



Shenna Bellows  
Secretary of State

*Department of the Secretary of State*  
*Bureau of Corporations, Elections and*  
*Commissions*

Julie L. Flynn  
Deputy Secretary of State

August 9, 2024

**By Email and U.S. Mail**

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**NOTICE OF HEARING**

*In re: Challenge to Petition to Nominate Slate of Presidential Electors to Support Robert F. Kennedy Jr.*

Dear Mr. Boothby and Attorney Kallin:

The Secretary of State's Office received on August 8, 2024, a written challenge from James Stretch of Topsham, Maine, (represented by Attorney Kallin) challenging the petition filed by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to nominate a slate of candidates for the office of presidential elector. The challenge was timely filed under 21-A M.R.S. § 356(2)(A). Notice is being provided to Mr. Boothby as the Kennedy campaign's representative.

**A public hearing on the challenge will be held beginning at 9:00 am on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, in Room 228 of the Maine State House, Augusta, Maine.** The hearing will be conducted in accordance with 21-A M.R.S. § 356 and the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, 5 M.R.S. §§ 9051 *et seq.* Secretary of State Shenna Bellows will serve as the Presiding Officer at the Hearing, and Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Bolton will assist the Secretary as legal counsel. Evidence will be heard relating to the allegations set forth in the written challenge, which is attached.

The hearing may be extended to Thursday, August 15, 2024, if additional time is needed.

In summary, the challenge alleges:

- (1) The petition contains 5,853 signatures, exceeding the 5,000-signature maximum specified in 21-A M.R.S.A. § 354(5)(A);
- (2) The petition does not state Mr. Kennedy's correct residence;
- (3) The petition contains instances in which circulators printed their name or provided their initials rather than signing their name;
- (4) The petition contains instances in which notaries printed their name or wrote their initials rather than signing the petition forms;
- (5) The petition contains instances in which the notary did not print the full expiration date of their commission;
- (6) The petition contains instances in which the notary's stamp shows that the notary's commission is expired;
- (7) The petition contains instances in which the notary's stamp is missing;
- (8) The petition contains instances in which the notary's "subscribed to" date is incomplete or outside the collection window;
- (9) The petition contains deficient signature dates;
- (10) The petition contains signatures from individuals who are not registered Maine voters;
- (11) The petition contains signatures with address information that does not match voter registration records or is illegible;
- (12) The petition contains signatures in which voters printed their name or wrote their initials rather than signing their name;
- (13) The petition contains signatures in which the voter signed a different name than their printed name;
- (14) The petition contains signatures that use identical handwriting across multiple rows;
- (15) The petition contains signatures that were crossed out;
- (16) The petition contains signatures in which the voter's name does not perfectly match the name on file;
- (17) The petition contains signatures in which the signature does not match the one in the voter file;
- (18) The petition contains signatures in which the signer's name is illegible;
- (19) The petition contains duplicate signatures.

Please refer to the attached written challenge and exhibit for a complete description of the challenger's allegations. You can download a complete scanned copy of the petition by using the hyperlink included in the cover email attaching this Notice.

The challenger has the burden of providing sufficient evidence to invalidate the petition. 21-A M.R.S. § 356(2)(B). At the hearing there will be an opportunity for both the challenger and the candidate to present oral testimony of witnesses as well as additional documentary evidence, and to make oral argument pertaining to the challenge in light of that evidence. Written affidavits from

witnesses will not be accepted as evidence in this matter unless those witnesses are available for cross-examination, pursuant to 5 M.R.S. § 9057(5). Witnesses will be permitted to appear by videoconference if they are not otherwise available to attend the hearing.

The parties shall exchange and file by email with the Secretary of State's Office lists of expected exhibits and witnesses, as well as copies of listed exhibits, no later than **Monday, August 12, 2024**. Witness lists should specify if a proposed witness wishes to testify by videoconference and provide an email address to which the videoconference invitation should be sent. The parties are also encouraged to exchange information in advance of the hearing. All filings should be emailed to [SOS.Office@maine.gov](mailto:SOS.Office@maine.gov) and [jonathan.bolton@maine.gov](mailto:jonathan.bolton@maine.gov), and should be copied to all parties.

**If you wish to request this office to issue a subpoena for the attendance of any witness pursuant to 5 M.R.S. § 9060(1), or if you do not plan to attend the hearing, please notify us as soon as possible.** Please also let us know if you will need copies of any public records within the custody of the Elections Division for the hearing.

Any person seeking to intervene in this matter shall file a written request with the Secretary of State, copying the parties, no later than **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13, 2024**.

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S. § 9053(3), a party's failure to take action required by this letter may be grounds for disposition of this proceeding by default.

Finally, under 5 M.R.S. § 9055, any communications to me, my staff, or AAG Bolton concerning any issue of fact, law or procedure in this proceeding must be in writing, copied to all parties, or following notice and opportunity for all parties to participate.

Sincerely,



Shenna Bellows  
Secretary of State

cc: Jonathan Bolton, Assistant Attorney General