



FOR RELEASE
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DC Board of Elections Denies Emergency Hearing on Wite-Out on Initiative 83
Concerns Remain Over Procedures for Handling I83 Petitions

The DC Board of Elections has denied a request from Vote NO on Initiative 83 for an emergency hearing regarding the use of Wite-Out by pro-Initiative 83 circulators. The group sought clarification and a ruling from the BOE on whether Wite-Out could be used to correct signer addresses, printed names, and circulator affidavits before petitions are submitted to the Data Analysis and Visualization Division.

In response to the July 18, 2024, request, the BOE stated that decisions on which whited-out lines to reject were based on voter intent. According to Marissa Corrente, Registrar of Voters "The determination on what whited-out lines to reject was based on voter intent. If something was whited-out that wholly changed what the voter originally wrote or if we could not determine what was changed, those lines were removed. At present, 4,802 lines were rejected due to white-out."

Vote NO has raised concerns over the lack of official guidelines on the use of Wite-Out and the procedure for determining rejected signatures. "I was verbally informed three times by Marissa Corrente that signatures would be evaluated by holding petition pages to the light," stated Deirdre Brown, Chair of Vote NO on Initiative 83. "How can one determine what is under something that has been whited out? This method implies subjective judgment after the fact. This is precisely why we urgently requested a hearing. All use of Wite-Out should be uniformly rejected."

Vote NO has consistently urged the BOE to invalidate any pages where Wite-Out was used to alter names, addresses, or circulator affidavits. The integrity of the petition gathering process hinges on the honesty of circulators, and any pages tainted by tampering should be rejected.

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