



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

May 26, 2020

REVIEW OF NOMINATING PETITION

Juanita F. Bocanegra
 Candidate for District Court Judge, 58th District
 Regular Term, Non-Incumbent Position

NUMBER OF VALID SIGNATURES REQUIRED: 500 signatures.¹

TOTAL FILING: 1,430 signatures.

RESULT OF FACE REVIEW: 1,402 valid signatures, 28 invalid signatures.

Total number of signatures filed		1,430
Jurisdiction errors (no city in county known by name given by signer, dual jurisdiction entry)	Less:	10
Date errors (no date given by signer, signer wrote his or her date of birth, or date given by signer is later than circulator's date of signing)	Less:	3
Address errors (no street address or rural route given)	Less:	1
Miscellaneous errors	Less:	14
TOTAL		1,402

CHALLENGE: A challenge was filed by Vernon Helder alleging that every petition sheet filed by Ms. Bocanegra is invalid because “none of the petitions contains the words ‘judge’ [which] leaves ambiguity as to the exact position being sought by the candidate.” The heading printed on petition sheets reads,

I nominate Juanita F. Bocanegra
 (Name of Candidate)
 to the office of * 58th District Court - Regular Term - Non-Incumbant
 (Title of Office/Term Expiration Date)

¹ Pursuant to MCL 168.544f, candidates seeking this office must submit a minimum of 1,000 valid signatures to qualify for placement on the ballot. Ms. Bocanegra qualifies for a 50% reduction in the number of required signatures consistent with the April 20, 2020 order of the federal District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in *Esshaki v Whitmer*, https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/23_order_granting_PI_687756_7.pdf.

Although staff recommends the disqualification of other judicial candidates with heading issues currently pending before the Board,² here, Ms. Bocanegra's nominating petition clearly informs voters that she is a candidate for election to the 58th District Court. There are not multiple different categories of positions to be elected to this court in 2020; only one regular term non-incumbent position is available.

Additionally, there are no other elective offices associated with the 58th District Court recognized under Michigan law, aside from Judge. For example, the positions of district court administrator and magistrate are not elective offices which could be confused with the position sought by Ms. Bocanegra.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Determine petition sufficient.

² Nadine Hatten, candidate for Judge of the 6th Circuit Court; Daniel Finley, candidate for Judge of the 22nd Circuit Court; George Lyons, candidate for Judge of the 12th District Court.