

IN THE COMMONWEALTH COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

In re: Nomination Petition of Rocco :
Cozza for Representative in the :
General Assembly from the 45th :
Legislative District in the Republican :
Primary Election :
: :
Objection of: James Julius : No. 130 M.D. 2026

PER CURIAM

ORDER

NOW, this 25th day of March, 2026, James Julius (Objector) has filed a petition to set aside the nomination petition of Rocco Cozza (Candidate), seeking the Republican nomination for election to represent the 45th Legislative District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. On March 23, 2026, counsel for Candidate filed a Notice of Mootness, indicating Candidate has withdrawn his candidacy from the 2026 General Primary Election. Therefore, on March 24, 2026, this Court issued a Rule to Show Cause directing Objector to address why his petition to set aside should not be dismissed as moot.

Objector filed a response on March 25, 2026, acknowledging Candidate has withdrawn his candidacy and the petition to set aside is now moot.¹

¹ Objector explains he does not oppose cancellation of the hearing scheduled in this matter and dismissal of the petition to set aside “insofar as this matter concerns whether Candidate’s name should appear on the Republican primary ballot.” Response, 3/25/26, ¶ 2. Objector avers the parties conducted a pre-hearing review of Candidate’s nomination petition, which indicated that 312 of the 357 signature lines on the nomination petition were “potentially countable,” with 37 of those signature lines remaining in dispute. *Id.* ¶ 4. Further, “Objector respectfully requests that any order dismissing this matter as moot reflect that the matter became moot only after Candidate withdrew following the parties’ court-directed pre-hearing review of the challenged signature lines.” *Id.*, Wherefore Clause. The Court was not engaged in the pre-hearing review and cannot make factual findings in this regard, but does note Objector’s request.

Therefore, based on the averments of Candidate and Objector that Candidate has withdrawn his candidacy from the 2026 General Primary Election, Objector's petition to set aside is **DISMISSED**. The parties shall bear their own costs. In addition, the hearing scheduled for March 27, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., in Courtroom Number 707, City-County Building, 414 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is hereby **CANCELED**.

The Prothonotary shall mark the docket in this case as closed.