

**Directive 2006-01**

January 27, 2006

To: COUNTY BOARDS OF ELECTIONS

Re: Independent Nominating Petition (Eastman – Secretary of State)

Enclosed are part petitions of the independent nominating petition and statement of candidacy of John A. Eastman filed in this office on December 13, 2005, for the office of Secretary of State.

**Read the enclosed instructions carefully *before* examining the signatures on each part-petition.**

You must examine the petitions in accordance with R.C. 3501.38 (rules governing petitions), R.C. 3501.011 (definition of “signature”) and the enclosed instructions. All petitions and certification forms **must be returned to this office by February 17** via a trackable method such as in person, certified mail, UPS or Fed Ex.

R.C. 3501.38(F) states that, if a circulator *knowingly* permits an unqualified person to sign a part-petition or permits a person to write a name other than the person's own on it, the entire part-petition is invalid. If the circulator *unknowingly* permits that conduct, then only that invalid signature is rejected, and any valid signature on that part-petition is counted toward the signature requirement. Therefore, in each case where a person signs a name other than his or her own to a petition, the board of elections must investigate to determine whether to invalidate only the non-genuine signature or the entire part-petition.

R.C. 3503.06 requires that the circulator of a candidate petition must be a registered elector of Ohio. If you receive candidate petitions circulated by a person whose address is in another county, call that county's board of elections to confirm that the circulator is registered to vote. Remember that, although R.C. 3501.38(C) requires a petition *signer's* voting address on the petition to match that file with your office, a petition *circulator's* address may be different than what is on file with the board.

If you have any questions concerning this petition, please call my Elections Division at 614-466-2585.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Kenneth Blackwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J. Kenneth Blackwell

## INSTRUCTIONS AND CODE SYMBOLS FOR VALIDATING SIGNATURES ON PETITIONS

Each signature must be examined individually to determine if it satisfies all the requirements of law. After checking an entire part-petition, write:

- the **number of valid signatures** and
- **the initials** of the board employee who checked the part-petition,

on the right side of the front page of each part-petition, below the Secretary of State's petition stamp number.

If a signature is valid, place a red check mark at the left margin beside it. If a signature is invalid, use one of the following codes to indicate why it was invalidated; if none of the codes fit, provide an explanatory notation. Do not cross out any signature or address; only place code at left margin.

- NR Not Registered: The signer is not registered to vote. Each signer of a petition paper must be a qualified elector registered to vote at the address shown on the petition paper **as of the date this petition was filed with the Secretary of State (December 13, 2005).**
- NRA Not Registered Address: Address provided on the part-petition after the signature is not the address on file with the board of elections **as of the date this petition was filed with the Secretary of State (December 13, 2005).**
- NA No Address: The signer's street and number, or RFD, and city, village, or township, must be provided next to his/her signature on the part-petition. A post office box cannot be accepted as the signer's voting address. The signer need not have entered the name of his/her county, if the board can determine the signer's county of residence based on the other information provided on the petition. The ward and precinct information is not required.
- NG Not Genuine: The signature does not appear to be the genuine signature of the person whose signature it purports to be; i.e., it does not comport with the signature on file with the board.
- ILL Illegible: A board rejects a signature for this reason only if both the signature and signer's address are unreadable, such that it is not reasonably possible for the board to determine the signer's identity and check the signature against a voter registration record.
- P Pencil: Signed in pencil.
- ND No date: No date appears on the part-petition after the signer's signature. (Acceptable as "dates" are: month-date-year, month-date; ditto marks.)
- DUP Duplication: The signer signed the candidate's petition more than once, in which case only the first signature shall be counted.
- OC Other county: The signer is a resident of another county.
- CIR Circulator: The circulator signed the part-petition he or she was circulating. (This invalidates only the circulator's signature as a signer, not the entire part-petition.)

If the number of signatures on a part-petition is **more than the number indicated** in the circulator's statement, **the entire part-petition is invalid.**

### When invalidating an entire part-petition:

- Indicate the reason for rejection on the front of the part-petition.
- Place the invalid part-petition(s) on the top of the part-petitions the board is returning.
- Do **not** invalidate a part-petition solely for the reason that it contains no valid signatures.

**Finally**, complete the enclosed Reporting Form and return it, with the part-petitions, to the Secretary of State.

**REPORTING FORM  
STATEWIDE CANDIDATE PETITION**

Candidate: **John A. Eastman**  
Office Sought: **Secretary of State of Ohio**  
Election Date: **November 7, 2006**

On behalf of the Board of Elections of \_\_\_\_\_ County, I hereby certify that we have examined the enclosed part-petitions. The number of valid and invalid signatures on the part-petitions of John A. Eastman, independent candidate for the office of Secretary of State of Ohio, are as follows:

|                                                                                                | PETITIONS | SIGNATURES |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. Number of valid part-petitions . . . . .                                                    | _____     |            |
| Number of <b>valid</b> signatures . . . . .                                                    |           | _____      |
| Number of <b>invalid</b> signatures . . . . .                                                  |           | _____      |
| 2. Number of invalid part-petitions . . . . .                                                  | _____     |            |
| Number of signatures on invalid<br>part-petitions . . . . .                                    |           | _____      |
| 3. <b>Total</b> number of <i>part-petitions</i> received<br>(valid and invalid) . . . . .      | _____     |            |
| 4. <b>Total</b> number of <i>signatures</i> on part-petitions<br>(valid and invalid) . . . . . |           | _____      |

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Keep a copy of the completed form for your files.**