



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



August 2, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Elections

FROM: Monica Evans *ME*
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Petition Verification Report on Initiative Measure No. 83: "Ranked Choice Voting and Open the Primary Elections to Independent Voters Act of 2024" To Determine whether to Accept the Petition as Numerically Sufficient.

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. 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 Friday, May 17, 2024

The petition verification process has several basic steps:

- First, the Board's staff verifies 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 registered voters to proceed to the signature verification stage, in which the actual names on the petition are examined against the names on 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%.
- Fifth, as in this instance, 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 of a larger sample is be used to make the determination. Subsequently there is a recommendation to review the entire universe of signatures in a ward where no determination could be made absent such a validation of signatures.

Summary of Findings

The petition for I-83 was filed on July 1, 2024 and contained 8,528 pages. During the initial line count determination, it was apparent that different information on the petition had been whited-out, and so any line that was whited-out that seemed to change what the voter or circulator had originally written was rejected. The findings of the removed lines are as follows:

Number of Lines Removed	Reasoning
4,802	Whited-out lines that were rejected based on voter intent. If something was whited-out that wholly changed what the voter or circulator originally wrote or if DCBOE staff could not determine what was changed, those lines were removed.
1,600	Blank lines that had no voter information.
1,114	Lines that were either crossed out by the proposer or removed by DCBOE staff due to circulator issues.

As such, after completing the first step in the petition verification process, the total number of eligible signatures was found to be 35,124. This total exceeded the required 5% minimum of 22,538 registrants citywide by 12,586.

From there, each remaining signature line was verified against the voter registration system file in accordance with 3 DCMR § 1009.4. After completing this second step in the process, 27,773 registrants were verified. This total exceeded the required 5% minimum of 22,538 registrants citywide by 5,235. In addition, the minimum requirement was attained in at least five of the eight wards as well. Every ward, except Ward 8, met the 5% signature requirement as outlined below:

Ward	Signatures of Registered Voters Required	Total Signatures to be Utilized for Random Sampling
1	2,739	4,274
2	2,464	2,774
3	2,673	3,303
4	2,878	4,076
5	3,243	3,607
6	3,092	3,995
7	2,815	3,250
8	2,635	2,494
Citywide	22,538	27,773

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 Planning and Data 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 Planning and Data Visualization Division first randomly selected a sample of 100 petition signatures from each ward.

The randomly selected signatures were then reviewed by DCBOE 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 Planning and Data Visualization Division for statistical analysis. Their findings are noted in the attached memorandum dated August 1, 2024 to Marissa Corrente from Travis Pate, titled "BOE Letter Initiative 83 - Summary of Statistical Findings."

In summary, the petition met the signature requirement District-wide and by ward distribution in six of the eight wards. Ward 8 was rejected at the outset by Planning and Data Visualization Division because the number of verified registrants was less than the 5% signature requirement. However, this ward was sampled so that the data contributed with the other wards to the District-wide figure. No decision was able to be made in regards to Ward 5 after the statistical analysis. The remaining wards and the District as a whole were all accepted with 95% confidence.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the petition verification process, the random sampling of signatures, and the statistical analysis of the sampling of the District as a whole and by ward, it is my recommendation that Initiative Measure #83 "Ranked Choice Voting and Open the Primary Elections to Independent Voters Act of 2024" is determined to be numerically sufficient and should be certified for ballot access by the Board.


cc: Terri D. Stroud, General Counsel

District of Columbia Office of Planning



MEMORANDUM

TO: Marissa Corrente
Registrar of Voters

FROM: John Travis Pate 
Demographic Specialist
District of Columbia State Data Center
DC Office of Planning
1100 4th St. SW., Suite E650
Washington, DC 20024

DATE: July 31, 2024

SUBJECT: Statistical Summary and Findings on Initiative Measure #83 Petition

Following is a statistical summary resulting from the random sample verification of signatures on the Initiative Measure #83 petition. Our finding is that the initiative petition is accepted with 95% confidence as having a sufficient number of valid signatures of registered voters both for the District as a whole and for six (6) of the eight (8) Wards.

Table 1 shows the required number of valid signatures and the number of registrant signatures by Ward and the District as a whole that were subject to random sampling. As shown in Tables 2 and 3, six (6) of the Wards and the District as a whole were accepted with 95% confidence. Ward 8 was rejected at the outset because the number of verified registrants was less than the required number. Nevertheless, this Ward was sampled so that they contributed with the other Wards to the District-wide figure.

Attachments:



Table 1		
Ward	Signatures of Registered Voters Required	Total Signatures to be Utilized for Random Sampling
1	2,739	4,274
2	2,464	2,774
3	2,673	3,303
4	2,878	4,076
5	3,243	3,607
6	3,092	3,995
7	2,815	3,250
8	2,635	2,494
District-wide	22,539	27,773

Table 2				
Ward	Acceptance/Rejection Parameters		Number of Valid Signatures in Sample of 100	Decision with 95% Confidence
	Lower bound	Upper bound		
1	55	73	99	Accept
2	82	94	97	Accept
3	73	88	99	Accept
4	62	79	94	Accept
5	84	95	93	No decision
6	69	85	100	Accept
7	80	93	98	Accept
8	-	-	99	Reject

Table 3 - District as a whole	
Reject if below -1.96, Z (R) =	28.27
Accept if above 1.96, Z (R-1) =	28.28
Decision with 95% Confidence:	
	Accept