



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20003-4733



Notice to Petition Challengers

NOTE: Updates to Title 3 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (“DCMR”) that impact the ballot access challenge process became effective on July 17, 2026. Please review the sections of Title 3 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (“DCMR”) that apply to the office sought by the candidate being challenged.*

For a challenge to be accepted, each challenge to a nominating petition and/or the qualifications of the candidate must fully comply with the requirements applicable to the office or party position at issue, as set forth in 3 DCMR §§ 1406 and 1407, 1506 and 1507, 1606 and 1607, or 1706 and 1707. Challenges that do not satisfy the applicable requirements will **NOT** be accepted.

*Chapter 14 — Candidate Nominations: Political Party Primaries for Presidential Preference and Convention Delegates

Chapter 15 — Candidate Nominations: Electors of President and Vice President of the United States

Chapter 16 — Candidate Nomination: Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives; Mayor; Chairman and Members of the Council of the District of Columbia; Attorney General; U.S. Senator; U.S.

Representative; Members of the State Board of Education; and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner;

Chapter 17 — Candidates: Members and Officials of Local Committees of Political Parties and National Committee Persons.

Please be advised that:

1. You can request a nominating petition and/or a voter list using a Data Request Form. You can also access the voter registry on the public kiosks available in the Board’s office for the purposes of conducting research on the challenge. If there is a wait for any of the kiosks, individuals will be able to use the computers in 2-hour increments.
2. Challenges must be based on a good faith review of each signature and circulator affidavit with a reasonable belief that each signature challenged violates one or more of the signature validity rules set forth in the Board’s rules and regulations.

An absence of good faith may be determined where the Board’s preliminary review of the challenge indicates that the defect(s) alleged for a substantial number of signatures and/or circulator affidavits could not reasonably be found to apply to such signatures and/or circulator affidavits.
3. A challenge that does not allege the minimum number of signature defects that would prevent the candidate(s) at issue from gaining ballot access will be rejected. (For example, if a petition for an At-Large Office for the Primary Election contains 2,500 signatures, you must challenge at least 501 of those signatures in order for the challenge to be accepted.)
4. A challenge must be made to a line on a petition which contains a signature. A challenge made to a line that bears no signature will be rejected.
5. If you challenge a signature on the ground that it is a duplicate signature, you must identify where the signature that is duplicated is located within the petition by citing the page and line number.

6. After the deadline for filing challenges has passed, you cannot expand your challenge to allege additional defects that were not originally included in your challenge.
7. Challenges must be filed in person at the Board's office. Challenges cannot be emailed. You must arrive at the Board ready to file. Challenge form sheets should be complete, in numerical order, and correctly assembled.
8. The Board will **not** make copies of each challenge form sheet for you, just the receipt and coversheet, so if you'd like copies for your own records, make copies or take pictures of each sheet before coming to the office to file.
9. In preparing for any pre-hearing conferences or Board hearings, you can review published administrative orders on the Board's website to see how other challenges have been resolved:
<https://dcboe.org/About-Us/Office-of-the-General-Counsel/Administrative-Orders>
10. If at any point you want to withdraw your challenge, please complete a Nominating Petition Challenge Withdrawal Form, which can be found on the Board's website here:
<https://dcboe.org/Candidates/Petition-Challenge-Process>