



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003-4733



August 5, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Elections

FROM: Monica Evans
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Petition Verification Results of Initiative Measure No. 86:
"Prohibiting the Force-Feeding of Birds Act of 2026"

After executing the Board's standard procedure for verifying registered voter signatures contained in the above reference initiative petition, the Board's staff has determined that this petition does meet the statutory requirements for certification to the ballot, in accordance with D.C. Official Code §1-1001.16(o)(1).

It is therefore my recommendation that the Board accept the petition as numerically sufficient, in accordance with D.C. Official Code §1-1001.16(o)(1), because it does contain the signatures of the required minimum number of registered voters. An overview of the petition verification process and a summary of its results are provided below.

Overview of the Petition Verification Process

The petition verification process is conducted to determine whether a petition to present an initiative measure to the electorate contains the minimum number of registered voter signatures required to place the measure on the ballot. The required minimum is 5% of the duly registered voters citywide and 5% of the duly registered voters in at least five of the eight wards.

Under DC Official Code § 1-204.102(a) and 3 DCMR § 1003.3, the numerical requirements are based on the Board's published registration totals in effect at least 30 days before the petition was filed. As such, Board's staff utilized the voter registration totals that were published in the DC Register as of Friday, May 15, 2026, for the following citywide and ward requirements:

Electoral Jurisdiction	Published Voter Registration Totals	Signature Requirement (5% of Reg. Voters)
Ward 1	58,451	2,923
Ward 2	52,842	2,642
Ward 3	57,227	2,861

Ward 4	61,259	3,063
Ward 5	69,052	3,453
Ward 6	69,073	3,454
Ward 7	61,053	3,053
Ward 8	49,840	2,492
Entire District	478,797	23,940

The petition verification process has several basic steps:

- First, the Board's staff verify if the circulator is a resident of the District of Columbia or a resident of another jurisdiction who registered as a petition circulator with the Board prior to the circulation of the petition sheet and if the petition has a completed circulator's affidavit. Lines are stricken from any pages that do not meet those requirements.
- Second, the name and address of each remaining petition signer are checked against the Board's voter registration database records to determine if the petitioner was an active voter of the District of Columbia, registered at the residence listed on the petition at the time the petition was signed, as required by law. Only those petition signers whose names and addresses are found to match the Board's registered voter file and who also meet the other itemized requirements of Title 3 DCMR § 1009.4 are entered into the petition processing program as "verified registrants."
- Third, the totals of verified registrants are compiled to determine whether the petition contains a sufficient number of registered voters to proceed to the signature verification stage.
- Fourth, where the total number of verified registrants is determined to have met the minimum signature requirement, a random sample of signatures is drawn for comparison to the original voter signatures on file in the Board's records. The validity rate of the randomly selected signatures in the sample is then used to make a statistical determination of the sufficiency of the petition as whole, at the required confidence level of 95%.
- Fifth, if a statistical determination of the sufficiency of the petition at the required confidence level of 95% cannot be made, based on the random sample, the recommendation that a larger sample be used to make the determination would be issued. The validity rate of the expanded sample of selected signatures is then used to make a statistical determination of the sufficiency of the petition as whole, at the required confidence level of 95%.

Summary of Findings

The petition for Initiative-86 was timely filed on July 6, 2026 and contained 10,086 pages. After completing the first step in the petition verification process, the total number of eligible signatures was found to be 46,020. This total exceeded the required 5% minimum of 23,940 registrants citywide by 22,080.

From there, each remaining signature line was verified against the voter registration database records in accordance with Title 3 DCMR § 1009.4. After completing this second step in the process, 31,726 registrants were verified. This total exceeded the required 5% minimum of 23,940 registrants citywide by 7,786. In addition, the minimum requirement was attained in at least five of the eight wards as well. Every ward, except Wards 7 and 8, met the 5% signature requirement as outlined below:

Ward	Signatures of Registered Voters Required	Total Signatures to be Utilized for Random Sampling
1	2,923	5,232
2	2,642	3,545
3	2,861	4,286
4	3,063	5,048
5	3,453	4,192
6	3,454	5,225
7	3,053	2,302
8	2,492	1,896
Citywide	23,940	31,726

Since the petition exceeded the 5% citywide requirement, as well as the minimum ward requirements, the data was compiled as the Random Sample Universe and sent to the Office of Planning's Data Analysis and Visualization Division. As noted earlier, the random sample procedure is conducted to determine, with the required level of confidence, whether or not the sufficient number of valid signatures of registered voters are contained in the petition. To help facilitate the sampling procedure, the Data Analysis and Visualization Division first randomly selected a sample of 100 petition signatures from each ward.

The randomly selected signatures were then reviewed by the Board's staff and compared against the voter's signatures on file in the Board's records. This data was compiled and sent back to the Office of Planning's Data Analysis and Visualization Unit for statistical analysis. Their findings are noted in the attached memorandum dated July 31, 2026 to Marissa Corrente from Travis Pate, titled "BOE Letter Initiative 86 - Summary of Statistical Findings."

In summary, the petition met the signature requirement District-wide and by ward distribution in six of the eight wards. Wards 7 and 8 were rejected at the outset by the Planning and Data Visualization Division because the number of verified registrants was less than the 5% signature requirement. However, these wards were sampled so that the data contributed with the other wards to the District-wide signature total. The remaining wards and the District as a whole were all accepted with 95% confidence.

Based on the results of the petition verification process, Initiative Measure No. 86: "Prohibiting the Force-Feeding of Birds Act of 2026" is determined to have met the signature requirement for certification to the ballot for the November 3, 2026, General Election.

cc: Terri D. Stroud, General Counsel