



December 27, 2023

Texas Nationalist Movement
c/o Daniel Miller
3318 Hwy 365 Suite 243
Nederland, TX 77627

Mr. Miller:

As this is a matter of importance to the members, delegates, executive committee and office holders of the Republican Party of Texas, I am drafting this response to the December 11, 2023 voter petition filing of the Texas Nationalist Movement as an open letter.

Section 172.088 of the Texas Election Code states that “[v]oters by petition may require that a proposal to include a demand for specific legislation or any other matter in a political party's platform or resolutions be submitted to a vote in the party's general primary election by placement on the general primary election ballot.” TEX. ELEC. CODE § 172.088(a). The minimum number of signatures that must appear on the petition is five percent of the total vote received by all candidates for governor in the party's most recent primary election. TEX. ELEC. CODE § 172.088(e). As 1,954,172 total votes were received by all Republican candidates for governor in the March 1, 2022 Republican Primary, *see* <https://results.texas-election.com/races>, Section 172.088 requires 97,709 signatures to place a matter on the 2024 Republican Primary ballot.

On December 11, 2023, at approximately 12:05 p.m., you submitted eleven boxes of petition signatures on behalf of the Texas Nationalist Movement in support of a ballot proposition on the March 2024 Republican Primary ballot. We have determined after a review of the filing that the petition fails to meet at least two requirements of Section 172.088 for voter petitions—specifically that all voter petitions must be timely filed and contain valid signatures.

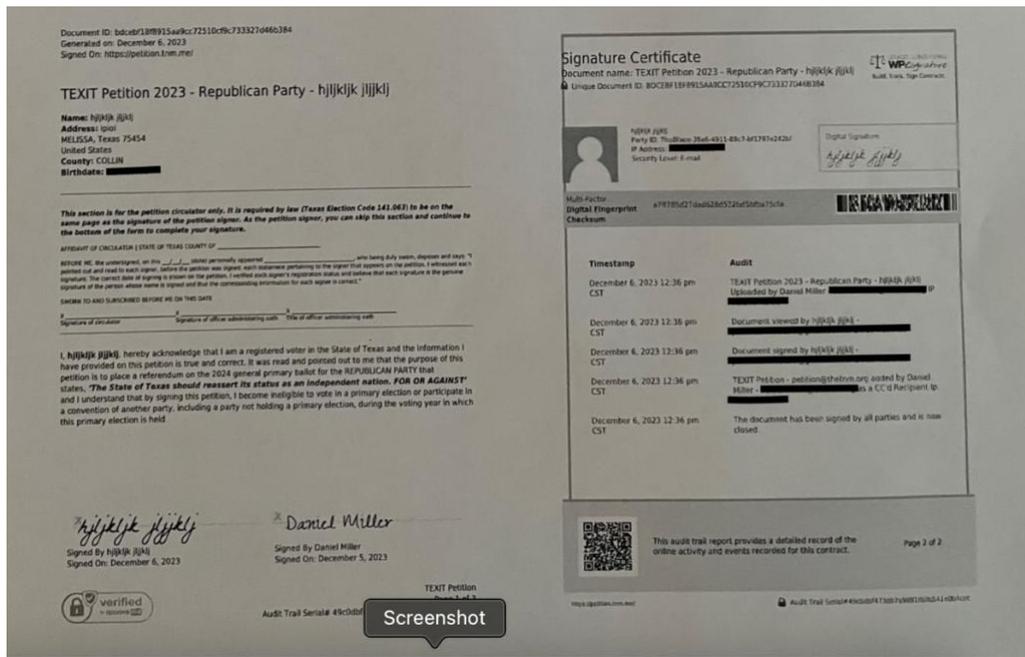
Section 172.088(b) states that a petition must satisfy the requirements prescribed by Section 141, Subchapter C, of the Texas Election Code for a candidate's petition. TEX. ELEC. CODE § 172.088(b). To be valid, a petition must, among other things: (1) be timely filed with the appropriate authority (here, the State Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas), and (2)

contain valid signatures in the number required by the code (here 97,709). TEX. ELEC. CODE § 141.062(a).

Regarding the first requirement, the petition was not timely filed. Section 172.088(d) prescribes that voter petitions “must be filed with the state chair of the political party holding the primary to which the petition applies **before** the date of the regular filing deadline for candidates’ applications for a place on the primary ballot.” TEX. ELEC. CODE § 172.088(d) (emphasis added). The regular filing deadline for the 2024 primary election in Texas was December 11, 2023. Thus, petitions must have been filed no later than December 10, 2023. The Texas Nationalist Movement delivered its petition to the Republican Party of Texas on December 11, 2023. This submission missed the statutory deadline for voter petitions.

Furthermore, for a petition signature to be valid, a petition must contain a signer’s: (a) signature; (b) printed name; (c) residence address; (d) county of registration; (e) date of signing; and (f) either date of birth or voter registration number. TEX. ELEC. CODE § 141.063(a). The signature “**is required to appear on the petition in the signer’s own handwriting.**” TEX. ELEC. CODE § 141.063(b) (emphasis added). Electronic signatures are not allowed. *See id.*; *see also* <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/petitions.pdf> at p. 8 (stating that “[s]ignatures must be ‘wet’ – meaning no electronic signatures” and the petition “must be physically gathered”).

The vast majority of petition signatures were invalid. A number of the signatures omitted one or all of the residence address, county of registration, and date of birth/voter registration number. Many contained invalid voter names. Only an estimated 8,300 of the purported 139,000 signatures were in the petition signer’s own handwriting. The remainder of the signatures submitted were electronic and in the following form:



These signatures are invalid under Texas law.

For these reasons, the voter petitions delivered by the Texas Nationalist Movement on December 11 are rejected as untimely and, even if they had been timely submitted, do not contain the required 97,709 valid signatures to place a matter on the 2024 Republican Primary ballot.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Rinaldi', written in a cursive style.

Matt Rinaldi
Chairman, Republican Party of Texas