



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



November 24, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Elections

FROM: Monica Holman Evans
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Petition Verification re: Recall Sydelle Moore, Advisory Neighborhood
Commissioner Single Member District 5D05 filed on October 25, 2021.
Recommendation: To Reject the Petition as Numerically Insufficient.

After executing the Board's standard procedure for verifying registered voter signatures contained in the above referenced recall petition, the Board's staff have determined that this petition does not meet the statutory requirements for certification to the ballot, in accordance with D.C. Official Code §1-1001.17(k)(1).

It is therefore my recommendation that the Board reject the petition as numerically insufficient, in accordance with D.C. Official Code §1-1001.17(k)(1), because it does not 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 a recall measure to the electorate contains the minimum number of registered voter signatures required to place the measure on the ballot. The required minimum is 10% of the duly registered voters of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission Single Member District from which the official was elected.

The numerical requirements are based on the Board's published registration totals in effect at least 30 days before the petition was filed, in this case, the voter registration totals as of August 31, 2021.

The petition verification process --- detailed in *Standard Procedures for Verification of Recall Petitions* --- has four 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.

- Second, the name, and address of each petition signer is checked against the voter registration system file to determine if the petitioner was registered to vote at the residence address 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 are entered into the petition checking program as "verified registrants".
- Third, the totals of verified registrants are compiled by the registration system to determine whether the petition contains a sufficient number of signatures of registered voters to proceed to the signature verification stage, in which the actual names on the petition are examined against the names in the Board's records.
- 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 a whole, at the required confidence level of 95%.

Summary of Findings

The petition to Recall Sydelle Moore, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Single Member District 5D05, containing ten pages, was filed on October 25, 2021. The petition submitted contained 199 signatures. The total number of signatures accepted by the Board were 179 signatures. (Twenty signatures were not accepted because they appeared on a page that was not a proper reproduction of the paper form provided by the Board.) After completing the procedures for verifying the voter registration status of petition circulators and signers – steps 1, 2 and 3 in the process outlined above – the total number of registered voters listed in the petition was found to be 98. This is a total of 63 below the minimum required 10% of 1,612 of the single member district from which the official was elected.

The determination that the petition did not contain the required minimum number of duly registered voters meant that the verification process ended at this point, without proceeding to the signature sampling stage. This is the required outcome, in accordance with the Standard Procedures, whenever the universe of verified registrants falls below the threshold numerical requirement for verification; even if every signature in the universe were found to be valid, there would still be an insufficient total number.

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Based on the foregoing results of the verification of the petition for the Recall of Sydelle Moore, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Single Member District 5D05, the determinations are that: (1) the proposed measure does not meet the statutory requirement for certification to the ballot and (2) the proposed measure should be rejected by the Board because it does not contain a sufficient number of signatures of registered electors in the single member district from which the official was elected as required by D.C. Official Code §1-1001.17(k)(l).

cc: Terri D. Stroud, General Counsel