

AfD Groups in the Stolberg City Council and Aachen Regional Council

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The Honorable Anna Paulina Luna
U.S. House of Representatives
226 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
United States of America



September 28, 2026

Open Letter on Election Fraud and Electoral Representation in Aachen and Stolberg (NRW Germany)

Dear Congresswoman Luna,

Your recently reported engagement in the debate about a proposed AfD ban in Thuringia prompted this open letter from our two AfD council groups. It concerns two separate elections—the federal election on February 23, 2025, and the municipal election on September 14, 2025—and a subsequent decision of the Stolberg City Council on September 22, 2026.

A. Federal election of February 23, 2025. Our two AfD constituency candidates, Markus Matzerath (Aachen II) and Manuel Krauthausen (Aachen I), were denied admission to the first-vote ballot. Voters in both constituencies therefore had no AfD candidate to choose with their first vote. Election authorities cited a joint nomination meeting; the Bundestag rejected subsequent election objections on April 23, 2026. Both men entered parliament through the party list.

B. Municipal election of September 14, 2025. A close aide to SPD Mayor Patrick Haas unlawfully obtained the names and addresses of approximately 40,000 eligible voters from the city administration and passed them to the local SPD. In August 2025, after applications for postal voting had opened, the SPD used these records for personalized election letters promoting both itself and the mayor's reelection. We regard this conduct politically as a serious form of electoral misconduct and have publicly described it as 'election fraud.' The legal consequences remain subject to judicial review. Although Mr. Haas denies knowing about the transfer, we hold him politically responsible for what happened in his administration. Supervisory authorities ordered a court challenge to the council election, where the SPD won one ward by four votes. Since the CDU and SPD formed a governing coalition in April 2026, political scrutiny has, in our view, receded despite the court challenge.

C. Council decision of September 22, 2026. Exactly 308 days after the council's first meeting, the Stolberg City Council voted 33 to 7 to find that AfD council group chair Andreas Klöcker had lost his seat. In a separate decision it barred him from council work pending final legal review. The decision rests on a disputed assessment of his residence and eligibility before the municipal election. Mr. Klöcker contests that assessment and has announced court action.

We respectfully ask you to review the enclosed documentation and, where appropriate, raise these matters with the U.S. Department of State. We further ask that any potential measures available under U.S. law be assessed solely on the basis of independently verified facts and individual responsibility.

Sincerely,

Michael Winterich

Michael Winterich

Chair, AfD Group in the Aachen Regional Council

Andreas Klöcker

Andreas Klöcker

Chair, AfD Group in the Stolberg City Council

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

1. City of Aachen, electoral committee notice, January 24, 2025
2. German Bundestag, election-review report 21/5300 and decision of April 23, 2026
3. Federal Returning Officer, candidates elected through the NRW party list
4. StädteRegion Aachen, statement of January 13, 2026
5. Stolberg election office, postal-vote applications from August 4, 2025
6. t-online, report on SPD election letters of August 21, 2025
7. City of Stolberg, court submission of March 9, 2026, Aachen Administrative Court, case 7 K 53/26, p. 12
8. CDU Stolberg, coalition announcement of April 28, 2026
9. WDR, December 17, 2025, on Mayor Haas's response
10. WDR, report on the council decision of September 22, 2026