shafer people's contention was you could not win and they were not going to help you!

Dave Maxwell, Campaign Chairman of Pennsylvania, was a Shafer man and, as a result, was worthless. I met him in Allentown on your swing through Pennsylvania. Personally, I was very unimpressed and have talked to many others who concur. He was not of the caliber of your group of men. I want you to know I was very impressed by your staff which was absolutely superb and you are to be complimented on such a fine organization.

The needed publicity, the public rallies, the constant flow of information and material to the voters was lacking. I informed your New York Headquarters of this and it was at that time we decided to provide you with extra coverage on our television station. This, unfortunately, was not enough to rescue Pennsylvania for you. I am enclosing a front page editorial written the day you were in Allentown. We followed this up the next ten days with an editorial daily on a different phase of your program.

As a result, I am very proud to enclose an article to show you Lancaster County led all other counties in Pennsylvania in the majority and plurality votes. This is in direct contrast to 1964 when Lancaster County went Democratic for the first time in many years.

I have talked with Mr. Harold Horn, who worked as an unpaid volunteer for United Citizens for Nixon-Agnew as a field man. He had spent the last two months working in New Jersey with Jim Skidmore, paying particular attention to Hudson County. I do know that they were really dedicated and worked very hard in New Jersey. He had requested me to try to get you to visit the Jersey City area, which you did.

The normal Democratic majority was reduced by 100,000 votes in Hudson County. This visit, along with the hard dedicated work of the United Citizens people of New Jersey, carried the state for you.

In talking with Mr. Horn, he informed me that he was personally shocked at the lack of effort in Pennsylvania on your behalf. He thought there was a lack of interest - a very loose inefficient organization with a lack of an overall program. There were counties that never did have a Citizens organization. One of your great supporters was Congressman Ed Eshelman, who was very unhappy with the way things were going in Pennsylvania and tried his best to help.

I talked with our National Committeewoman about ten days before the election and she told me she had just become concerned we were not going to win in Pennsylvania. I told her I had been concerned for a long time

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and that the trouble in Pennsylvania was that everybody was too complacent. (This is just an example of the Shafer people, of which this woman was one.) I stated to her at that time that I thought the whole organization beginning with Governor Shafer and Campaign Chairman Maxwell really did not have the interest and enthusiasm needed to win in Pennsylvania.

The Citizens organization here was not strong enough to combat the Shafer forces, who just kept delaying things and doing nothing. One of the main differences between New Jersey and Pennsylvania was that the Citizens group in New Jersey had a very strong organization of men who took command and saw that the job was done.

I just want you to realize the animosity in Pennsylvania that does exist. From good sources I am told that Governor Shafer has a group of people around that protect him to such an extent he has really no idea how unpopular he is. Somewhere you must find good strong people in Pennsylvania dedicated to your cause far removed from the present administration. If not, in another four years the same thing will happen again. The chances of electing a Republican Governor in 1970 are very slim unless the Republicans can produce a really good candidate with great appeal.

I think that if we are to strengthen our party and help your administration, we must give consideration to those who were most loyal to you. If you were to reward those who were loyal to others, I think it would seriously harm our party.

This letter expresses my thoughts on our efforts in Pennsylvania. I know others feel as I do. I have very strong feelings on losing Pennsylvania and I wanted you to know the facts.

I want to wish you and your administration every possible success. I am positive you will be an outstanding President.

Sincerely,



Peggy Steinman

PS/db
Enclosures