



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS  
LANSING

May 24, 2024

**REVIEW OF NOMINATING PETITIONS**  
  
JD Wilson  
Republican Candidate for U.S. Representative in Congress, 1st District

**NUMBER OF VALID SIGNATURES REQUIRED:** 1,000 signatures.

**TOTAL FILING:** 1,240 signatures.

**RESULT OF FACE REVIEW:** 0 facially valid signatures, 1,240 invalid signatures.

<b>Total number of signatures filed</b>	<b>1,240</b>
Miscellaneous errors (all petition forms use incorrect language, font size, and layout)	<i>Less:</i> 1,240
<b>Total number of facially valid signatures after face review</b>	<b>0</b>

Staff’s face review of Wilson’s petition sheets identified 1,240 invalid signatures and 0 facially valid signatures.

**PETITION FORM ERRORS:** Wilson did not use petition forms that meet the requirements of MCL 168.544c(1). MCL 168.544c mandates the content of nominating petitions, and failure to comply with the statutory requirements renders a petition defective. See *Stand Up for Democracy v Secretary of State*, 492 Mich 588 (2012).

Wilson’s petition sheets fail to strictly comply with the requirements of MCL 168.544c in the following ways:

- The statute requires the words “nominating petition” to be printed in 24-point boldface type on the petition; Wilson’s petitions have the words “nominating position” printed on it contrary to the statutory requirement.
- The statute requires 12-point boldface type for the “Warning’ and language in the warning”; Wilson’s petitions use boldface 12-point type for the word “warning” but the rest of the language in both the warning to a person signing petitions and to a circulator knowingly making a false statement is in lowercase letters that are in 11-point to 10-point boldface type depending on the letter.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Upon visual inspection all the petitions look the same. Staff measured pages 1, 80, 118, and 194 with a font ruler.

- The statute requires 12-point boldface type for the “Warning’ and language in the warning”; assuming the statement “Circulator—do not sign or date certificate until after circulating petition” falls within “warning” under the statute, Wilson’s petitions use an 8-point bold type contrary to the statutory requirement.<sup>2</sup>

Additionally, the Secretary of State’s Petition Manual<sup>3</sup> includes additional requirements that Wilson’s petitions do not satisfy. Specifically, the manual requires specific placement on the petition page of each statutorily required warning. The warning to the circulator must be placed in the lower left-hand corner of the sheet immediately beneath the circulator’s statement.<sup>4</sup> The petitions that Wilson circulated place this warning in the lower right-hand corner before the circulator’s signature.

The warning to the circulator not to sign or date certificate until after circulating the petition must be placed in the lower right-hand corner of the petition sheet right above the circulator’s signature and residential address block,<sup>5</sup> but Wilson’s petitions place this warning in the lower left-hand corner in the middle of the certificate of circulator.

The following is an example of Wilson’s petition sheets:

Wilson.Congress.000191

**NOMINATING POSITION**  
(PARTISAN)

We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters in the County of Antrim and state of Michigan, nominate, J.D. WILSON, (Name of Candidate) 117 LITAH DR. HOUGHTON LAKE, MI 48629, (Street Address or Rural Route) (City or Township) as a candidate of the REPUBLICAN party for the office of U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 1, (District, if any) to be voted for at the primary election to be held on the 6th day of August, 2024.

**WARNING- A person who knowingly signs more petitions for the same office than there are persons to be elected to the office, signs a petition more than once, or signs a name other than his or her own is violating the provisions of the Michigan election law.**

Printed Name	Signature	Street Address or Rural Route	Zip Code	Date of Signing		
				Month	Day	Year
1. Sheila Staines	<i>Sheila Staines</i>	P.O. Box 237 Alba MI <del>49701</del>	49611	4	21	24
2. Eric <del>can</del>	<i>Eric</i>	9763 pinegrove	49730	4	21	24
3. Kelsey McDermott	<i>Kelsey McDermott</i>	1340 W.S. 131	49730	4	21	24
4. Richard <del>can</del>	<i>Richard</i>	9763 Pine Grove Dr	49730	4	21	24
5. <del>BARBARA KILLB</del>	<i>Barbara Killb</i>	4163 School Road Dr. <del>EMING</del>	<del>49730</del>	4	21	24
6. Lindsay DeFeve	<i>Lindsay DeFeve</i>	1644 W. Eddy School Rd.	49615	4	21	24
7. Pamela DeFeve	<i>Pamela M. DeFeve</i>	1644 W. Eddy School Rd.	49615	4	21	24
8. Clayton George	<i>Clayton George</i>	909 Green Acks Ave	49615	4	21	24
9. Dale Ackle	<i>Dale Ackle</i>	503 Patsch	49659	4	21	24
10. Tina <del>Acicla</del>	<i>Tina</i>	---	---	4	21	24

**CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR**

The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen; that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence; that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once; and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a registered elector of the city or township listed in the heading of the petition, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

Circulator—Do not sign or date certificate until after circulating petition.

\_\_\_\_ If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross or check mark on the line provided, otherwise each signature on this petition sheet is invalid and the signatures will not be counted by a filing official. By making a cross or check mark on the line provided, the undersigned circulator asserts that he or she is not a resident of Michigan and agrees to accept the jurisdiction of this state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that concerns a petition sheet executed by the circulator and agrees that legal process served on the secretary of state or a designated agent of the secretary of state has the same effect as if personally served on the circulator.

Graft Wilson (Printed Name) Quatala (Signature of Circulator) 4/21/24 (Date)  
3125 Norwich rd.  
 (Complete Residence Address (Street and Number or Rural Route)) (Do not enter a post office box)  
Lansing (City or Township) Mi (State) 48911 (Zip Code)  
Ingham (County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan)

**WARNING- A circulator knowingly making a false statement in the above certificate, a person not a circulator who signs as a circulator, or a person who signs a name other than his or her own as circulator is guilty of a misdemeanor.**

Paid for by the committee to elect J.D. Wilson for Michigan, PO Box 41, Houghton Lake Heights, MI 48630

<sup>2</sup> Upon visual inspection all the petitions look the same. Staff measured pages 1, 80, 118, and 194 with a font ruler.

<sup>3</sup> Available here: [https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/25delrio/SOS\\_ED105\\_County\\_Pet\\_Form\\_77019\\_7.pdf?rev=d370c5afe8a54d1eafeb00d35863dd27&hash=ED3DDDDF3373123910627E699413EACB](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/25delrio/SOS_ED105_County_Pet_Form_77019_7.pdf?rev=d370c5afe8a54d1eafeb00d35863dd27&hash=ED3DDDDF3373123910627E699413EACB).

<sup>4</sup> Petition Manual, Nominating petition format requirements, page 30.

<sup>5</sup> Petition Manual, Nominating petition format requirements, page 30.

**CHALLENGE:** Mary Orth filed a challenge to Wilson’s nominating petitions, alleging that Wilson’s petitions should be rejected because the petitions “do not seem to be in compliance with the Secretary of State guidelines,” and because “hundreds of signatures” have the following errors:

- Incorrect dates.
- Signers who are outside of district.
- Signers who are not registered to vote.
- Incomplete signatures.
- Signatures that do not match the name of the voter.
- Signers that signed duplicate petitions.
- Incorrect or incomplete addresses.
- Illegible signatures.

In sum, Orth challenged 486 signatures.

Wilson responded to the challenge, addressing each individual signature challenged by Orth and arguing why Orth is mistaken as to its invalidity.

Because Wilson does not have any valid signatures after face review, staff did not process the challenge or the response.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Determine petition insufficient.