



2024 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 30, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. Challenges may be submitted by email to File-Canvass@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 26, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Challenges may be submitted by email to File-Canvass@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 File-Canvass@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

Signature challenges should be presented based on the petition sheets as bates stamped by the Bureau. A request for a copy of petitions may be submitted at any time, and petitions are available at 10 cents per page. A request should be submitted through the Department's FOIA portal at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/resources/transparency>.

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

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](#). For example:

Sheet Number	Line Number	Challenge Reason	Explanation
1	4	NR	Voter not registered
56	9	IA	Invalid address listed
72	1	Date	Voter signed with data 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.