

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Travon Hawkins,	)	
Challenger	)	Administrative
	)	Order #26-030
	)	
v.	)	Re: Challenge to Nominating
	)	Petition Submitted for
	)	the Ward 8 Committeemen/
Democrats United to Free	)	Committeewomen of the
DC slate for Ward 8,	)	Democratic State Committee
Candidates.	)	

**MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER**

**Introduction**

This matter came before the District of Columbia Board of Elections (“the Board”) on April 17, 2026. It is a challenge (“the Challenge”) to the nominating petition submitted by the Democrats United to Free DC slate (“the Candidates”)<sup>1</sup> to run for the offices of the Ward 8 Committeemen/Committeewomen of the Democratic State Committee in the June 16, 2026 Primary Election (“the Primary Election”). The challenge was filed by Travon Hawkins (“the Challenger”), a registered voter in the District of Columbia, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(o)(1). Chairman Gary Thompson and Board member Karyn Greenfield presided over the hearing. The Candidates appeared *pro se*; Mr. Hawkins did not appear.

**Background**

On March 11, 2026, the Candidates submitted a nominating petition to appear on the ballot as candidates in the Primary Election contest for the offices of Ward 8

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<sup>1</sup> The Candidates/Slate Members are Robin McKinney, Regina Sharlita Pixley, Michael Watts Jr., and Kelly Mikel Williams.

Committeemen/Committeewomen of the Democratic State Committee, and on March 18, 2026, the Candidates filed a supplemental petition (collectively, “the Petition”). The minimum number of signatures required to obtain ballot access for this office is 100 signatures of District of Columbia voters who are duly registered in the same ward and party as the candidate. The Petition contained 168 signatures. Pursuant to Title 3, District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (D.C.M.R.) § 1603.1, Marissa Corrente, the Board of Elections’ Registrar of Voters (“the Registrar”), accepted 168 signatures for review.

On March 21, 2026, the Petition was posted for public inspection for 10 days, as required by law. On March 29, 2026, the Challenger filed the Challenge.

The Challenger filed challenges to a total of 83 signatures. Specifically, the signatures and affidavits were challenged pursuant to Title 3 D.C.M.R. § 1607.1 of the Board’s regulations on the following grounds: the signer is not registered, the signer according to the Board’s records is not registered to vote at the address listed on the petition at the time the petition was signed, the signature is a duplicate of a valid signature, the petition does not include the address of the signer, the petition does not include the name of the signer where the signature is not sufficiently legible for identification, the signature is not made by the person whose signature it purports to be, the signer is not registered in the ward from which the candidate seeks nomination at the time the petition was signed, and the signer is not registered to vote in the same party as the candidate at the time the petition is signed.

### **Registrar’s Preliminary Determination**

The Registrar’s review of the challenge indicated that a total of 45 of the 83 signature challenges were valid. The Registrar found that eight are valid because the signer is not registered to vote; ten are valid because the signer is not registered to vote at the address listed on the petition at the time the petition was signed; six are valid because the signer’s voter registration was designated as

inactive on the voter roll at the time the petition was signed; four are valid because the signature is a duplicate of a valid signature; two are valid because neither the name of the signer nor the signature are sufficiently legible for identification; seven are valid because the signer is not a registered voter in the jurisdiction from which the candidate seeks nomination at the time the petition was signed; and eight are valid because the signer is not registered to vote in the same party as the candidate at the time the petition is signed.

Accordingly, the Registrar preliminarily determined the Petition contained 123 presumptively valid signatures, which is 23 signatures above the number required for ballot access.

#### **April 13, 2026 Pre-Hearing Conference**

Pursuant to title 3 D.C.M.R. § 415.1, the Office of the General Counsel (“OGC”) convened a pre-hearing conference on Monday, April 13, 2026. Prior to this conference, challenger Hawkins wrote that he planned to withdraw his challenge and requested the necessary form. As of the conference, however, the Board had not received the withdrawal, and OGC counsel informed the parties that the conference would still take place. Candidates McKinney, Pixley, and Watts appeared at the conference. Mr. Hawkins did not appear.

Prior to the pre-hearing conference, the Registrar provided her report to the parties on her determinations with respect to the validity of each signature challenged and provided a key code explaining the notations she used to indicate the basis for upholding or denying each challenge. The Registrar summarized her report at the pre-hearing conference. No parties presented arguments against the Registrar’s findings.

As the challenge had not been formally withdrawn, the matter was set for a Board hearing on April 17, 2026. The Candidates and challenger were duly notified of the hearing.

### April 17, 2026 Board Hearing

The Registrar was present at the hearing and presented her findings. During the Board hearing, the challenger did not make an appearance. Slate member Pixley appeared at the hearing and expressed support for the Registrar's findings.

### Discussion

The minimum number of signatures required to obtain ballot access for this office is 100 signatures of District voters who are duly registered in the same ward and party as the candidates for this office. The Petition contained a total of 168 signatures. While challenger Travon Hawkins filed challenges to a total of 83 signatures, only 45 of those challenges were valid. The Board upholds the finding of the Registrar that the Petition contains 123 presumptively valid signatures. Given that challenger did not produce evidence to rebut the finding that the candidates had 23 signatures above the required number, we find that there are sufficient signatures for ballot access.

### Conclusion

As a result of this challenge, the Board finds that the Petition contains 123 valid signatures – 23 signatures above the number required for ballot access. It is hereby:

**ORDERED** that the challenge to the nominating petition of the Democrats United to Free D.C. slate for the offices of Ward 8 Committeemen/Committeewomen in the Primary Election is hereby **REJECTED**.

The Board issues this written order today, which memorializes its oral ruling rendered on April 17, 2026.

Date: April 18, 2026



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Gary Thompson  
Chairman  
Board of Elections