



Office of the County Clerk

Elections Division

Cathy M. Garrett
Wayne County Clerk

May 20, 2026

T.P. Nykoriak
P.O. Box 12111
Detroit, MI 48212

Sent by E-Mail

RE: Final Determination of Nominating Petitions filed by Raphiel King for the office of U.S. Representative in Congress – 13th District

Dear Mr. Nykoriak,

This office is in receipt of your challenge to the nominating petitions filed by Raphiel King for the office of U. S Representative in Congress – 13th District. On May 13, 2026, a staff report issued by the Wayne County Elections Division indicates a mass or blanket challenge was filed by you against candidate King, which is not allowed under MCL 168.552(2).

Prior to the submission of your challenge, the nominating petitions did not survive the facial review completed by staff prior to beginning the signature verification process. Staff recommends the petition filing is insufficient in the number of valid signatures required to qualify the candidate for placement on the August 4, 2026 Primary Election ballot. Incorporated in the staff report are samples of petition sheets questioned for the genuineness and validity of the signatures contained within. Staff also recommend that candidate Raphiel King is referred to the Michigan Secretary of State or Attorney General's office for an investigation into what is believed to be fraudulent and/or forged signatures.

In conjunction with the Staff Report issued on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, and under the advice of corporation counsel, I am fully adopting the staff's recommendation and hereby determine the nominating petitions are *insufficient* in number to allow candidate Raphiel King's name to appear on the ballot for the August 4, 2026 Primary Election for the office of U.S. Representative in Congress – 13th District.

MCL 168.552(6) states in part:

“A person feeling aggrieved by a determination made by the county clerk may have the determination reviewed by the secretary of state by filing a written request with the secretary of state within 3 days after the official declaration by the county clerk, unless the third day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, in which case the request may be filed not later than 4 p.m. on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

Alternatively, the aggrieved person may have the determination of the county clerk reviewed by filing a mandamus, certiorari, or other appropriate remedy in circuit court.”

Sincerely,


Cathy M. Garrett
Wayne County Clerk

cc. Raphael King, candidate
 Rebecca A. Camargo, Principal Attorney, Wayne County Corporation Counsel
 Michigan Secretary of State, Bureau of Elections