

# Davidson County Election Commission

## Candidate Petition Signature Challenge Procedures

- Signature verification by Election Commission staff shall be accomplished through comparison of signatures retained in voter registration records.
- Any person who resides within the jurisdiction of the office being sought may challenge the signatures submitted on a candidate's petition.
- Any challenge of a signature on a petition shall be submitted in writing to the Administrator of Elections (AOE) no later than the withdrawal deadline.
- Following receipt of a written challenge of a signature, the AOE shall notify the challenged candidate and the challenger.
- Unless otherwise specified below, all communication from the AOE concerning a signature challenge will be via email.
- Any signature being challenged must be specifically identified by the person bringing the challenge.
- Signatures accepted or not accepted by the Election Commission staff during the initial review may be challenged.
- All signature challenges shall be adjudicated by the Davidson County Election Commission in a noticed meeting. The AOE may request a court reporter or certified stenographer attend the Election Commission meeting to transcribe the hearing.
- The AOE shall invite the State Coordinator of Elections or designee to the hearing.
- The AOE must send notice of the meeting date, time, location and purpose to the candidate whose qualifications have been challenged and to the person bringing the challenge. Notice should be delivered by certified mail, FedEx, UPS or process server.
- The Davidson County Election Commission and the Coordinator of Elections or designee shall review the original voter registration signatures considered by the Election Commission staff and the acceptable supplemental evidence submitted when making their decision.
- Acceptable supplemental evidence shall be defined as a notarized affidavit in a form prescribed by the AOE or a witness list of individuals who will appear in-person before the Commission to swear to their signature on the original petition or provide other relevant testimony under oath.
- The challenger and challenged candidate shall submit all supplemental evidence no later than noon on the tenth business day after notice of the challenge is sent by the AOE.

- The AOE shall consult with the Chairman of the Davidson County Election Commission to schedule a hearing before the members to address the signature challenge.
- The AOE shall provide copies of original voter registration signatures and any supplemental evidence to the Election Commission members, the State Coordinator of Elections or designee, challenged candidate, and the challenger no later than 48 hours before the Election Commission meeting date.
- Any confidential document emailed must utilize encryption or redaction to protect sensitive personal information.
- At the Election Commission meeting, the challenger, the challenged candidate, and individuals on the list of witnesses shall testify under oath. Members of the Election Commission and the State Coordinator of Elections or designee may ask questions of the challenged candidate, the challenger, and any individual on the supplemental witness list.
- The candidate being challenged and the challenger may be represented by an attorney.
- The decision by the Davidson County Election Commission shall be considered the final decision of the Commission on the signature challenge.

Adopted by the Davidson County Election Commission on December 5, 2025.