



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 10, 2026
Contact:
John Sellek, info@harborstrategic.com

Dead Man Signing?!

MMOP Petitions Contain Potential Forgery & Fraud, Inaccurate Signatures, Dead People and More

Echoes of 2022’s sloppy failures evident as Protect MI Free Speech files petition signature challenge

LANSING, Mich. – The out-of-state billionaire takeover of Michigan political speech is on hold after Protect MI Free Speech filed an official petition signature challenge today, asking the Michigan Board of State Canvassers (BSC) to deny certification.

The complaint contests the validity of signatures on legislative initiative petitions filed by the so-called Michiganders for Money Out of Politics (MMOP) on May 27, stating that the MMOP 1,000-signature sample does not contain enough valid signatures and should not be certified.

Among many problems with the signatures, patterns of possible forgery and fraud, inaccurate and incomplete signatures and addresses, and even dead people were apparently filed as part of MMOP’s full submission.

A response from the BSC is expected by its next meeting on July 24.

“Before the free speech rights of everyday Michigan families are wiped out by this trojan horse, dark money-funded initiative that will put out-of-state billionaires in control of our state politics, the Board of Canvassers must conduct a thorough investigation into the apparent submission of invalid signatures, including signatures from dead people,” said **John Sellek, spokesperson for Protect MI Free Speech**.

“Michigan residents already lived through a disastrous petition process in the last gubernatorial election year, when the rules were ignored and the process was corrupted by bad actors. We strongly encourage the canvassers to fully investigate the sample and the full submission,” Sellek concluded.

Dead People Love MMOP!

Extensive expert reviews of both the Bureau of Elections’ 1,000-signature sample and the overall MMOP petition submission have uncovered sweeping irregularities that may include forgery, fraud, inaccurate and incomplete signatures, and even dead people who “signed”. Not only are individual signatures possibility invalid, but even full petition sheets may be disqualified due to circulator issues.

The complaint explains that the BSC cannot simply cast this evidence aside, and asks it to undertake a complete review and investigation of all petitions due to issues including:

- Apparent potential forgeries
- Extensive signature errors
- A high number of duplicate signatures
- Signatures from individuals not registered to vote
- Circulator errors
- Numerous address and jurisdictional issues
- **Signatures from dead people**

Additional examples include the fact that the 1,000-signature sample includes over 148 signatures from people who signed MMOP petitions more than once —**some as many as eight times**.

What does this mean?

- MMOP did not provide the Board with a clean, valid, petition universe to canvass.
- MMOP does not have the public support required to appear on the ballot.

Now, the BSC must make clear that petition circulators cannot circumvent state election law or avoid the scrutiny of the canvass process by turning in hundreds of thousands of invalid signatures.

Outside the 1,000 Signature Sample but in Desperate Need of Investigation

Signatures from the dead: An initial review of the full MMOP petition submission already found at least **10 signatures attributed to people who were dead at the date of signing**.

- A strong indication of fraudulent activity in violation of the Michigan Election Law, found outside the sample but in the MMOP overall submission, is established by at least 10 signatures from people who were dead at the time they allegedly signed.
- Although these signatures do not appear in the sample, the prevalence of any indicia of fraud warrants a full and thorough investigation by the Board. It does not need to be stated but we do so anyway: **Dead people are not eligible to vote in Michigan or capable of signing petitions**.
- The initial review found eight circulators appearing inside the sample who also had other petition sheets with signers that died prior to signing the petition sheet.
- The Board should canvass the entirety of the following circulators’ sheets to investigate potential fraud.

Circulators signed their own petitions multiple times: At least two circulators that *do* have petitions within the sample signed *their own petitions multiple times*.

- One circulator signed her own petitions on April 23, 2026, twice on April 27, 2026, twice on April 28, 2026, and April 29, 2026—a total of six times.
- Another circulator signed his own petitions a total of five times on March 31, 2026, April 1, 2026, April 2, 2026, April 8, 2026, and April 9, 2026.

Circulators sign affidavits regarding the genuineness of the signatures they collect. This is in clear violation of the Michigan Election Law and the affidavit that these circulators sign on the petitions they submit to the Board.

These errors were not the type that Protect MI Free Speech experts were looking for, but they were so blatant that they stood out.

Many more likely exist.

While they are not within the 1,000-signature sample, these issues raise major questions about the overall MMOP submission, and the use of a process which checks only 1,000 signatures out of more than a half-million.

The Bottom Line: Based on the 1,000-signature sample, BSC should deny certification of MMOP petitions

To qualify for placement on the November ballot, the Petitions must include at least 356,958 valid signatures from registered Michigan voters.

Based on the MMOP-submitted universe of 561,282 signatures, the state process provides that the following numbers of valid signatures out of the 1,000 signatures sampled will trigger the outcomes:

- 636 or more = grant certification
- 635 or fewer = deny certification

As this Challenge demonstrates, the 1,000-signature sample of the MMOP petitions includes, at most, 568 valid signatures.

The BSC should deny certification of the petitions.

Challenge Summary Table^[1]

Challenge Code	Total
Duplicate Signatures (DUP)	148
Invalid Signatures (IS)	30
Not Registered (NR)	146
Invalid Addresses (IA)	77
Invalid City or Township (IC)	54
Nonexistent County (NC)	16
Outside District (OD)	10
Invalid Date (DATE)	16
Invalid Heading Entries (HEAD)	1
Damaged (DMG)	4
Form Error (FORM)	18 ^[2]
Missing Required Element (MRE)	6
Circulator Information Missing (CIRC)	54
Illegible (IL)	15
Miscellaneous (MC) and Potential Fraud (MC)	216
Pending MRE DMG Challenge	860

[1] Please note that many petition sheets and signatures contain more than one error. This table does not sum to the total number of signatures challenged.

[2] Estimated based on proportionate number of FORM/MRE/DMG errors discovered on the 140 of 1000 petitions that Challenger was allowed to review.

