



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

December 23, 2019

REVIEW OF NOMINATING PETITION

Deval Patrick
Democratic Candidate for President of the United States
March 10, 2020 Michigan Presidential Primary

Michigan will conduct a Presidential Primary on March 10, 2020, which is limited to eligible candidates who affiliate with the two major political parties, the Democratic and Republican Parties. MCL 168.613a(2). Eligible candidates include those identified on the “list of the individuals generally advocated by the national news media to be potential candidates” that was issued by the Secretary of State on November 8, 2019, or those identified by each party’s state chairperson that was filed with the Secretary of State on November 12, 2019. MCL 168.614a.

An individual who is not listed as a potential presidential candidate by the Secretary of State or his or her state party’s chairperson was required to file a nominating petition with the Secretary of State by December 13, 2019. MCL 168.615a(2). The minimum number of valid signatures required is based on the total number of votes cast for all candidates in each party’s primary who appeared on the ballot for Michigan’s 2016 Presidential Primary: for a Democratic Party candidate, a minimum of 11,345 is required.¹

Deval Patrick, former Governor of Massachusetts, became a candidate for the Democratic Party nomination for President after the Secretary of State and state Democratic Party Chair published their lists of candidates. On December 13, 2019, Governor Patrick filed nominating petitions to qualify as a Democratic Party candidate in the March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary.

NUMBER OF VALID SIGNATURES REQUIRED: 11,345 signatures. MCL 168.615a(2).

TOTAL FILING: 1,495 sheets containing 13,777 signatures.

STAFF REVIEW: Staff reviewed the entire filing and discounted:

1. All of the individual signature entries that were facially invalid due to defects in the signer’s entry (i.e., omitted jurisdiction, address, date, etc.); and
2. All of the sheets that were wholly invalid due to facial defects in the circulator’s certificate (i.e., omitted date, address, etc.).

¹ The minimum required for a Republican Party candidate was 11,398.

CHALLENGE: None filed.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF POTENTIALLY VALID SIGNATURES CONTAINED ON

PETITION: After discounting all facially invalid signatures (but before checking the registration status or genuineness of signatures on the petition against the Qualified Voter File or QVF), Staff finds that the petition contains 8,660 facially valid signatures (2,685 or 24% less than the minimum number required).

Total number of signatures filed:		13,777
Address and jurisdiction errors by signers (incomplete or omitted address, dual jurisdiction entry, etc.):		2,746
Circulator errors (date omitted, etc.):		1,053
Date errors by signers (dated after circulator, date of birth):		765
Miscellaneous: ²		474
Other signature errors (omitted signatures, duplicates): ³		79
Valid signatures:		8,660

As a result, the maximum number of signatures which could possibly be determined valid after a full registration check of signers' entries against the QVF is substantially less than the minimum required to be eligible for certification to the ballot.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Determine petition insufficient.

² The miscellaneous category includes 474 signatures of dubious authenticity where the signature appeared to be written in handwriting that was substantially the same as handwriting for multiple petition entries appearing on the same petition sheet.

³ This category includes five duplicate signatures found on a single petition sheet, where one individual signed three times using the exact same name, address and date of signing for each entry, and another individual signed under the identical name and address two times.