



STATE OF MICHIGAN
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

2016 PETITION CHALLENGE DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES

Challenge Deadlines

- **Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 5:00 P.M.** is the deadline for challenging the validity of signatures appearing on nominating petitions filed with the Secretary of State by candidates who seek nomination to the office of U.S. Representative in Congress, State Representative, Court of Appeals Judge, Circuit Court Judge, Probate District Judge or District Court Judge at the August 2016 primary. (MCL 168.552(8))
- **Thursday, July 28, 2016, 5:00 P.M.** is the deadline for challenging the validity of signatures appearing on qualifying petitions filed with the Secretary of State by candidates without political party affiliation who seek election to the office of President, U.S. Representative in Congress, State Representative, State Board of Education, University of Michigan Regent, Michigan State University Trustee, Wayne State University Governor or Supreme Court Justice. (MCL 168.552(8))

Challenge Procedure

Signature challenges must be presented in a **notarized document** and submitted to the following address:

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS
P.O. BOX 20126
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48901-0726

OFFICE LOCATION: RICHARD H. AUSTIN BUILDING
1ST FLOOR, 430 WEST ALLEGAN
ZIP CODE FOR OVERNIGHT DELIVERY SERVICE: 48933

The challenge must specify each signature being challenged and the reason why the validity of the signature is being questioned. To specify a signature, indicate the sheet number (stamped or written on each sheet) and the number of the line bearing the signature. (To expedite processing, the Bureau of Elections asks that challenges be organized in **sheet number order** as opposed to an alphabetical listing of the signers' names or any other organizational format.) To challenge anything other than specific signatures, a full written description of what is being challenged must be submitted. Specify the sheet numbers appearing on the petition sheets involved.

Brochures which detail the standards used by the Board of State Canvassers to determine the validity of petition signatures are available through the Bureau of Elections.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Bureau of Elections at (517) 373-2540 or elections@michigan.gov.

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