2026 Petition Challenge Deadlines and Procedures

Challenge deadlines for nominating petitions

Any challenge to the validity of signatures appearing on nominating petitions (partisan or nonpartisan) must be submitted by Tuesday, April 28, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. Challenges to the petitions of candidates ***filing with the Bureau of Elections*** may be submitted by email to MDOS-Canvassers@Michigan.gov.

Challenge deadlines for qualifying petitions

Any challenge to the validity of signatures appearing on qualifying petitions submitted by candidates running without party affiliation must be submitted by Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Challenges to the petitions of candidates ***filing with the Bureau of Elections*** may be submitted by email to MDOS-Canvassers@Michigan.gov.

Submitting the challenge

Signature challenges must be presented in a ***notarized document*** and submitted to the Bureau of Elections by the above deadlines. **It is strongly encouraged** that challenges be submitted by sending a scanned notarized document by email to MDOS-Canvassers@Michigan.gov.

The challenge **must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the abovementioned deadlines, irrespective of postmark.** Therefore, the Bureau strongly recommends that challenges submitted close to the deadline be submitted by email or overnight or hand delivery rather than mail.

Requesting copies of the petition

A request for a copy of petitions may be submitted at any time, and the cost will depend on the content requested. A request may be submitted through the Department's FOIA portal at Transparency and Freedom of Information Act or via email to MDOS-FOIA@Michigan.gov.

Payment can be made through the portal. Petitions requested will be provided through the portal and will remain available for review for up to 1 year.

Challenge procedure

1. 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 line number 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 and be contained in an excel or csv file.

Best Practice: The challenge submission should contain rows and columns that refer to the codes used by the Board of State Canvassers in its Petition Processing Manual as well as a column to track the total number of signatures challenged. The submission should be submitted as an excel spreadsheet, if possible, to facilitate review. For example:

# of Signatures challenged	Sheet Number	Line Number	Challenge Reason	Explanation
1	1	4	NR	Voter not registered
2	56	9	IA	Invalid address listed
3	72	1	Date	Voter signed with date of birth

To challenge anything other than specific signatures, a full written description of what is being challenged must be submitted. A challenge must specify the sheet numbers appearing on the petition sheets involved.