

[In re: Singletary](#) (2019). Judge Tsai authored the opinion.

Holding: The Court held that Singletary was constitutionally ineligible to serve as a Philadelphia City Councilmember because his prior federal convictions for making false statements to the FBI constituted “infamous crimes” under Article II, Section 7 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. As a result, his name was ordered removed from the ballot.

Analysis: The Court first rejected Singletary’s procedural argument that the amended petition to set aside his nomination was not properly served, finding that service by UPS, though not within 48 hours, still provided timely and sufficient notice under the Court’s order. It also determined that Singletary did not knowingly falsify his candidate affidavit, as he credibly believed he met the age, residency, and citizenship requirements. However, the Court concluded that convictions under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 involve deceit and obstruction of justice, thus falling within the definition of “infamous crimes” that disqualify individuals from holding public office.

Background: Singletary, a former Philadelphia Traffic Court judge, resigned in 2012 after being indicted in a corruption probe. He was later convicted in federal court of two counts of making false statements to the FBI, sentenced to 20 months in prison, and served his sentence. In 2019, he filed to run for City Council, but an objector challenged his eligibility based on the constitutional bar against holding office after conviction of infamous crimes.