2026 Petition Appeals[1] Deadlines and Procedures

Appeal deadlines for nominating petitions

A person feeling aggrieved by a determination by the county or city clerk regarding the sufficiency or insufficiency of nominating petitions (partisan or nonpartisan) may have the determination reviewed by the Michigan Secretary of State (SOS). Any appeal must be submitted to the SOS within 3 days after the official declaration[2] by the county/city clerk. MCL 168.552(6)-(7). An appeal of the determination may be submitted by email to BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov.

Appeals deadlines for qualifying petitions

Any appeal of a county/city clerk's determination regarding qualifying petitions submitted by candidates running without party affiliation must be submitted to the Secretary of State within 3 days after the official declaration by the county/city clerk. MCL 168.590f(1).[3] An appeal of the determination may be submitted by email to BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov.

Submitting the appeal

Appeals must be presented in a written request, include a copy of the official declaration by the clerk, and be submitted to the Bureau of Elections by the above deadlines. **It is strongly encouraged** that appeals be submitted by sending an email to BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov.

The appeal **must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. by the 3rd day following the official declaration, irrespective of postmark.** [4] Therefore, the Bureau strongly recommends that appeals submitted close to the deadline be submitted by email or overnight or hand delivery rather than regular mail.

Requesting copies of the petition

Copies of the petitions in question need not be submitted with the appeal. The Bureau will work with the county or city clerk to secure either a scanned copy of the petitions or the original petitions, as needed for review.

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[1] For petition challenges, refer to Petition Challenge Deadlines and Procedures.
[2] The "official declaration" may be the clerk's initial determination as to sufficiency or the clerk's determination regarding a challenge to nominating or qualifying petitions.
[3] Under MCL 168.590f(1), the provisions in MCL 168.552 of the Michigan Election Law, including review of a determination made by the county or city clerk, apply to qualifying petitions.
[4] If the third day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the request may be filed by 4 p.m. on the next business day.

Appeal procedure

The appeal must specify each signature determination being appealed and the reason why the determination regarding 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 appeals 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 appeal 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 appealed. The submission should be submitted as an excel spreadsheet, if possible, to facilitate review. For example:

# of Signatures appealed	Sheet Number	Line Number	Clerk determination	Appeal Reason	Explanation
1	1	4	R	NR	Voter not registered
2	56	9	R	IA	Invalid address listed
3	72	1	NR	R	Voter is a registered voter in the applicable jurisdiction.

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

In an appeal of a clerk's determination regarding a challenge, the Bureau will only consider issues that were raised in the challenge. A copy of the challenge document and the clerk's determination regarding the challenge must be included with the appeal.