



**FOR RELEASE**  
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**Contact:**  
**Gaby L. Fraser**  
**(202) 445-6490**  
**[info@voteno83.com](mailto:info@voteno83.com)**

## **Vote NO on 83 Challenge Denied** ***The Fight Continues***

On Monday, July 15, 2024, Terri Stroud, General Counsel of the DC Board of Elections (BOE), denied the petition challenge from Vote NO on Initiative 83, which sought to block the initiative from being certified for the November ballot. While the BOE has a 30-day review period for petitions, challengers were allowed only 10 days to examine 40,000 signatures. Initiative 83 proposes Ranked Choice Voting and semi-open primaries for the city.

The challenge centered on the use of whiteout by pro-Initiative 83 circulators to correct signer addresses, printed names, and circulator affidavits, which obscured original information and hindered a fair examination. The challenge also claimed insufficient valid signatures to meet the 5% threshold in five of the eight wards.

Deirdre Brown, Chair of Vote NO on Initiative 83, stated, "The certified watchers will continue to monitor BOE's count and verification of signatures. The challenge denial did not address the 5% threshold in five wards or the whiteout issue. Many signatures appear to have been fraudulently altered. We have asked BOE to invalidate any pages where whiteout was used to change names, addresses, or circulator affidavits—an obvious violation."

Signature verification began on Tuesday, July 3, 2024, at BOE's Half St SE offices across two floors with over 30 employees from multiple departments. Vote NO's request for full access to petition workers in one area for counting and validation was denied, keeping access limited and restricted.

*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.