



**FOR RELEASE**  
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## **Vote NO on 83 Denied Access to Petition Count by DC Board of Elections** *Request for Council Intervention*

The members of **Vote NO on Initiative 83** who have been designated as official 'watchers' by the DC Board of Elections (BOE) have been denied full access to the official counting and verification of the petitions submitted by the pro Initiative 83 group. The 'watching' is restricted because BOE personnel are spread out in separate cubicles on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the BOE's headquarters on Half St. SE. In addition, the NO on 83 watchers have been assigned folding chairs in designated areas and cannot leave without an escort. This further limits the watchers freedom to observe the count and make sure it's correct.

"How can we at NO on 83, and the public, be confident that the BOE count is correct," said Deirdre Brown, Chair of Vote NO on Initiative 83. "The NO on 83 Committee has repeatedly objected to the restricted access to the Registrar of Voters, Marissa Corrente, and to BOE Executive, Director Monica Holman Evans. A formal request by Vote NO to full access to all petition workers in one designated area for the rest of the counting and validation of the Initiative 83 petition pages was denied. We are now taking our objections to CM Anita Bonds who oversees the oversight committee on BOE for the Council."

The BOE started the signature verification on Tuesday, July 3rd and worked through the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend. BOE has completed the initial count of the pages and will begin the signature verification on Tuesday, July 9, at 11 am. The BOE is utilizing its own staff as well as interns and summer youth employees for the count on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floor of its Half St SE offices.

Ranked Choice Voting and semi-open primaries would come to DC if Initiative 83 makes it to the ballot and is approved by the voters.

*A pdf of this press release is available here [www.voteno83.com/news-press](http://www.voteno83.com/news-press)*

Paid for by Vote No on Initiative 83 | Neena Murphy Martin, Treasurer | Deirdre Brown, Chair | 14 Ridge Square, NW, 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20016. A copy of our report is filed with the Director of Campaign Finance of the District of Columbia Board of Elections.

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