

**IN THE COMMONWEALTH COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

|                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| IN RE: NOMINATION PETITION    | : ELECTION MATTER     |
| OF ROCCO COZZA FOR            | :                     |
| REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL | :                     |
| ASSEMBLY FROM THE 45TH        | : MARCH TERM, 2026    |
| LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT IN THE   | :                     |
| REPUBLICAN PRIMARY ELECTION   | :                     |
|                               | :                     |
| OBJECTIONS OF JAMES JULIUS    | : NO. _____ M.D. 2026 |

**PETITION TO SET ASIDE THE NOMINATION PETITION**

The Petitioner, James Julius, filing pro se, respectfully avers as follows:

1. The Petitioner, James Julius, is a duly qualified elector registered as a Republican in the 45th Legislative District.
3. Petitioner is filing this matter pro se.
4. The Respondent, Rocco Cozza (hereinafter “Cozza”), is the above-named candidate for Representative in the General Assembly from the 45th Legislative District in the Republican primary election.
5. On or before March 10, 2026, Cozza filed a nomination petition for Representative in the General Assembly from the 45th Legislative District in the Republican primary election. The Commonwealth Court has access to Cozza’s nomination petition, which is incorporated herein by reference.
6. Cozza failed to submit the required number of genuine signatures of electors entitled to sign nomination petitions for the 45th Legislative District properly filled out on the nomination petition that he submitted, as noted in the attached printout of a spreadsheet. (Said printout of a spreadsheet is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, marked as Exhibit A. An electronic copy of the spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel format is also submitted to this Court.)
7. The objections itemized in Exhibit A include, inter alia, signatures of persons not registered, not registered in the Republican Party, not registered in the 45th Legislative District, illegible signatures, printed signatures, line information in the hand of another, nickname/initial issues, and other defects specifically described in Exhibit A.
8. Certain challenged signature lines are additionally invalid because the same electors previously signed nomination petitions circulated on behalf of Petitioner James Julius for the same office before signing Respondent’s nomination petitions. The Commonwealth Court also has access to Petitioner James Julius’s nomination petitions, which are incorporated herein by reference, and a crosswalk identifying those overlapping signatures and their date priority is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit B.

9. Pursuant to the Election Code, 25 P.S. § 2937, if a person signs nomination petitions for a greater number of candidates than permitted under the Election Code, signatures bearing different dates are counted in the order of their priority of date only.

10. Cozza was required to submit 300 genuine signatures of electors entitled to sign nomination petitions for the 45th Legislative District properly filled out on the nomination petition.

11. Cozza submitted **357** signature lines, **106** of which are challenged in this petition.

12. The nomination petition fails to conform to the requirements of the Election Code, 25 P.S. § 2867, et seq.

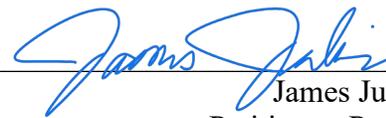
13. Pursuant to the Election Code, 25 P.S. § 2937, this Court must set aside nomination petitions which are defective, which do not contain a sufficient number of genuine signatures of electors entitled to sign, or which were not filed by persons entitled to file.

14. This Court should set aside Cozza's nomination petition and his name should not be placed on the ballot.

WHEREFORE, the Petitioner respectfully requests this Honorable Court:

- (a) to issue a Rule upon Rocco Cozza to show cause why the nomination petition should not be set aside and the candidate's name should be placed on the ballot;
- (b) to set aside the nomination petition of Rocco Cozza and order that his name not be placed on the ballot as a candidate for the Republican nomination for the office of Representative in the General Assembly from the 45th Legislative District;
- (c) to order the costs, including witness fees, as directed in 25 P.S. § 2937; and
- (d) to grant such other relief as this Honorable Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,



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James Julius  
Petitioner, Pro Se  
14 Hodgkiss Drive  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

# EXHIBIT A







## ELECTION SPREADSHEET DIRECTIONS

By order of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, all Petitions to Set Aside Nomination Petitions or Papers (objection petitions) must be filed either in paper format (original and one copy) or electronically by PACFile (the Pennsylvania appellate court electronic filing system). When individual elector signatures are challenged, the objection petition must be accompanied by a spreadsheet as specified in the Court's order and the directions below.

1. The objection petition shall specify the objections to individual signature lines in nomination petitions or papers and these shall be set forth in this spreadsheet .
2. Spreadsheet columns shall include, for each challenged signature line: page number, line number, county, and the reason or reasons for each objection. The spreadsheet shall designate the grounds for objection using the following abbreviations:

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| NR =    | Not Registered   |
| NRA =   | Not Registered At Address  |
| NRCP =  | Not Registered in Candidate's Party  |
| NRD =   | Not Registered in District   |
| NRDS =  | Not Registered on Date Signed  |
| OC =    | Out of County  |
| Ill =   | Illegible  |
| LIO =   | Line Information Omitted   |
| DUP =   | Duplicate  |
| IHA =   | Line Information in Hand of Another  |
| N/I =   | Nickname/Initial   |
| PRI =   | Printed Signature  |
| DCS =   | Defective Circulator Statement   |
| SAC =   | Signed After Circulator's Statement Dated  |
| Other = | Any ground for objection not listed above (specify the exact nature of the objection in the "Describe Other" cell) |

Note: This list of abbreviations for the various grounds to object to a signature is also referred to as the "challenge codes key."

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 or papers.
4. Any other objections, e.g., to circulator statements, candidate affidavits, etc., must be clearly and separately stated in the objection petition.
5. If filing the objection petition in paper format:
  - a. 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 challenge codes key.

- b. In addition, Objector shall file two separate digital media devices (CD or USB flash drive), each containing an electronic version of the spreadsheet and the challenge codes key. The electronic version of the spreadsheets on the each digital media devices must be enabled for editing by the Court, and may **not** be read-only or password protected.

6. If filing the objection petition electronically:

- a. Along with the electronically filed objection petition, Objector shall file as an exhibit an electronic (PDF) version of the spreadsheet with all grid lines showing and column headings appearing on each sheet, and an electronic (PDF) version of the challenge codes key.
- b. **Within two days** of submission of filing the objection petition and spreadsheet, Objector shall submit to the Court two paper copies of the electronically filed objection petition and spreadsheet **and** two separate digital media devices (CD or USB flash drive), each containing an electronic version of the spreadsheet and the challenge codes key. The electronic version of the spreadsheet on the each digital media device must be enabled for editing by the Court, and may **not** be read-only or password protected. **No changes may be made to the original spreadsheet filed electronically with the Court.**

Revised 7-19-2023

# EXHIBIT B

| Rocco Sheet | Rocco Line Number | Rocco Signed Date | Voter Name            | Registration Address                       | James Sheet | James Line Number | James Signed Date |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 5           | 1                 | 2/24/2026         | NICHOLAS M COHOLIC JR | 4021 CRABAPPLE LN MCKEES ROCKS PA 15136    | 1           | 6                 | 2/24/2026         |
| 5           | 2                 | 2/24/2026         | GARY P SMITH          | 1055 SILVER LN MCKEES ROCKS PA 15136       | 1           | 5                 | 2/24/2026         |
| 7           | 1                 | 2/26/2026         | KURT A SANDERS        | 731 STONEGATE DR OAKDALE PA 15071          | 3           | 17                | 2/23/2026         |
| 15          | 12                | 2/28/2026         | GEORGE P PHILLIPS JR  | 784 DARLINGTON RD CARNEGIE PA 15106        | 6           | 6                 | 2/21/2026         |
| 17          | 3                 | 2/27/2026         | JOSEPH L CICCOLA      | 103 DELFRED DR CARNEGIE PA 15106           | 4           | 2                 | 2/26/2026         |
| 20          | 5                 | 3/1/2026          | BARBARA L PACELLA     | 612 CARRIAGE CIR PITTSBURGH PA 15205       | 10          | 16                | 2/28/2026         |
| 20          | 7                 | 3/1/2026          | SHERRI FAWN ANGEL     | 754 CARRIAGE CIR PITTSBURGH PA 15205       | 10          | 9                 | 2/28/2026         |
| 20          | 8                 | 3/1/2026          | JACOB ANDREW BOYTIM   | 780 CARRIAGE CIR PITTSBURGH PA 15205       | 10          | 8                 | 2/28/2026         |
| 20          | 9                 | 3/1/2026          | MARY JO JOHNSON       | 810 CARRIAGE CIR PITTSBURGH PA 15205       | 10          | 7                 | 2/28/2026         |
| 20          | 11                | 3/1/2026          | PATRICK J GALLAGHER   | 200 COLONY CT PITTSBURGH PA 15205          | 21          | 11                | 2/28/2026         |
| 35          | 2                 | 3/1/2026          | CALEB JAKIEL          | 5010 OAK POINT DR DR MCKEES ROCKS PA 15136 | 13          | 5                 | 2/28/2026         |
| 35          | 3                 | 3/1/2026          | TIMOTHY MARTIN        | 16 WILLIAMS DR CORAOPOLIS PA 15108         | 13          | 2                 | 2/26/2026         |

## VERIFICATION

I, James Julius, hereby verify that the facts contained in the within Petition are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that the statements made herein are subject to the provisions of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Date: March 17, 2026

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Julius

## CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Respectfully submitted,



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James Julius  
Petitioner, Pro Se  
14 Hodgkiss Drive  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

**IN THE COMMONWEALTH COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

In Re: Nomination Papers of Rocco Cozza : New Case  
:   
:

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that this 17th day of March, 2026, I have served the attached document(s) to the persons on the date(s) and in the manner(s) stated below, which service satisfies the requirements of Pa.R.A.P. 121:

**Service**

Served: Cozza, Rocco  
Service Method: Email  
Email: rcozza@cozzalaw.com  
Service Date: 3/17/2026  
Address:  
Representing: Respondent Cozza, Rocco

*/s/ James Julius*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Signature of Person Serving)*

Person Serving: Julius, James  
Attorney Registration No:  
Law Firm:  
Address: 14 Hodgkiss Drive  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
Pro Se: Petitioner Julius, James