



JOHN THURSTON

ARKANSAS SECRETARY OF STATE

July 15, 2024

Sent via email & regular mail

Lauren Cowles
P.O. Box 7866
Little Rock, AR 72217

RE: Response to Your Letter of July 11, 2024

Dear Ms. Cowles:

I have received your letter delivered to my office on July 11, 2024. My position remains unchanged.

The law requires "the person filing the petitions" to "also submit" a statement "signed by the sponsor." Ark. Code Ann. § 7-9-111(f)(2). You claim that an affidavit submitted on June 27, 2024, fulfills these requirements. It does not. First, the June 27 affidavit is not "signed by the sponsor."

Second, the affidavit was not submitted with the petition, as the statute requires. The text of Ark. Code Ann. § 7-9-111(f) ties the filing of the signed statement to the date of filing petitions: "If signatures *were obtained* by paid canvassers, the person *filing* the petitions...*shall also submit*...[a] statement signed by the sponsor," covering "each paid canvasser...." (Emphases added.) The use of the past tense "were obtained" and the reference to "each paid canvasser" only make sense if the statements required by 7-9-111(f) are filed with a complete petition.

Each of these defects independently required me to reject your petition.

Sincerely,

John Thurston
Arkansas Secretary of State