

NOTICE REGARDING OBJECTIONS TO NOMINATION PETITIONS

Objections to nomination petitions for statewide office shall proceed in Commonwealth Court as set forth in the order below. Of particular importance, objections to nomination petitions filed for the 2012 Primary Election will likely involve extremely large numbers of signatures; consequently, objectors are required to file in paper format and, at the time of filing, to also provide the Court with some type of digital media device (CD or USB Flash Drive) utilizing EXCEL® or similar spreadsheet format such as the one provided at <http://www.aopc.org/T/Commonwealth>.

IN RE: OBJECTIONS TO NOMINATION :
PETITIONS FOR STATEWIDE OFFICE :
FEBRUARY 2012 : No. 126 Misc. Dkt. No. 3

ORDER

NOW, January 18, 2012, all petitions to set aside nomination petitions (objection petitions) of candidates seeking statewide office shall be filed in paper format (original and one copy) and, when individual elector signatures are challenged, should be accompanied with some type of digital media device (CD or USB Flash Drive). The objection petitions shall utilize the following guidelines:

1. The objection petition shall specify objections to individual signature lines in nomination petitions and these shall be set forth in an EXCEL® or other similar spreadsheet format. Objector may use the downloadable spreadsheet provided on the Court's website at: <http://www.aopc.org/T/Commonwealth>.
2. Spreadsheet columns shall include, for each challenged signature line: page number, line number, county, and the reason or reasons for each challenge. The spreadsheet shall designate the grounds for challenge by codes, as follows:

NR = Not Registered
NRA = Not Registered at Address
NRDS = Not Registered on Date Signed
OC = Out of County
III = Illegible
LIO = Line Information Omitted
DUP = Duplicate
IHA = Line Information in Hand of Another
N/I = Nickname/Initial
PRI = Printed Signature
DCA = Defective Circulator Affidavit
SAC = Signed After Circulator's Affidavit Dated
Other = Any ground for objection not listed above

3. The objection petition shall clearly state the number of signature lines challenged as well as the total number of completed signature lines on the face of the nomination petitions.
4. Any other challenges, e.g., to circulator affidavits, candidate affidavits, etc., must be clearly and separately stated in the objection petition.
5. Objector shall attach to the objection petition as an exhibit a printed copy of the spreadsheet printed on 8 ½ x 14 inch paper, with all grid lines showing, and column headings appearing on each printed sheet, and a printed copy of the key to the challenge grounds abbreviations (challenge codes key).
6. Objector shall file two separate digital media devices each containing an electronic version of the spreadsheet and challenge codes key.
7. In addition to the usual service requirements, Objector shall serve upon Candidate one digital media device containing a read-only electronic version of the spreadsheet and challenge codes key.

Upon the filing of an objection petition, the Court will issue a scheduling and case management order. Counsel should be prepared to review contested signature lines and enter into appropriate stipulations before any court hearing.

The Chief Clerk is directed to send a copy of this order to:

1. The Court Administrator of Pennsylvania who shall post this order under the heading, "NOTICE REGARDING OBJECTIONS TO NOMINATION PETITIONS", a downloadable version of the election spreadsheet, and a sample election Scheduling and Case Management Order on the Commonwealth Court page of the Pennsylvania Unified Judicial System website (<http://www.aopc.org/T/Commonwealth>); and
2. The Secretary of the Commonwealth who shall post this order conspicuously in the Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation and in such manner as she deems appropriate.

/s/ Dan Pellegrini
President Judge