



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS  
LANSING

May 24, 2024

**REVIEW OF NOMINATING PETITIONS**

Steven Elliott  
Republican Candidate for U.S. Representative in Congress, 12th District

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

**TOTAL FILING:** 1,358 signatures.

**RESULT OF FACE REVIEW:** 1,263 facially valid signatures, 97 invalid signatures.

<b>Total number of signatures filed</b>		<b>1,358</b>
Invalid signature (signature is omitted or does not sufficiently agree with the signature on file)	Less:	2
Invalid address (address is blank, missing house number or street name, or PO Box listed)	Less:	11
Invalid city or township (no city or township by that name located within the county listed at the top of the petition sheet or the city/township field was left blank)	Less:	2
Invalid date (signature is dated before the first date signatures may be circulated; signer's signature is dated after the circulator dated their signature; date is incomplete, illegible, or missing)	Less:	54
Circulator errors (failure to include the circulator name or complete residential address; circulator did not sign or date petition)	Less:	28
<b>Total number of facially valid signatures after face review</b>		<b>1,261</b>

Staff's face review of Elliott's petition sheets identified 95 invalid signatures and 1,263 facially valid signatures. Additionally, staff identified 71 petition sheets showing clear indications of fraud that needed to be compared against the Qualified Voter File to determine whether the signature matched or was otherwise invalid, as described further in the staff memo on petition sheets showing clear indications of fraud. Because the number of signatures identified by staff was not in and of itself enough to affect Elliott's ballot access, staff processed it in conjunction with the challenge (described below).

**CHALLENGE:** Darlene Hennessy filed a challenge to Elliott’s nominating petitions, alleging that 586 of Elliott’s petitions should be rejected because the signatures included all of the following:

- Not registered to vote at listed address.
- Registered out of district.
- Date of circulator signature is earlier than petition signature.

In sum, Hennessy challenged 586 signatures.

Elliott responded to the challenge, asserting that the challenge was a malicious attempt to disenfranchise voters. He stated that he was confident that his signatures were valid. He did not provide specific signatures to rehabilitate.

Following staff’s face review, Elliott was left with a “cushion” of 257 signatures—the number of signatures Elliott had in excess of the number needed to appear on the ballot. Because staff identified petition sheets showing clear indications of fraud and signatures of dubious authenticity during face review and because the number of signatures challenged exceeded Elliott’s cushion, staff began to process the challenge as described below while also checking each signature on sheets staff identified.

After staff had processed 360 challenged signatures (accepting 311, rejecting 5, and noting the 44 challenges that overlapped with staff’s initial determinations), Elliott was left with 946 facially valid signatures. Staff did not process the remaining 226 challenges because their outcome was unnecessary to determine whether Elliott was eligible to qualify for the ballot.

While processing the challenge in conjunction with reviewing the sheets showing clear indications of fraud, staff identified at least 84 additional signatures purportedly provided by individuals who were not registered in the listed city or township (NR), as well as 82 additional signatures that were invalid because they did not sufficiently agree with the signatures on file (IS). 14 of the signatures checked were confirmed as matching signatures provided by registered voters. Once these invalid signatures were also removed, Elliott was left with 784 facially valid signatures as detailed below.

<b>Total number of facially valid signatures after face review</b>		<b>1,263</b>
Not registered	<i>Less:</i>	361
Invalid signature (signature is omitted or does not sufficiently agree with the signature on file)	<i>Less:</i>	108
Illegible (unable to read enough information provided by the signer to identify the signer’s name or address in order to verify the signer’s registration status)	<i>Less:</i>	10
<b>Total valid after staff review and processing challenge</b>		<b>784</b>

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Determine petition insufficient.