

IN THE COMMONWEALTH COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

In re: Nomination Petition of Anna :
Lopez as a Candidate for the Democratic: No. 110 M.D. 2026
Nomination for Representative for the : HEARD: March 24, 2026
115th Legislative District :
:
Objection of: Tameko Patterson :
and Alfred Johnson :

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

NOW, March 25, 2026, following an evidentiary hearing in this matter held March 24, 2026, at which both parties appeared and presented evidence, the Court finds as follows.

Candidate, Anna Lopez, timely submitted a Nomination Petition as a candidate for the Democratic Nomination for Representative for the 115th Legislative District containing 512 signature lines. Objectors, Tameko Patterson and Alfred Johnson, filed a Petition to Set Aside the Nomination Petition in which they conceded that 232 signatures were valid, and challenging 280 signatures on various grounds.¹

On March 18, 2026, the Court issued a case management order setting strict deadlines and directing the parties, along with a SURE operator, to meet and confer regarding signature challenges and to file stipulations as to the signatures which were agreed to be valid and those agreed to be invalid. After a lengthy

¹ Objectors also alleged that the Nomination Petition should be stricken because Candidate submitted false information on her Statement of Financial Interest form pertaining to her occupation and income. Because Objectors failed to put on evidence in support of this argument, it has been waived.

meeting, the parties purportedly reviewed and came to an agreement as to all but 69 signatures. While a representative of Objectors and the Director of Elections and Voter Registration for Monroe County signed a stipulation to this effect, Candidate refused to sign the stipulation. At the hearing, Candidate continued to refuse to stipulate to the agreement the parties reached on March 18, 2026. Therefore, the Court was forced to review signature lines with patent and incurable defects, including that the electors were not registered in Candidate's party or did not reside in the 115th Legislative District. This extended the required time for hearing by multiple hours.

During the hearing, the Court recessed and gave the parties additional time to meet and confer regarding additional signature challenges which had not yet been addressed. After this additional time, the parties reached some further stipulations. The Court proceeded to review the remaining signature challenges with the testimony and evidence of the SURE operator. Based on this review, the Court ruled an additional 22 signatures were valid and the remainder were stricken as invalid for various deficiencies.

Based on the parties' stipulations and the Court's rulings as placed on the record at the hearing, Candidate has, at most, 275 valid signatures, which is under the 300 signatures required by Section 912.1(14) of the Pennsylvania Election Code.² Therefore, Objectors' Petition to Set Aside is GRANTED. Candidate's name is STRICKEN from the primary ballot for the Democratic Nomination for Representative for the 115th Legislative District.

Candidate's Application to Strike Objectors' line-by-line objections is DENIED. Given her obdurate refusal to follow the Court's case management order,

² Act of June 3, 1937, P.L. 1333, *as amended*, added by Section 2 of the Act of December 12, 1984, P.L. 968, 25 P.S. § 2872.1(14).

Candidate is directed to pay two-thirds the costs of the Court Reporter and of the SURE operator.

The Prothonotary shall notify the parties and their counsel of this Order and shall also certify a copy to the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania forthwith.



BONNIE BRIGANCE LEADBETTER,
President Judge Emerita