

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Determination of the Validity of a Petition for Initiated Legislation Entitled:

“An Act To Clarify the Eligibility of Voters”

1. On February 26, 2021, 17,622 petitions containing 66,398 signatures were submitted to the Secretary of State pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 18 on behalf of the above-entitled initiated legislation.¹
2. Following a review of these 17,622 petitions I find the following signatures to be invalid for the following reasons:
 - A. 12,279 signatures are invalid because they were not certified by the registrar as belonging to a registered voter in that municipality. (REG)
 - B. 8,227 signatures are invalid because the circulator did not file a circulator’s affidavit at the time the petitions were filed with the Secretary of State. (AFF)
 - C. 1,709 signatures are invalid because the petition was submitted to the municipal registrar for determination of whether the petitioners were qualified voters after the deadline set by the Maine Constitution, Article IV, Part Third, Section 20. (AMD)
 - D. 1,420 signatures are invalid because they are duplicates of signatures already counted. (DUP)²
 - E. 439 signatures are invalid because the circulator’s oath was not complete or not administered properly. (OATH)
 - F. 437 signatures are invalid because the voter dated his or her signature after the date of the circulator’s oath before the notary or the voter’s signature was not dated and it could not be determined that the voter signed the petition before the circulator took the oath. (DATE)
 - G. 255 signatures are invalid because the registered voter’s signature was made by another. (ANO)

¹ The Secretary received 4,849 petitions that are not included in this tally of signatures. Of these petitions, 4,059 contained only signatures that municipal registrars certified as invalid. In addition, 790 petitions (containing 1,940 signatures) were not certified by municipal registrars. The Secretary of State did not conduct any further review of the signatures on these 4,849 petition forms.

² A complete review of all petitions to identify duplicate signatures was not undertaken during this certification process due to time constraints and because petitioners admitted that they submitted at least 10,000 fewer signatures than the minimum number required. The duplicates noted in paragraph 2(D) were identified within several of the larger municipalities.

- H. 216 signatures are invalid because the voter's signature was crossed out on the petition form. (WD)
- I. 196 signatures are invalid because the voter failed to provide a signature. (SIG)
- J. 103 signatures are invalid because of material alterations to the petition. (ALT)
- K. 39 signatures are invalid because the circulator's oath was not completed prior to submitting the petition to the registrar for certification. (PRIOR)
- L. 3 signatures are invalid because the petitioner's signature was dated more than one year prior to the date that the petition was filed in the office of the Secretary of State. (FILED)

3. For the reasons set forth above, on the 17,622 petition forms filed with the Secretary of State, I find that 25,323 signatures are invalid and 41,075 signatures are valid. The number of signatures required to determine the petition to be valid is 63,067. As petitioners have failed to submit a sufficient number of valid signatures, I find the petition to be invalid.

Dated: March 29, 2021



Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State