

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Joseph Bishop-Henchman,)	
Challenger)	Administrative
)	Order #26-034
)	
v.)	Re: Challenge to Nominating
)	Petition Submitted for
)	At-Large Democratic
Arrington Dixon,)	Committeeman
Candidate.)	

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 to the nominating petition submitted by Arrington Dixon (“the Candidate”) to run for the office of At-Large Democratic Committeeman in the June 16, 2026 Primary Election (“the Primary Election”). The challenge was filed by Joseph Bishop Henchman (“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 Board’s General Counsel and Registrar of Voters (“the Registrar”) and the Challenger were present but the Candidate did not appear.

Background

On March 17, 2026, the Candidate submitted a nominating petition to appear on the ballot as a candidate in the Primary Election contest for the office of At-Large Democratic Committeeman (“the Petition”). The minimum number of signatures required to obtain ballot access for this office is 500 signatures of District of Columbia voters who are duly registered in the same party as the candidate. The Petition contained 553 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 553 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 Petition was challenged by the Challenger.

The Challenger filed challenges to a total of 134 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 signature is not dated; the Petition does not include the address of the signer; the name of the signer is omitted and the signature is not sufficiently legible for identification; and the signer is not registered to vote in the same party as the candidate at the time the petition is signed.

The next day, the Office of the General Counsel ("OGC") notified both parties that a pre-hearing conference on the challenge would take place on April 13, 2026. The notice advised that only issues raised in that conference would be preserved for consideration at a future Board hearing.

Registrar's Preliminary Determination

On April 8, 2026, the Registrar issued a report on her review of the challenge. That report indicated that a total of 116 of the 134 signature challenges were valid. The Registrar found that 22 are valid because the signer is not registered to vote; 33 are valid because the signers were not registered at the address listed on the Petition at the time the Petition was signed; nine are valid because the signer's registration was inactive at the time the Petition was signed; two are valid because they are duplicates; one is valid because the signature is not dated; four are valid because

the signature does not include the address of the signer; six are valid because neither the name of the signer nor the signature are sufficiently legible for identification; and 39 are valid because the signer is not registered to vote in the same party as the candidate at the time the petition was signed.

Accordingly, the Registrar preliminarily determined the Petition contained 437 presumptively valid signatures, which is 63 signatures below the number required for ballot access.

April 13, 2026 Pre-Hearing Conference

While Mr. Bishop-Henchman appeared at the pre-hearing conference, the Candidate did not show up. The presiding OGC attorney placed on the record that she had attempted to reach the Candidate via telephone earlier that day and that he had not answered so she left a voice message reminding him of the scheduled pre-hearing conference. She waited until ten minutes after the start time for the proceeding and then closed the conference.

April 17, 2026 Board Hearing

The Registrar was present at the hearing and presented her findings. The OGC attorney assigned to the matter explained that the email communications to the Candidate had been sent via the address that he agreed to use in his Declaration of Candidacy form and that she had attempted to reach him by telephone.

The Board Chair expressed disappointment that the Candidate had not been responsive. He made a motion that the challenge be upheld and that the Candidate be denied ballot access. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion

The minimum number of signatures of required to obtain ballot access for this office is 500 signatures of District voters who are duly registered in the same party as the Candidate. The Petition contained a total of 553 presumptively valid signatures. While the Challenger filed

challenges to a total of 134 signatures, only 116 of those challenges were valid. The Board upholds the finding of the Registrar that the petition contains 437 presumptively valid signatures. Given that the Candidate did not produce evidence to rebut the reasons for upholding 116 signature challenges, we cannot find that there are sufficient signatures for ballot access.

Conclusion

As a result of this challenge, the Board finds that the Petition contains 437 valid signatures – 63 signatures below the number required for ballot access. It is hereby:

ORDERED that challenge to the nominating petition of Arrington Dixon for the office of At-Large Committeeman in the Democratic Primary Election is hereby **UPHELD**.

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

Date: April 18, 2026



Gary Thompson
Chairman
Board of Elections