



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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**DIRECTIVE PERTAINING TO CERTIFICATION OF PETITIONS FOR THE
QUALIFICATION OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY**

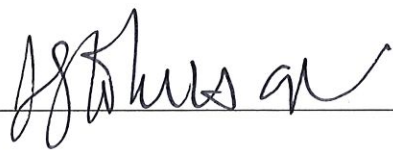
The State Board of Elections (“Board”) hereby issues this Directive to the local boards of canvassers for each city and town, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-7-5(c). The Directive provides guidance relating to the certification of petitions for the qualification of a new political party. Said petition form has been prepared and distributed to the local boards of canvassers by the Board of Elections pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-1-2(9) and § 17-12-16.

The local boards of canvassers are hereby directed to certify petitions for qualification as a political party under the same requirements established for the signing of nomination papers pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-14-8. For purposes of verifying signatures, the local board shall compare the signatures submitted on the new party petition papers with the signatures found in the CVRS to verify that both signatures are identical. For purposes of signature comparison, the petitioner’s signature shall be accepted as valid if it can be reasonably identified to the signature specimens of the voter found in the CVRS database. The petitioner’s signature shall not be disqualified merely because the voter did not sign his or her full name as it is listed in the voter registration list, or omitted or included a middle initial or name, abbreviated a first and/or middle name, or made a similar omission or inclusion, as long as the local board of canvassers is able to determine that the signatures match.

Each petition paper must include a completed affidavit signed by the individual collecting the signatures attesting that the signers of the petition did so sign the petition in their presence, and the petition must be properly notarized.

This Directive shall remain in full force and effect until further order or directive of the Board.

As voted upon and issued by the Board of Elections on this 9th day of January, 2024.



Chair