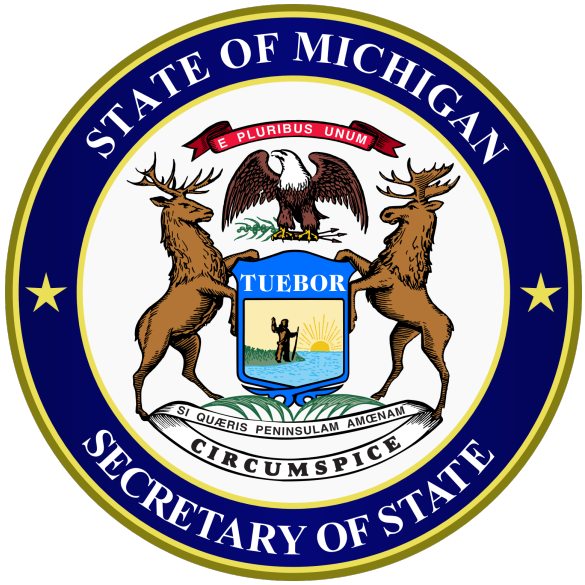

Petition Manual:

Nominating Petitions for Partisan State and Federal Offices

As approved on July 31, 2025

INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY THE MICHIGAN BUREAU OF ELECTIONS
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I. Introduction

This manual outlines legal requirements and provides guidance to individuals interested in nomination for certain statewide partisan offices. Filing deadlines and requirements in effect for the current election cycle can be found in Appendix A. This manual also highlights best practices which, although not legally required, will minimize the risk that an error could disqualify the petition.

Candidate ballot access is governed by the Michigan Election Law and overseen by the Secretary of State and Board of State Canvassers. Once a petition is filed with the Secretary of State, signatures are subject to a verification process and the Board of State Canvassers determines whether the petition contains enough valid signatures to qualify for placement on the ballot.

Changes in this publication from 2024 include:

- Separate manuals for ballot questions and partisan nominating petitions.
- Updated signature challenge information.
- Reorganization of material and information has been rearranged into similar categories including the addition of a section on circulation.
- Updated filing deadlines and requirements in effect for the current election cycle, which can be found in Appendix A.
- Updated Bureau of Elections (BOE) contact information.

If you have any questions regarding this publication, contact the Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections, at 800-292-5973 or file-canvass@michigan.gov, or visit www.michigan.gov/sos/elections. Correspondence may be mailed, hand delivered or sent via overnight delivery to the Richard H. Austin Building – 1st Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

Note: Candidates for office are subject to the registration and reporting requirements of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. For questions regarding these obligations, please refer to the publication, Getting Started as a Candidate or email campaignfinance@michigan.gov.

II. Statewide candidate nominating petition format requirements

A. Filing requirements for Democratic and Republican party candidates

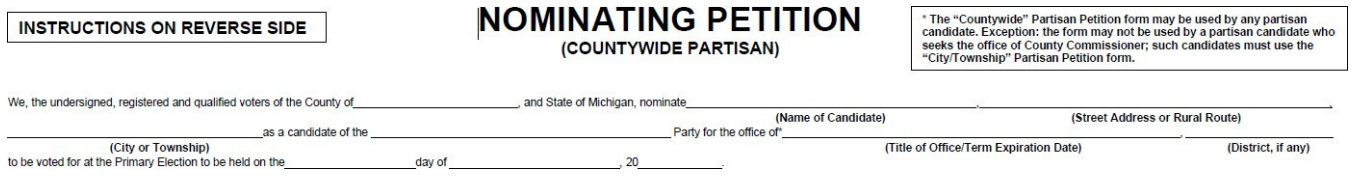
Partisan nominating petitions

Democratic and Republican Party candidates who collect signatures to qualify for the following offices will use the Partisan Nominating Petition form:

- Governor
- U.S. Senate
- U.S. Representative in Congress
- State Senator
- State Representative

Two versions of the Partisan Nominating Petition form are available: A Countywide form, which must be circulated within a single county, and a City/Township form, which can only be circulated within a single city or township.

The heading of the petition must include the name of the county where the petition sheet will be circulated, the candidate's name, his or her street address/rural route and city or township, the candidate's political party, and the name of the office sought (including the district number if applicable). Failure to complete the blanks renders the entire sheet invalid.



INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

NOMINATING PETITION
(COUNTYWIDE PARTISAN)

* The "Countywide" Partisan Petition form may be used by any partisan candidate. Exception: the form may not be used by a partisan candidate who seeks the office of County Commissioner; such candidates must use the "City/Township" Partisan Petition form.

We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters of the County of_____, and State of Michigan, nominate_____ (Name of Candidate) _____ (Street Address or Rural Route)

_____ (City or Township) as a candidate of the _____ Party for the office of* _____ (Title of Office/Term Expiration Date) _____ (District, if any)

to be voted for at the Primary Election to be held on the_____ day of _____, 20_____.

Filing fee option for State Senate, State House

Democratic and Republican Party candidates seeking the office of State Senator or State Representative may pay a $100.00 fee to their designated filing official in lieu of filing a Partisan Nominating Petition.

Designated filing official

For the office of Governor and any Congressional or state legislative district that is composed of two or more counties, the Affidavit of Identity and Partisan Nominating Petitions or filing fee must be filed with the Secretary of State. Petitions filed by Democratic and Republican candidates seeking statewide office or election to a district office containing multiple counties are canvassed under the authority of the Board of State Canvassers (Board).

If a Congressional or state legislative district is wholly contained within a single county, the Affidavit of Identity and Partisan Nominating Petitions or filing fees must be filed with the County Clerk. Petitions are canvassed by the County Clerk.

Filing deadlines

Current election year filing deadlines are located in Appendix A: Election dates and filing deadlines.

Withdrawal

Candidates are permitted to withdraw up until 4:00 pm on the third day after the filing deadline expires by filing a written statement with the appropriate filing official.

Candidates nominated by party convention

Democratic and Republican Party candidates who seek the offices of Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Board of Education, UM Regent, MSU Trustee, WSU Governor and State Supreme Court Justice are nominated at the party's fall state convention. Within one business day of the convention's conclusion, the state central committee chair and Secretary must certify the names and addresses of the nominees to the Secretary of State and file an Affidavit of Identity for each nominee.

Supreme Court Justice candidates only

Non-incumbent candidates for Supreme Court Justice who are affiliated with the Democratic or Republican Parties do not file nominating or qualifying petitions. Please see the Manual: Filing for Office: Judicial Elective Offices.

Best practices for Democratic and Republican Candidates: Candidates are strongly encouraged to use the Partisan Nominating Petition (Countywide) form when filing for state-level offices.

Candidates are strongly encouraged to file a significant number of surplus signatures over the minimum required, as signatures may be found to be invalid during the petition canvass but may not submit more than the maximum.

Candidates for the Michigan Legislature who pay the filing fee in lieu of filing nominating petitions cannot be challenged for filing insufficient signatures.

NOTE: Comprehensive election dates and filing deadlines can be found online at www.michigan.gov/sos/elections, and also in Appendix A.

B. Filing requirements for minor party candidates

Ballot-eligible minor parties.

The following minor political parties are eligible to nominate candidates for the November general election ballot:

- Libertarian Party
- US Taxpayers Party
- Green Party
- Working Class Party
- Natural Law Party

No authority to file nominating petitions or filing fees

Minor party candidates do not submit nominating petitions or pay filing fees to obtain ballot access. Instead, all minor parties nominate candidates at state party conventions or county caucuses and nominees are certified to the appropriate filing official by the Chair and Secretary of the party's state central committee. Minor party nominees must also file the Affidavit of Identity and Certificate of Acceptance.

Filing official

For statewide elective offices and any Congressional or state legislative districts that are composed of two or more counties, the Affidavit of Identity and Certificate of Acceptance must be filed with the Secretary of State, along with the state party Chair and Secretary's certification of the candidate's nomination.

If a Congressional, or State Senate or State House district is wholly contained within a single county, the Affidavit of Identity and Certificate of Acceptance must be filed with the County Clerk, in addition to the Chair and Secretary's certification of the candidate's nomination.

Filing deadline

The filing deadline is 5:00 pm on the business day immediately following the conclusion of the state convention or county caucus for Libertarian, US Taxpayers, Green, Natural Law, and Working Class Party candidates.

Withdrawal

Minor party candidates who have been nominated through caucus or convention, and certified by the chairperson and secretary of the caucus or convention, are not permitted to withdraw. See MCL 168.686a.

Other minor party candidates are permitted to withdraw up until 4:00 pm on the third day after the filing deadline expires by filing a written statement with the appropriate filing official.

Election dates

The names of qualified minor party candidates will appear on the general election ballot.

Write-in candidates

Candidates without political party affiliation who wish to run as write-ins must file a Write-In Candidate Declaration of Intent form. Please see Appendix A, Election dates and filing deadlines for the filing deadline.

C. Certificate of circulator

The "CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR" heading shall be printed in 12-point boldfaced type in the lower left-hand corner of the petition sheet. The statement itself must be printed in 8-point type. MCL 168.544c(1).

When circulating city/township petition forms, the statement must read as follows:

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.

☐ If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross [X] or check mark [✓] in the box 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 in the box 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.

When circulating countywide petition forms, the statement must read as follows:

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 indicated following the signature, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

☐ If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross [X] or check mark [✓] in the box 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 in the box 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.

MCL 168.544c(1); MCL 168.544d.

Best Practice: It is recommended that the check box be printed in boldface type to minimize the likelihood that an out-of-state circulator may inadvertently fail to make the selection.

D. Warning to circulator

A warning to the circulators of the petition must be printed in 12-point boldface type. MCL 168.544c(1). The warning must be placed in the lower left-hand corner of the sheet immediately beneath the circulator's statement, and state the following:

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.

E. Instruction to circulator and space for circulator's signature and residential address

In the lower right-hand corner of the petition sheet, the following circulator instruction must be printed in 12-point boldface type:

CIRCULATOR–Do not sign or date certificate until after circulating petition.

MCL 168.544c(1)-(2). Immediately beneath this instruction, the entry space for the petition circulator must be presented in 8-point type as shown below:

_____ _____/_____/_____
(Signature of Circulator) (Date)

_____
(Printed Name of Circulator)

_____
(Complete Residence Address (Street and Number or Rural Route)) Do not enter a post office box

_____
(City or Township, State, Zip Code)

_____
(County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan)

F. Identification of petition sponsor

The petition sheet must include, in 8-point type, the name and address of the candidate committee paying for the printing of the petition form, preceded by the words: "Paid for by the committee to elect _____." MCL 169.247.

G. Type size and font

The statutes that govern the form of the petition mandate the use of specific type sizes. The *font* size indicated in some software programs does not always measure the same *type* size. Petition sponsors and printers must exercise caution to ensure that the printed type measures the type size required by law.

Best Practice: Petition sponsors are strongly encouraged to utilize a sans serif font for readability purposes. Examples of such fonts are provided below.

Arial (14-point type)

Microsoft Sans Serif (14-point type)

Tahoma (14-point type)

Verdana (14-point type)

H. Sheet size

The size of the petition sheet must be 8½ by 14 inches. MCL 168.544c(1). The petition format must be arranged horizontally (i.e., in landscape layout) on the sheet.

I. Warning to petition signers

A warning to the signers of the petition must be printed in 12-point boldface type, immediately above the signature lines. MCL 168.544c(1).

> ***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.***

J. Staff review regarding form requirements

The BOE can provide limited informal review of petitions to offer advice on petition heading formatting requirements. A staff review does not constitute formal approval of the petition form. Due to limits in staff, BOE personnel in the Filing and Canvassing Section will only provide one initial review and one follow-up review.

Please note that staff review includes a review only of whether the petition heading complies with the technical formatting requirements and whether the font size on the petition is correct. Staff can provide heading review via email, but font size review requires staff to receive a physical copy of the petition. A person wishing to have font size reviewed in person must make an appointment by emailing file-canvass@michigan.gov.

Note that under Michigan election law, if a nominating petition heading does not comply with all the requirements of the Michigan Election Law, signatures submitted on the petition will be considered invalid and not counted. MCL 168.544c.

> ***Best Practice: Petition sponsors are urged to confer with their own legal counsel for advice regarding the form of their petition prior to engaging in the staff review process.***

III. Completing countywide candidate partisan nominating petitions

A. Form use

Democratic and Republican Party candidates who collect signatures to qualify for countywide offices will use the Partisan Nominating Petition form:

- County Executive
- County Treasurer
- County Prosecutor
- County Clerk
- Other countywide partisan offices

This form is not used for candidates seeking the office of County Commissioner. Candidates must use the proper petition form; failure to do so will result in the candidate's disqualification.

All mandatory elements on the petition sheet must be visible and undamaged otherwise the entire petition sheet will be deemed invalid.

B. Petition heading

County name: A petition sheet must include the name of the county where it was circulated; each sheet must list only a single county. (Example: Wayne)

Candidate name: Candidate's first and last name. (Example: John A. Doe or Jane Doe).

Candidate address: Residence address. (Example: 1234 Main Street)

City or township: City OR township must be listed.

Party affiliation: Name of Party. (Example: Democratic, Republican)

Title of office & district: The office sought, and the district served by the office (if any). (Example: State Representative, 5th)

Date of primary election: The day, month, and year of the upcoming primary election should be listed. (Example: 4th day of August 2026. The

usual August primary election date, which is the first Tuesday after the first Monday in August.)

C. Signature lines on petition

Signer's signature: Signature should match QVF file. An individual signature entry is invalid if the QVF indicates that on the date of signing, the signer was: 1. Not registered to vote in Michigan, or 2. Registered to vote in this state but not in the city or township indicated, or 3. Registered to vote in the city or township indicated but that jurisdiction is not within the county listed in the heading of the petition sheet.

Signer's name: Signer should clearly write their first and last name.

Street address or rural route: Signer must include the house number and name of their street. A P.O. Box provided in lieu of a residential address is not acceptable.

City or township: Signer must write the name of the city or township in which their residence is located. Do not write both the county and the city/township.

Zip code: Signer should write the 5-digit zip code associated with their residential address.

Date: Signer must write the month, day, and year that they signed the circulated petition sheet.

D. Circulator block

A circulator section is valid if it includes the circulator's signature; the date on which the circulator signed the petition; the circulator's complete residence address (street address or rural route number, city or township and state; a P.O. Box is invalid); and for a circulator who is not a Michigan resident, the name of the county where the circulator is registered to vote (if applicable) and the circulator's mark (cross or check mark) in the nonresident box in the Certificate of Circulator. Note that the circulator must sign the circulator certificate on or after the date of circulating the petition to gather signatures.

IV. Filing instructions

A. Signature requirements

The following "population based" signature requirements apply to certain federal and all state offices, judicial offices, county offices (including county commissioner), township offices (including offices elected in charter townships), city offices (unless otherwise set by charter) and village offices (unless otherwise set by charter). See the notes following this chart for information on petition signature requirements established for candidates who seek school board positions; intermediate school board positions; community college trustee positions; district library board positions; and city, township, and village library board positions. MCL 168.544f.

	Partisan Petition		Non-partisan Petition		Qualifying Petition	
Population	**Min**	**Max**	**Min**	**Max**	**Min**	**Max**
0 - 9,999	3	10	6	20	9	30
10,000 - 24,999	20	50	40	100	60	150
25,000 - 49,999	50	100	100	200	150	300
50,000 - 74,999	100	200	200	400	300	600
75,000 - 99,999	200	400	400	800	600	1,200
100,000 - 199,999	300	500	600	1,000	900	1,500
200,000 - 499,999	500	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,500	3,000
500,000 - 999,999	1,000	2,000	2,000	4,000	3,000	6,000
1,000,000 - 1,999,999	2,000	4,000	4,000	8,000	6,000	12,000
2,000,000 - 4,999,999	4,000	8,000	6,200	12,000	12,000	24,000
Over 5 million (statewide)	15,000	30,000	30,000	60,000	12,000[1]	60,000

Statewide positions

Nominating petitions filed for the office of Governor or U.S. Senator must be signed by at least 100 registered voters in each of at least half (7) of the congressional districts in the state. Similarly, a qualifying petition filed by a

[1] In *Graveline v Benson*, 430 F Supp 3d 297 (ED Mich 2019), the minimum number of signatures required for independent candidates seeking statewide office was reduced from 30,000 to 12,000. The maximum number remains 60,000 as specified in MCL 168.544f.

candidate without political party affiliation for the office of President, Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, U.S. Senator, State Board of Education, University of Michigan Regent, Michigan State University Trustee, Wayne State University Governor or Supreme Court Justice must be signed by at least 100 registered electors in each of at least half (7) of the congressional districts in the state.

State Senate, State House, and county level positions

Democratic and Republican candidates who seek the office of State Senator, the office of State Representative, or a county office may file a $100.00 fee in lieu of a nominating petition. The filing fee is nonrefundable.

County commissioner positions

The "population based" signature requirements listed in the above chart apply to candidates who seek the office of county commissioner. Candidates seeking the office of county commissioner may file a $100.00 fee in lieu of a nominating petition. The filing fee is nonrefundable.

Township positions

Democratic and Republican candidates seeking the office of Township Supervisor, Trustee, Clerk, Treasurer or Park Commissioner may file a $100.00 fee in lieu of a nominating petition. The filing fee is nonrefundable.

Judicial positions

A judicial officer who is running for reelection to the office he or she holds may file an Affidavit of Candidacy in lieu of a nominating petition.

School board/intermediate school board positions

Local school board and intermediate school board candidates are required to meet the filing requirements list below (MCL 168.303):

- District with less than 10,000 in population according to the most recent federal census: minimum of 6 signatures; maximum of 20 signatures. A $100.00 nonrefundable fee may be filed in lieu of a nominating petition.
- District with 10,000 or more in population according to the most recent federal census: minimum of 40 signatures; maximum of 100 signatures. A $100.00 nonrefundable fee may be filed in lieu of a nominating petition.

Community college trustee positions

In a community college district organized by an intermediate school district of over 1.5 million, the minimum number of valid signatures required is 250. A candidate may not file more than 500 signatures to cover the requirement. (MCL 389.83) In all other community college districts, the following signature requirements apply (MCL 389.152):

- Community college district with less than 10,000 in population according to the most recent federal census: minimum of 6 signatures; maximum of 20 signatures. A $100.00 nonrefundable fee may be filed in lieu of a nominating petition.
- Community college district with 10,000 or more in population according to the most recent federal census: minimum of 40 signatures; maximum of 100 signatures. A $100.00 nonrefundable fee may be filed in lieu of a nominating petition.

District library board positions

The following signature requirements apply to district library board candidates (MCL 397.181):

- District with less than 10,000 in population according to the most recent federal census: minimum of 6 signatures; maximum of 20 signatures. A $100.00 nonrefundable fee may be filed in lieu of a nominating petition.
- District with 10,000 or more in population according to the most recent federal census: minimum of 40 signatures; maximum of 100 signatures. A $100.00 nonrefundable fee may be filed in lieu of a nominating petition.

City library board positions, township library board positions and village library board positions

The following signature requirements apply to city, township and village library board candidates (MCL 397.211):

- Jurisdiction with less than 10,000 in population: minimum of 6 signatures; maximum of 20 signatures. A $100.00 nonrefundable fee may be filed in lieu of a nominating petition.
- Jurisdiction with 10,000 or more in population: minimum of 40 signatures; maximum of 100 signatures. A $100.00 nonrefundable fee may be filed in lieu of a nominating petition.

Qualifying petitions

All signatures submitted on a qualifying petition must have been collected within the preceding 180-day period; signatures which are dated more than 180 days prior to the date of the petition is filed are invalid.

B. Nominating petition filing instructions

Nominating petitions for statewide office and certain petitions for U.S. Congress, State Senate and State House are filed with the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1st Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918.

Statewide nominating petitions

To expedite the petition sampling process for statewide, partisan nominating petitions, petitioners should sort petitions by the number of valid signatures on a sheet. As an example: A box will contain sheets with only one valid signature, another box will contain sheets with two valid signatures, etc. Boxes should have labels indicating the number of valid signatures on the petitions within them.

Additionally, petitioners of statewide nominating petitions should provide a separate sample of petitions demonstrating signatures of at least 100 registered voters in each of at least seven congressional districts in the state.

Petition sheets should not be pre-numbered. The Bureau of Elections will apply its own sheet numbers in accordance with the process approved by the Board of State Canvassers. Petitions may contain unique identifiers placed at the bottom of each petition sheet. Do not place any unique identifier in the top right corner of the petition sheets, and do not cover any mandatory elements.

Legislative districts wholly contained within a county

Nominating petitions for the office of U.S. House of Representative, State Senate, and State House candidates whose districts are wholly contained within a county file their petitions at that county office. Districts that cross a county line file at the state level as previously described. Review the districts that file at the county level for more information.

V. Board of State Canvassers petition review

Nominating petitions must be timely filed with the filing official designated by law to accept filings for the elective office sought. Petitions are canvassed by the designated filing official or, in the case of many federal, state and judicial offices, under the authority of the Board of State Canvassers.

A. Requesting copies of the petition

Copies of a petition may be requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), MCL 15.231 *et seq*. In 2023, the BSC approved an electronic scanning and numbering plan that makes the sampling process more efficient and facilitates the fulfillment of FOIA requests quickly and at lower expense for the requestor.

A request should be submitted through the Department's FOIA portal at Transparency and Freedom of Information Act. Payment can be made through the portal. Petitions requested will be provided through the portal or via thumb drive.

B. Submitting the challenge

Under the current practice of the Board of State Canvassers, challenges are due 7 days after the release of the sample. Rebuttals are due as soon as possible after challenges are received. To be considered at a board meeting, the Board must receive material at least 48 hours before the meeting. A sworn complaint (challenge) alleging that the nominating or qualifying petition contains an insufficient number of valid signatures or is otherwise defective may be submitted to the appropriate filing official within 7 days of the filing deadline. Challenges are resolved by the filing official or in the case of many federal, state and judicial offices, are decided by the Board of State Canvassers.

Signature challenges must be presented in a ***notarized document*** and submitted to the Bureau of Elections. **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 p.m. on the date of the deadline, 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.

Best Practice: Challengers should serve a copy of any challenge upon the party being challenged at the same time the challenge is submitted to the Board of State Canvassers.

C. 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, contained in Appendix D, as well as a column to track the total number of signatures challenged. The submission should be submitted as an excel spreadsheet 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.

VI. Procedure for evaluating petitions

A. Validation of signatures by random sampling, challenge

Procedure

In 1980, the Board of State Canvassers adopted a petition review and sampling procedure to evaluate the validity of signatures on petitions seeking an initiative, referendum, or state constitutional amendment. That process was reaffirmed in 1990. In 2022, the BOE hired an outside firm to review the 1980 procedure, including the statistical methods and processes. That review found that the sampling process continues to be sound, but several changes could be made to improve efficiency and accuracy. The improvements recommended in the report are summarized in this manual. A complete description of the entire review and sampling procedure is available in the document: Sampling Procedure for Canvassing Petitions. The Board of State Canvassers approved the recommendations in October 2023 and also extended the sampling process for statewide nominating and qualifying candidate petitions.

Sampling

To canvass a petition, BOE staff utilize a single-stage random sampling process. The selection of random signatures is completed utilizing specially designed software. As soon as it is available, BOE staff post online the randomly generated list of sheets and signatures to be sampled, and the total number of sheets and signatures submitted and in the universe. Additional documents are made available in response to requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

The sampled sheets are face reviewed to determine if a circulator error or other issue with the sheet invalidates the entire sheet of signatures. Sample signatures on invalid sheets are considered invalid signatures.

Each sampled signature on valid sheets is then examined to confirm that the signatory is a person registered to vote in Michigan, that the signature on the petition sheet matches the signature contained in the Qualified Voter File (QVF), and that the entry does not contain a fatal defect (See Appendix D: Signature Coding for a list of fatal defects.)

Signatures found to be invalid are reviewed a second time by another BOE staff member. Signatures challenged during the challenge period are reviewed by BOE staff.

BOE staff tally the number of valid/invalid sheets and valid/invalid signatures in the sample. A staff report is drafted for the Board of State Canvassers with statistical analysis and the board makes a recommendation whether to approve or deny the petition for placement on the ballot. The staff report, including the Board-approved statistical analysis, is posted online at least 2 business days before the Board of State Canvassers meets to make a final determination on challenges to and sufficiency of a petition.

B. Petition sheet validity

Imperfections in the petition sheet heading, certificate of circulator, or body of the petition sheet may jeopardize the validity of signatures appearing on the sheet.

Defects in the petition heading which render an entire sheet invalid.

If circulating on a countywide form, a petition sheet is invalid if it contains one or more of the following defects in the heading:

- The county of circulation is omitted.
- Two or more counties or a county not located in Michigan are listed.
- Required information concerning candidate or office sought omitted, including the candidate's name, residence address, party affiliation or indication of no party affiliation, the office sought, and the district served by the office (if any).

  Note: In addition, candidates seeking judicial offices must follow the instructions for completing the heading that is printed on the reverse side of the Nominating Petition (Countywide Non-partisan) form.

Defects in the certificate of circulator which render an entire sheet invalid.

A petition sheet is invalid if it contains one or more of the following defects in the circulator's certificate:

- The petition sheet is not signed by the circulator or is signed by more than one circulator.

- The circulator's date of signing is omitted, incomplete or earlier than the date entered by every petition signer.

Note: The petition sheet is invalid if the circulator merely prints their name and fails to sign the petition.

- The circulator's residence address is omitted, incomplete or includes a P.O. Box in place of a street address or rural route.

Note: The circulator's failure to include the correct zip code, by itself, is not a fatal defect.

- Attention nonresident petition circulators: A petition sheet is invalid if the circulator is not a Michigan resident and fails to mark the nonresident box in the certificate of circulator.

Other fatal defects that render an entire petition sheet invalid.

- Damaged, mutilated or torn petition sheets where any of the mandatory elements (heading, warning statements, circulator certificate, signer entries) are illegible or omitted.
- Sheets where any of the mandatory elements (heading, warning statements, circulator certificate, signer entries) are obscured or covered by white-out, permanent marker, stickers or other opaque material.

Acceptable sheet variations

The following variations will not cause an entire petition sheet to be rejected:

- For all offices except certain judicial offices, the failure to include the "Term Expiration Date" does not render a petition sheet invalid if the filing official can ascertain which position the candidate is seeking. For example, if a candidate is seeking nomination or election to the office of County Clerk, the candidate is not required to include the "Term Expiration Date" because there is only one position to be elected. If there are multiple positions available with different term ending dates, the candidate must include the "Term Expiration Date."
- The circulator's signature is illegible.
- The circulator prints their name in space provided for the signature and signs in the space for printed name.
- The circulator omits their printed name.

- The circulator enters their cursive signature in space provided for printed name.
- The circulator omits their zip code or enters an incorrect zip code.
- An out-of-state circulator omits the county of registration.
- The circulator is a resident of Michigan and inadvertently checks the out-of-state circulator checkbox and/or writes the name of the Michigan county where he or she is registered to vote.

C. Validity of individual signatures

A signature entry is valid if the voter signs the petition and prints their street address or rural route, city or township where registered to vote, and date of signing. (The signer's omission of their printed name or zip code is an acceptable variation.) Filing officials use the code "R" (registered) for valid entries. A signature is invalid if it contains one or more of the defects or omissions identified by the codes used to mark defects and omissions on petition sheets, shown in Appendix D.

Acceptable signature entries

The following variations are acceptable and will not result in the rejection of an individual signature:

- The signature includes one or more of the signer's initials plus their last name. Acceptable entries include but are not limited to: J. Smith; J.B. Smith; Mrs. J. Jones; A. John Doe.
- The signature is illegible.
- All of the following variations are acceptable: The signer prints their name in the space provided for the signature and signs in the space for printed name; signer omits their printed name; signer enters their cursive signature in the space provided for printed name.

Note: A signature is invalid if the signer merely prints their name in the space provided for printed name yet fails to sign the petition, and the signature on file is a cursive signature.

See Appendix B: Signature Verification Examples for examples of valid and invalid signatures.

- The signer is unable to sign their name and uses a signature stamp (instead of a pen-and-ink signature).
- The signer enters ditto marks in the space(s) provided for address, city or township, zip code or date of signing.
- On the date of signing, the signer was registered to vote in the city or township indicated but at a different street address within the same city or township.
- The signer writes the community's name appearing in their "postal address"[2] in the space for city or township of registration.
- The signer omits their zip code or enters an incorrect zip code.
- The signer writes the name of a village or unincorporated place in the space for city or township of registration.

Example 1: Individuals who are registered to vote in Genesee Township, Richfield Township and Vienna Township have a Mt. Morris postal address. When signing a countywide petition, these voters may write the name of the township where they are registered to vote or Mt. Morris in the "City or Township" column of the petition sheet, and either entry is valid.

Example 2: Parts of Texas Township are served by the Kalamazoo post office (zip code 49001) while other parts of the township are served by the Mattawan post office (zip code 49071). If a Texas Township registrant writes "Kalamazoo" in the city or township column but his or her postal address is Mattawan, the entry is invalid.

Example 3: A signature is valid if the signer provides the name of an unincorporated place in the place for city or township of registration, and the signer is registered to vote in the township containing that unincorporated place. Examples of unincorporated places include but are not limited to: Hemlock (Saginaw County), Kincheloe (Chippewa County), Lambertville (Monroe County), Okemos (Ingham County), Union Lake (Oakland County), and Walloon Lake (Charlevoix County).

[2] The term "postal address" refers to the name of the local post office. In some instances, the post office name will correspond to the name of the person's city or township, but in other cases, the post office name differs. As a result, the jurisdiction written on the petition may not always correspond to the name of the city or township where the signer is registered to vote. See Usps.com for a list of local post offices by state.

D. Jurisdiction name variations

Abbreviations for jurisdiction names are acceptable if the abbreviation reasonably corresponds to the name of the appropriate city, township, local post office, unincorporated place, or village. Examples of some commonly used abbreviations are listed in Appendix F.

E. Signature verification

Circulators should encourage voters to sign petitions in a way that reasonably resembles the signature given for driver's license/state ID or voter registration purposes, but it is not necessary for the voter's signature to perfectly match the signature on file. When performing their signature verification duties, filing officials should keep in mind that there are numerous legitimate reasons that may explain an apparent mismatch:

- Petition signatures are often written on a clipboard, which may cause the signature to appear more slanted or less precise than the signature on file, or cause breaks or pauses in a cursive signature.
- Petition signatures (or voter registration or pin-pad signatures collected during the driver's license/state ID application process) could have been written in haste.
- A medical condition or advancing age may cause the signature to be different.
- The electronic signature on file may be smaller or larger than the signature given on a petition sheet.
- The signature may have been written using a pen with a finer tip or one with fading ink as compared to the signature on file.

None of these differences will result in the invalidation of the petition signature. **If there are redeeming qualities in the petition signature as compared to the signature on file, the filing official should treat the signature as valid.** Redeeming qualities may include but are not limited to similar distinctive flourishes, more matching features than nonmatching features, and the examples in numbers 1-5 in Appendix B: Signature Verification Examples.

A voter's signature should be considered questionable only if it differs in significant and obvious respects from the signature on file; see the examples in numbers 6-7 in Appendix B: Signature Verification Examples. Slight dissimilarities should be resolved in favor of the voter whenever possible.

If a voter signs nominating petitions for multiple candidates for the same office when only one person will be elected to that office, only the earliest dated signature will be counted, unless otherwise invalidated. Later signatures will be considered invalid. This rule applies even when the candidates are members of different parties.

Appendix A: Election dates and filing deadlines

Democratic and Republican Party candidate filing table

2026 Election Dates

Primary Election	Tuesday, August 4, 2026
General Election	Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Office	Type of Petition/Nomination	Signatures Needed	Filing Location	Filing Deadline	Withdrawal Deadline
Governor	Partisan Nominating	15,000 - 30,000	SOS	4/21/2026, 4 p.m.	4/24/2026, 4 p.m.
Lt. Governor	Convention	N/A	SOS	N/A	N/A
Secretary of State	Convention	N/A	SOS	1 business day after convention	4 business days after convention
Attorney General	Convention	N/A	SOS	1 business day after convention	4 business days after convention
US Senator	Partisan Nominating	15,000-30,000	SOS	4/21/2026, 4 p.m.	4/24/2026, 4 p.m.
US Representative	Partisan Nominating	1,000-2,000	SOS or County Clerk[2]	4/21/2026, 4p.m.	4/24/2026, 4 p.m.
State Senator	Partisan Nominating Or $100 filing fee	500-1,000 Or $100 filing fee	SOS or County Clerk[2]	4/21/2026, 4 p.m.	4/24/2026, 4 p.m.
State Representative	Partisan Nominating Or $100 filing fee	200-400 Or $100 filing fee	SOS or County Clerk[2]	4/21/2026, 4p.m.	4/24/2026, 4 p.m.
State Board of Ed U of M Regent MSU Trustee WSU Governor	Convention	N/A	SOS	1 business day following convention	4 business days following convention at 4:00 p.m.
Precinct Delegate	Affidavit	N/A	County Clerk	5/5/2026, 4 p.m.	5/8/2026, 4 p.m.

[1] This office does not occur in the current election cycle.

[2] For any Congressional or State legislative district that is composed of two or more counties, the Affidavit of Identity and Partisan Nominating Petitions or filing fee must be filed with the Secretary of State. If a Congressional or state legislative district is wholly contained within a single county, the Affidavit of Identity and Partisan Nominating Petition are filed with the County Clerk.

Minor party candidate filing table

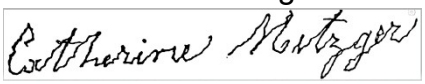
2026 Election Dates

Primary Election	Tuesday, August 4, 2026
General Election	Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Office	Type of Petition/Nomination	Signatures Needed	Filing Location	Filing Deadline	Withdrawal Deadline
Governor	Convention	N/A	SOS	1 business day after Convention	N/A[1]
Lt. Governor	Convention	N/A	SOS	1 business day after Convention	N/A[2]
Secretary of State	Convention	N/A	SOS	1 business day after Convention	N/A[1]
Attorney General	Convention	N/A	SOS	1 business day after Convention	N/A[1]
US Senator	Convention	N/A	SOS	1 business day after Convention	N/A[1]
US Representative In Congress	Convention	N/A	SOS or County Clerk[2]	1 business day after Convention	N/A[1]
State Senator	Convention	N/A	SOS or County Clerk[2]	1 business day after Convention	N/A[1]
State Rep	Convention	N/A	SOS or County Clerk[2]	1 business day after Convention	N/A[1]
State Board of Ed U of M Regent MSU Trustee WSU Governor	Convention	N/A	SOS	1 business day after Convention	4 business days after convention

[1] Michigan statute does not provide a withdrawal option for certain minor party candidates.
[2] For the office of Governor and any Congressional or State legislative district that is composed of two or more counties, the Affidavit of Identity and Partisan Nominating Petitions or filing fee must be filed with the Secretary of State. If a Congressional or state legislative district is wholly contained within a single county, the Affidavit of Identity and Partisan Nominating Petition are filed with the County Clerk.
[3]The following minor parties currently have ballot access in Michigan: Libertarian, US Taxpayers, Green, Natural Law and Working-Class Parties.

Appendix B: Signature Verification Examples

#	Petition Signature Verification Examples	Recommended Result
1.	Signature appears as if voter's hand is trembling or shaking, possibly due to a health condition or advancing age: Catherine Metzger versus 	Valid signature
2.	Only part of the signature matches the signature on file such as only the first letters of the first and last name match, but rest of signature does not match: J. D. versus Jane Doe J. Doe versus Jane Doe	Valid signature
3.	Signature is partially printed but at the same time, partially matches the signature on file: Alice Robinson versus Alice Robinson	Valid signature
4.	Signature is a recognized diminutive of the voter's full legal name: Bill Smith versus William Smith	Valid signature
5.	Signature style has changed slightly over time: Lucinda Jones versus Lucinda Jones	Valid signature
6.	Signature is entirely printed but signature on file is entirely written in cursive: JAMES DAVIS versus James Davis	Questionable signature
7.	Signature differs in multiple, significant and obvious respects: John Hancock vs	Questionable signature
	vs.	Questionable signature

Appendix C: Circulator best practices

A: Circulators

Train your petition circulators, whether they are paid or volunteer circulators. Informing petition circulators of the requirements described in this publication can minimize the likelihood that whole petition sheets and individual signatures are rejected. Errors may be averted if circulators take the following actions:

- Write the name of the county of circulation in the heading of the petition and verify the signers are registered to vote in the county listed.
- Ask potential signers whether they are registered to vote.
- Instruct signers to provide their street address or rural route where indicated; a P.O. Box is invalid.
- Remind signers to write the date of signing, not their date of birth.
- Review each signer's entry for completeness. If information is omitted, ask the signer to fill in the blank(s).
- Encourage signers to sign in a way that reasonably resembles the signature given for driver's license or voter registration purposes. It is not necessary for the signer's petition signature to be a perfect match with the signature on file. See Appendix B: Signature Verification Examples.
- Once circulation of a petition sheet is complete, ensure that the circulator signs and dates the certificate of circulator and provides the required information. If the circulator is not a Michigan resident, they must also check the nonresident box in the bottom left corner of the petition sheet and write the name of the county where registered to vote, if any.

If hiring paid circulators, petition sponsors and candidates should research circulator companies and check their work. Candidates and petition sponsors should be sure they are hiring reputable companies or circulators that will collect and submit valid signatures as required by law. Petition sponsors and circulators should review petition sheets collected by

circulators periodically during the collection period to ensure valid signatures are being collected and all required components are accurately completed to maintain signature and petition sheet validity.

B: Crossing county lines

Exercise care when circulating in or near cities and villages that cross county lines.

Several cities and villages in Michigan overlap county boundary lines. When obtaining a signature from a voter who is registered in a city or village that crosses county boundaries, make sure the voter signs the petition sheet that aligns with the signer's county of registration.

C: Quality control

Implement a quality control process before filing the petition. Candidates are strongly encouraged to obtain a copy of the Qualified Voter File (QVF) for pre-filing verification purposes. Any petition signatures found to be invalid during the quality control process (i.e., because the street address or date is omitted) can be crossed out prior to filing; crossed out signatures are excluded when determining the maximum number of signatures filed.

Review all petition sheets prior to filing for completeness, especially the name of the county of circulation and the certificate of circulator.

File enough signatures. Candidates are strongly encouraged to gather and file substantially more signatures than the minimum number required. The number of excess signatures needed will vary depending on the vigorousness of the candidate's quality control process. Even if the petition has been verified by a professional signature gathering firm prior to filing, note that (1) A challenge may be filed against the sufficiency of the nominating or qualifying petition, and (2) There is a likelihood that some signatures or whole petition sheets may be found to be invalid during the canvass process. However, note that there is an upper limit on the maximum number of signatures that may be filed; see MCL 168.544f for further information.

Note: This information is offered as a summary of the provisions governing the validity of petition signatures; it is not a complete description or interpretation of all pertinent laws. Questions may be addressed to: file-canvass@michigan.gov.

D: Facilitating efficient review

The Michigan Board of State Canvassers is responsible for canvassing petitions to determine whether a petition has sufficient valid signatures for placement on the ballot. The Michigan Bureau of Elections (BOE) supports the Board in this responsibility by reviewing petition signatures and producing a staff report for the Board's review. The thorough review of petition signatures is a labor intensive and time-consuming process requiring as many as 1,900 personnel hours to sort, review, number, count and review the sample for a single petition.

The guidance below is offered to aid petition filers in submitting petition signatures to streamline the review process for placement before the BSC for determination.

- All petition sheets should be unfolded, flattened, and neatly organized.
- If petition sheets contain tear-off sections, tear-off sections must be completely removed prior to submission.
- All petition sheets should be sorted by number of valid signatures per sheet.
- All petition sheets should be sorted into bundles, with consistent numbers of sheets per bundle easily combined into a bundle of 100; for example, 25 or 50 per bundle.
- For statewide drives, filers should separate out 100 signatures from at least half (7) of the congressional districts.
- All bundles should be sorted into boxes, with a consistent number of bundles per box.
- Each box should include cover sheets containing estimates of the number of signatures and sheets per box.
- Petition filers should cross out signatures (using a single strikethrough line with a ballpoint pen) and remove wholly invalid signature sheets it has identified prior to submission.

Note: The BOE cannot provide a specific estimate on how long it will take complete each canvass. These timelines are also affected by staff availability and other responsibilities.

VI. Appendix D: Signature coding

ENTRY CODE	CODE NAME	EXPLANATION
SIGNATURE ERRORS		
CO	Crossed off	Signature was crossed out prior to filing.
DUP	Duplicate	Voter signed petition multiple times, or signed nominating petitions for more candidates than there are persons to be elected to the office (e.g. 3 judicial candidates when there are 2 vacant positions).
IS	Invalid Signature	The petition signature is omitted or does not sufficiently agree with the signature on file.
NR	Not Registered	On the date of signing, the signer was not registered to vote anywhere in the city or township indicated. Note: If a signer is registered to vote at a different address within the same city or township as written on the petition, the signature is valid. See examples below: Petition Address — Registration Address — Result 456 Maple St., Flint — 456 Maple St., Mt. Morris — Invalid [NR] 123 Main St., Mason — 987 Maple St., Mason — Valid [R]
ADDRESS AND JURISDICTIONAL ISSUES		
IA	Invalid Address	Address is blank, missing house number or street name, or PO Box listed.
IC	Invalid City or Township	There is no city or township by that name located within the county listed at the top or the city or township field was left blank.
NC	Nonexistent County	County listed does not exist (misspelled county is not "NC").
OD	Outside District	The address given is located within the city or township listed, but outside of the electoral district for the office sought.
R	Registered/Registered at Other Address in Jurisdiction	Registered at address provided on petition or registered at another address within city/township listed on the petition.
DATE ERRORS		

DATE	Invalid Date	• Signature is dated before the first date signatures may be circulated. For example, the signor provides the date of birth. Note: For partisan petitions only, signatures may be gathered beginning the day following the last election where the office appeared on the ballot. • Signer's signature is dated after the circulator dated their signature. • Date is incomplete, illegible or missing.
HEAD	Invalid Heading Entries	• Failure to include candidate name, address, name of office, party affiliation (if applicable), and date of primary. • Failure to include whether incumbent, non-incumbent, or new position, or incorrect designation as such. • Font size deviates from requirements (Certain items are 24-point or 12-point font; everything else is 8-point font.)
FORM ISSUES		
DMG	Damaged	Damaged, mutilated or torn petitions sheets that are damaged in a way that interferes with the presence of any of the mandatory elements (heading, warning statements, circulator certificate, signer entries).
FORM	Form Error	Incorrect form used or incorrect petition submitted with filing.
MRE	Missing Required Element	Missing a required element, e.g., warning cut off when printed, illegible words (crossed out with marker).
CIRCULATOR ISSUES		
CIRC	Circulator Information Missing	• Failure to include the circulator name, complete residential address (street or rural route number (PO Box is invalid), city or township and state). • Not signed by circulator. • Circulator date is omitted or illegible.
OS	Out-of-State Box Blank	Out-of-state circulator failed to check non-residency box in the Certificate of Circulator.
PV	Paid/Volunteer Box Blank	Circulator did not mark paid/volunteer box.
MISCELLANEOUS ERRORS		
IL	Illegible	Unable to read enough information provided by the signer(s) to identify the signer.
MC	Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous errors identified not provided above.

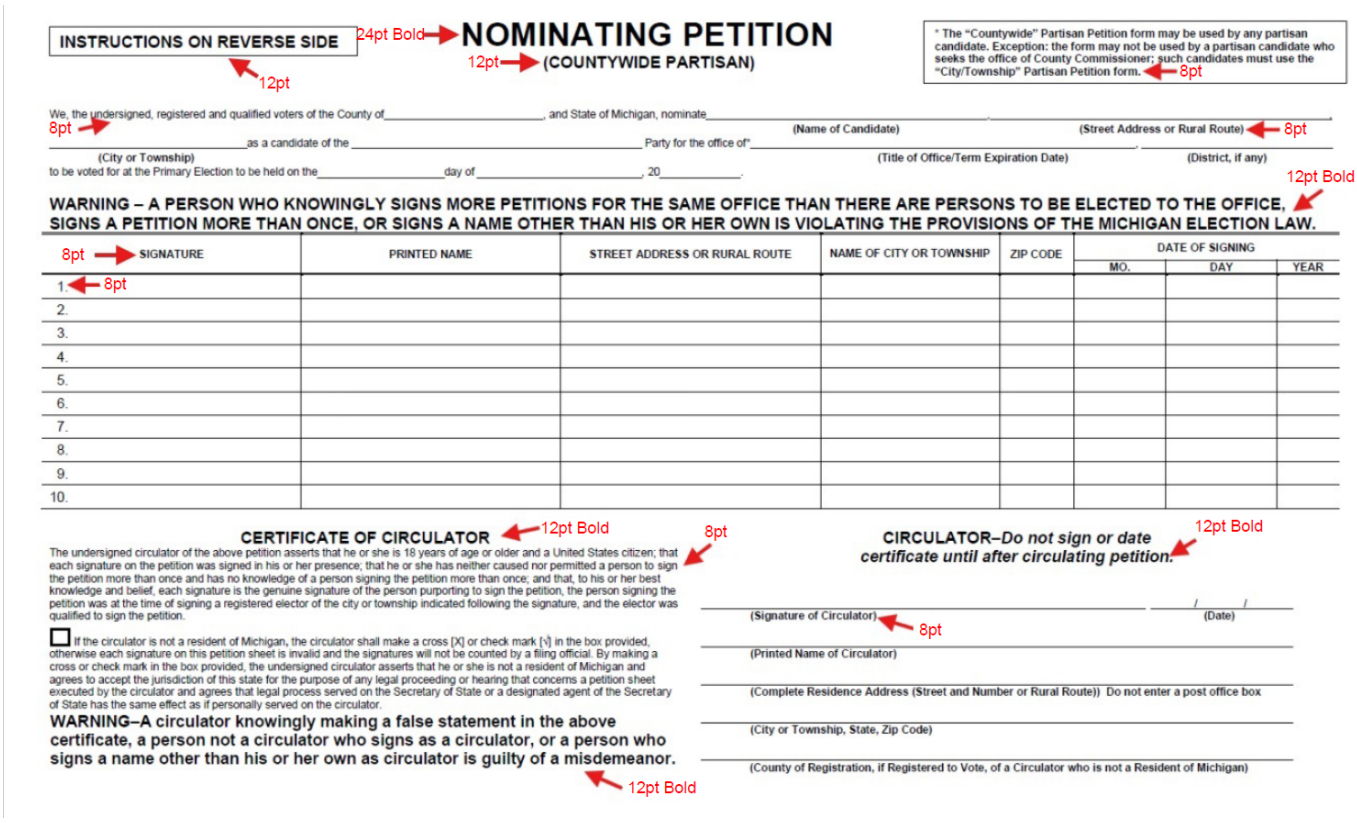
Appendix E: Offices that file with the county clerk

County	U.S. House Districts	State Senate Districts	State House Districts
Bay			96
Calhoun			44
Eaton			76
Genesee		27	69, 70
Ingham			73, 74
Kalamazoo			40, 41
Kent		29	80-84, 90
Lenawee			34
Livingston			50
Macomb		11, 24	13, 58-62
Muskegon			87
Oakland	11	7, 13	6, 18-21, 51-56
Ottawa			85
Saginaw			94
Washtenaw			32, 33
Wayne	13	1-6	1-4, 7, 9, 10, 15-17, 22, 24-27

Appendix F: Jurisdiction name variations

Abbreviation	Corresponds to …	County
AA, A^2	Ann Arbor city, Ann Arbor Township	Washtenaw
BC	Battle Creek	Calhoun
BH	Benton Harbor	Berrien
BH, Blfd Hlls	Bloomfield Hills	Oakland
D'born	Dearborn	Wayne
D'born Hts	Dearborn Heights	Wayne
Det	Detroit	Wayne
EL, E Lan	East Lansing	Ingham
Farm	Farmington	Oakland
FH, Farm Hlls	Farmington Hills	Oakland
Fnt	Flint city, Flint Township	Genesee
GR	Grand Rapids	Kent
GP	Grosse Pointe	Wayne
GPF	Grosse Pointe Farms	Wayne
GPP	Grosse Pointe Park	Wayne
GPS	Grosse Pointe Shores	Wayne
GPW	Grosse Pointe Woods	Wayne
HP	Highland Park	Wayne
Kal, K'zoo	Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo
Lan	Lansing	Ingham
Musk	Muskegon	Muskegon
Sag	Saginaw city, Saginaw Township	Saginaw
SSM	Sault Ste. Marie	Chippewa
SH	Shelby Township	Macomb
SH, Ster Hgts	Sterling Heights	Macomb
S'fld	Southfield	Oakland
SCS	St. Clair Shores	Macomb
St. Joe	St. Joseph	Berrien
TC	Traverse City	Grand Traverse
WB	West Bloomfield	Oakland
Ypsi	Ypsilanti	Washtenaw

Appendix G: Petition size requirements



INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

24pt Bold → **NOMINATING PETITION**

12pt → (COUNTYWIDE PARTISAN)

* The "Countywide" Partisan Petition form may be used by any partisan candidate. Exception: the form may not be used by a partisan candidate who seeks the office of County Commissioner; such candidates must use the "City/Township" Partisan Petition form. ← 8pt

We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters of the County of _____, and State of Michigan, nominate _____ (Name of Candidate) _____ (Street Address or Rural Route) ← 8pt

_____ (City or Township) as a candidate of the _____ Party for the office of* _____ (Title of Office/Term Expiration Date) _____ (District, if any)

to be voted for at the Primary Election to be held on the _____ day of _____, 20____.

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.

12pt Bold

SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	NAME OF CITY OR TOWNSHIP	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING MO.	DAY	YEAR
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							
9.							
10.							

8pt → SIGNATURE ← 8pt

CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR ← 12pt Bold

8pt

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 indicated following the signature, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

☐ If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross [X] or check mark [√] in the box 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 in the box 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.

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.

12pt Bold

CIRCULATOR–*Do not sign or date certificate until after circulating petition.* ← 12pt Bold

_____ (Signature of Circulator) ← 8pt _____ (Date)

_____ (Printed Name of Circulator)

_____ (Complete Residence Address (Street and Number or Rural Route)) Do not enter a post office box

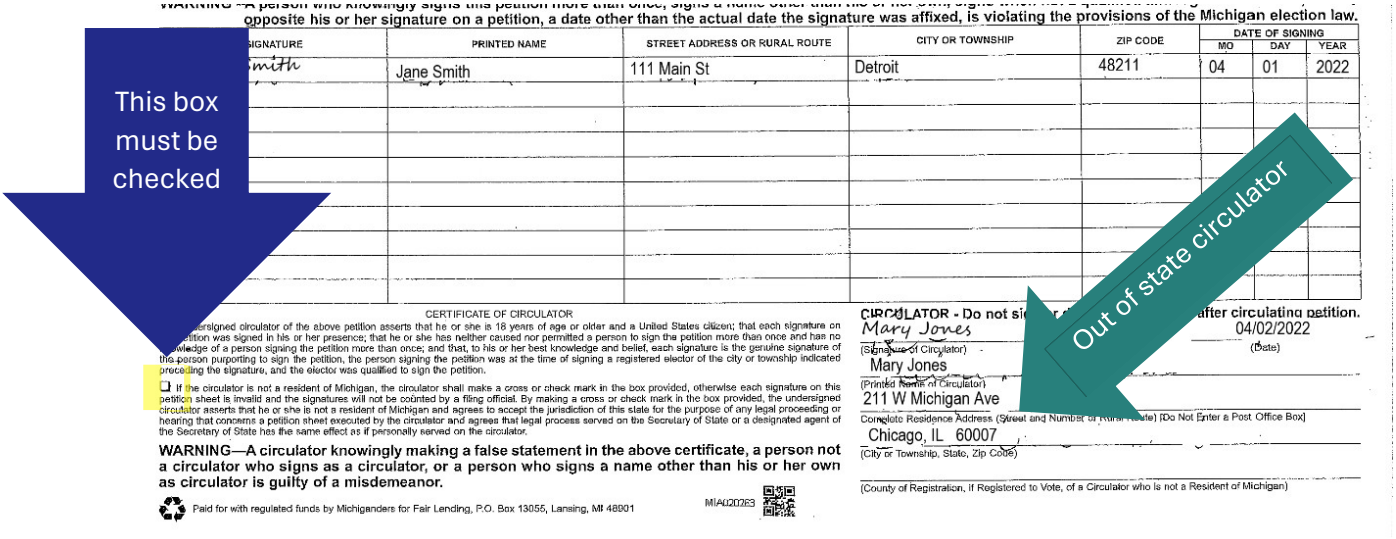
_____ (City or Township, State, Zip Code)

_____ (County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan)

Appendix H: Invalid sheet examples

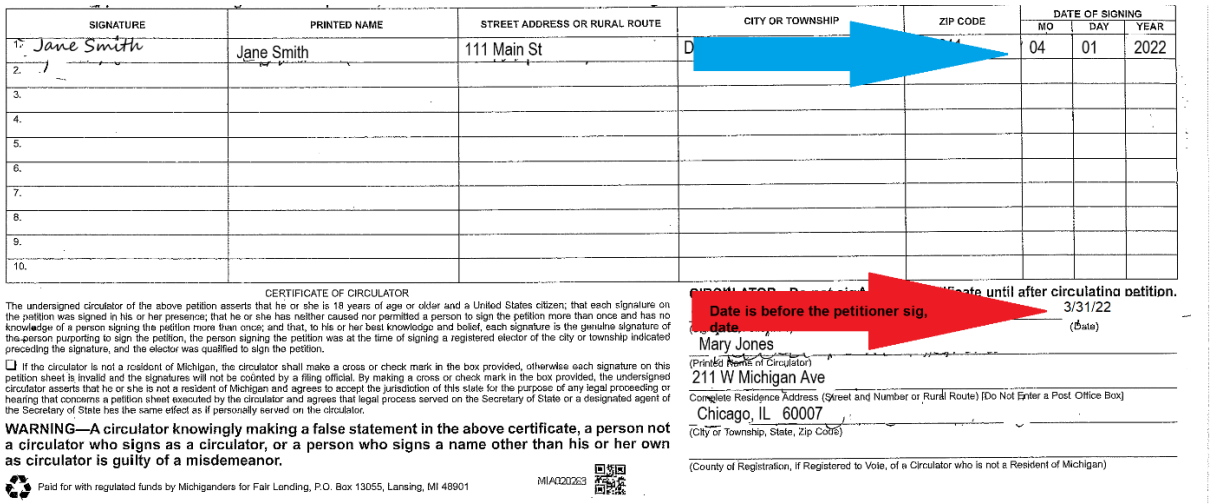
All the following examples are considered fully invalid sheets, where no signature will be considered valid.

1. The out of state circulator box is blank when the circulator's address is out of state.



2. Circulator did not sign the petition.

3. Circulator dated petition before the date of all the petitioners on the sheet.



	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	CITY OR TOWNSHIP	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING MO	DAY	YEAR
1.	Jane Smith	Jane Smith	111 Main St	D		04	01	2022
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
6.								
7.								
8.								
9.								
10.								

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 indicated preceding the signature, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

☐ If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross or check mark in the box 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 in the box 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.

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 with regulated funds by Michiganders for Fair Lending, P.O. Box 13055, Lansing, MI 48901

MIA020263

CIRCULATOR - Do not sign or date certificate until after circulating petition.

Date is before the petitioner sig. date.

3/31/22
(Date)

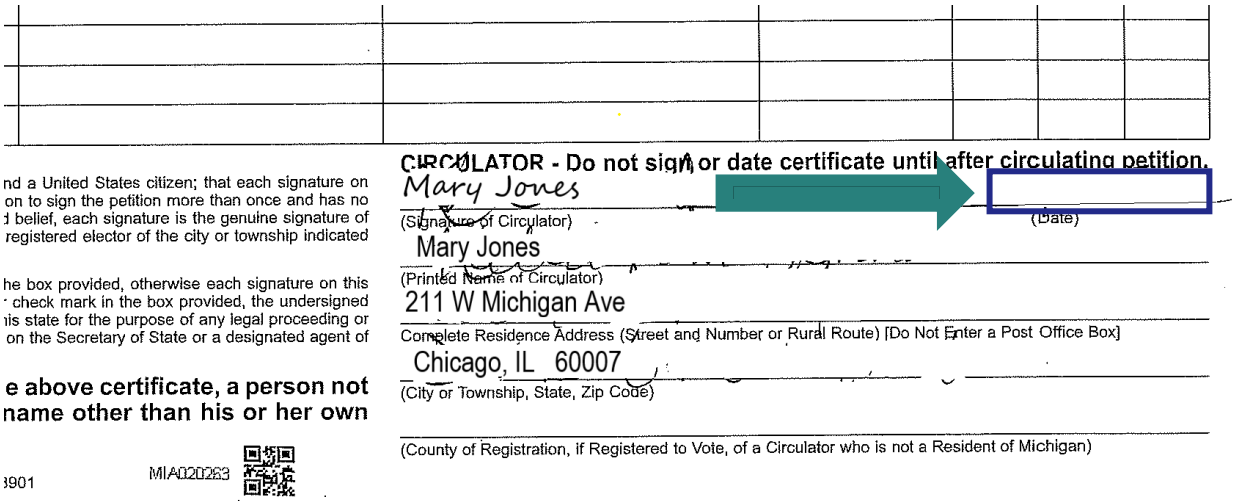
Mary Jones
(Printed Name of Circulator)

211 W Michigan Ave
Complete Residence Address (Street and Number or Rural Route) [Do Not Enter a Post Office Box]

Chicago, IL 60007
(City or Township, State, Zip Code)

(County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan)

4. Circulator fails to date the petition.



nd a United States citizen; that each signature on
on to sign the petition more than once and has no
d belief, each signature is the genuine signature of
registered elector of the city or township indicated

he box provided, otherwise each signature on this
check mark in the box provided, the undersigned
is state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or
on the Secretary of State or a designated agent of

e above certificate, a person not
name other than his or her own

3901 MIA020263

CIRCULATOR - Do not sign or date certificate until after circulating petition.

Mary Jones
(Signature of Circulator) (Date)

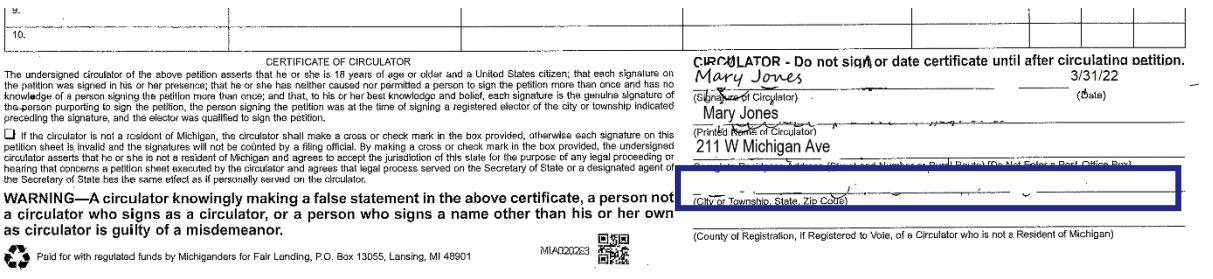
Mary Jones
(Printed Name of Circulator)

211 W Michigan Ave
Complete Residence Address (Street and Number or Rural Route) [Do Not Enter a Post Office Box]

Chicago, IL 60007
(City or Township, State, Zip Code)

(County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan)

5. Circulator's address missing or incomplete.



9.								
10.								

CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR

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Paid for with regulated funds by Michiganders for Fair Lending, P.O. Box 13055, Lansing, MI 48901

MIA020263

CIRCULATOR - Do not sign or date certificate until after circulating petition.

Mary Jones
(Signature of Circulator)

3/31/22
(Date)

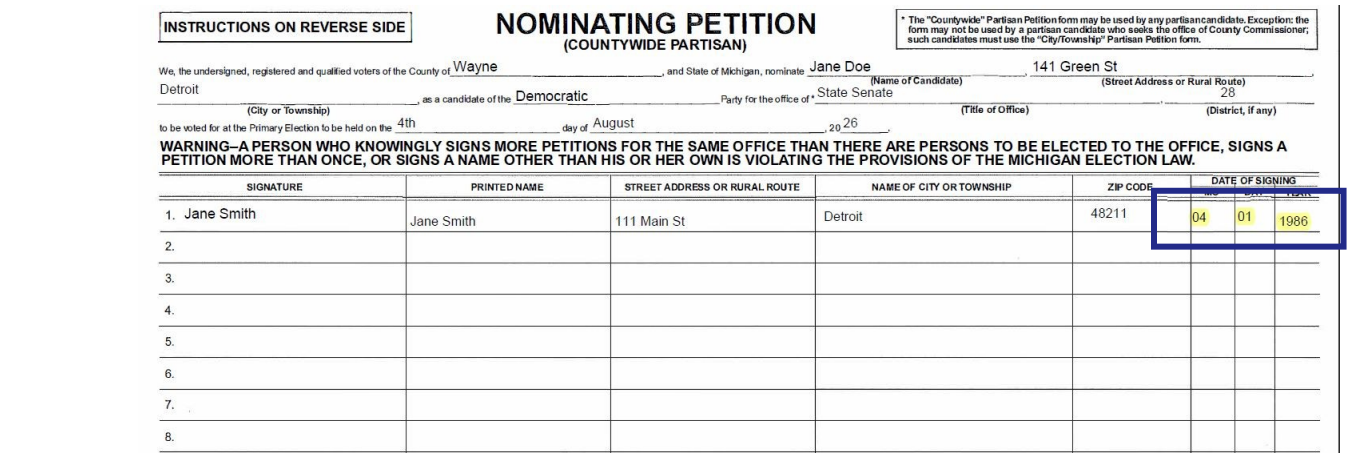
Mary Jones
(Printed Name of Circulator)

211 W Michigan Ave

(City or Township, State, Zip Code)

(County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan)

6. Signor put their date of birth rather than the date of signing.



INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

NOMINATING PETITION
(COUNTYWIDE PARTISAN)

* The "Countywide" Partisan Petition form may be used by any partisan candidate. Exception: the form may not be used by a partisan candidate who seeks the office of County Commissioner; such candidates must use the "City/Township" Partisan Petition form.

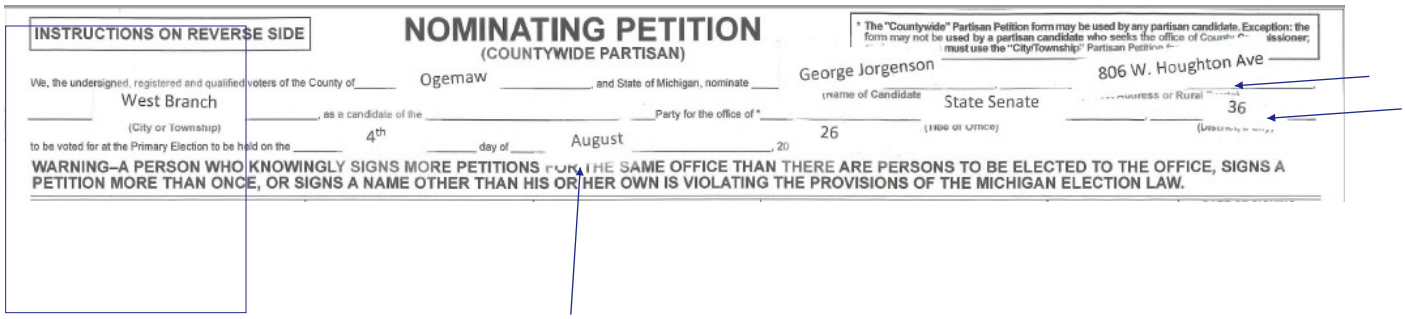
We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters of the County of Wayne, and State of Michigan, nominate Jane Doe (Name of Candidate), 141 Green St (Street Address or Rural Route), Detroit (City or Township), as a candidate of the Democratic Party for the office of * State Senate (Title of Office) 28 (District, if any)

to be voted for at the Primary Election to be held on the 4th day of August, 20 26.

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.

SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	NAME OF CITY OR TOWNSHIP	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING		
1. Jane Smith	Jane Smith	111 Main St	Detroit	48211	04	01	1986
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							

7. Stickers are covering up mandatory elements in the heading.



INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

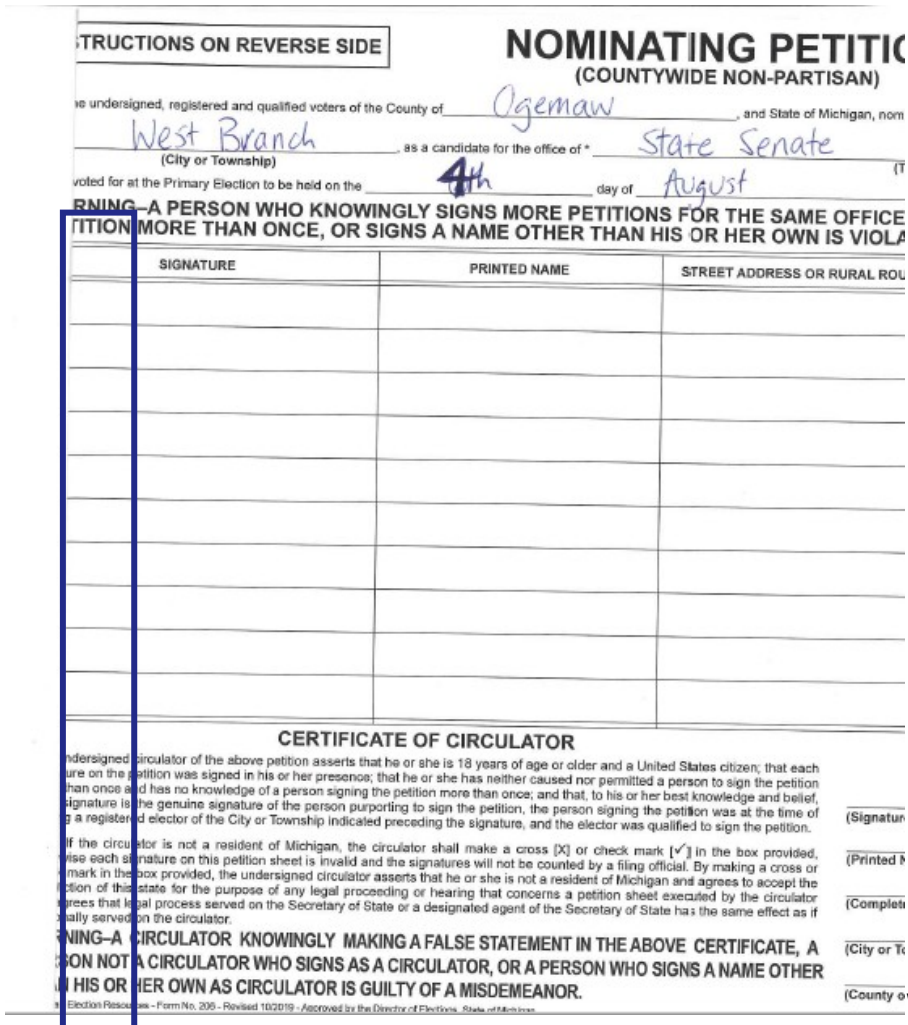
NOMINATING PETITION
(COUNTYWIDE PARTISAN)

* The "Countywide" Partisan Petition form may be used by any partisan candidate. Exception: the form may not be used by a partisan candidate who seeks the office of County Commissioner; must use the "City/Township" Partisan Petition form.

We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters of the County of Ogemaw, and State of Michigan, nominate George Jorgenson (Name of Candidate), 806 W. Houghton Ave (Address or Rural), West Branch (City or Township), as a candidate of the State Senate Party for the office of * (Title of Office) 36 (District, if any)

to be voted for at the Primary Election to be held on the 4th day of August, 20 26.

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.



TRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

NOMINATING PETITI
(COUNTYWIDE NON-PARTISAN)

e undersigned, registered and qualified voters of the County of Ogemaw, and State of Michigan, nom

West Branch (City or Township), as a candidate for the office of * State Senate

voted for at the Primary Election to be held on the 4th day of August

RNING–A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY SIGNS MORE PETITIONS FOR THE SAME OFFICE
TITION MORE THAN ONCE, OR SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN IS VIOLA

	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROU

CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR

ndersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen; that each ure 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 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, signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of g a registered elector of the City or Township indicated preceding the signature, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition. (Signatur

If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross [X] or check mark [✓] in the box provided, wise each signature on this petition sheet is invalid and the signatures will not be counted by a filing official. By making a cross or mark in the box provided, the undersigned circulator asserts that he or she is not a resident of Michigan and agrees to accept the iction of the state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that concerns a petition sheet executed by the circulator grees that legal process served on the Secretary of State or a designated agent of the Secretary of State has the same effect as if nally served on the circulator. (Printed N

NING–A CIRCULATOR KNOWINGLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN THE ABOVE CERTIFICATE, A SON NOT A CIRCULATOR WHO SIGNS AS A CIRCULATOR, OR A PERSON WHO SIGNS A NAME OTHER N HIS OR HER OWN AS CIRCULATOR IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR. (Complet

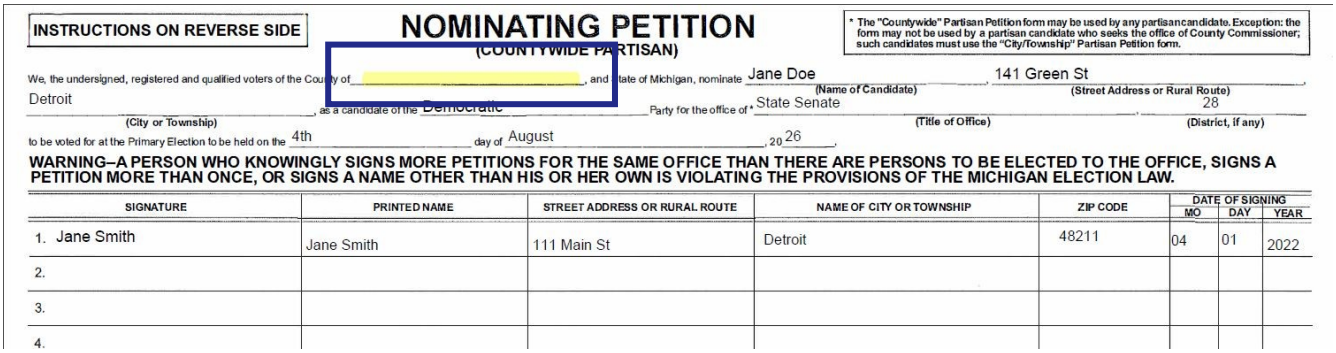
(City or T

(County o

Election Resources - Form No. 206 - Revised 10/2019 - Approved by the Director of Elections, State of Michigan

8. Warning statements or other elements on the side of the petition are omitted or cut off.

9. County of circulation is omitted or lists a nonexistent county, such as a city.



INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

NOMINATING PETITION
(COUNTYWIDE PARTISAN)

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Detroit (City or Township), as a candidate of the Democratic Party for the office of * State Senate (Title of Office) 28 (District, if any)

to be voted for at the Primary Election to be held on the 4th day of August, 20 26.

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SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	NAME OF CITY OR TOWNSHIP	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING MO	DAY	YEAR
1. Jane Smith	Jane Smith	111 Main St	Detroit	48211	04	01	2022
2.							
3.							
4.							