

SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Petition Submission Review Process Update from Clerk Emeritus Foris Webb, III
October 26, 2023

3. The City's proposed procedure contemplates that individuals who are disqualified because they are not a registered elector in the City as of November 2021 may "come forward with evidence of their eligibility." How, specifically, will this process work?
 - a. When will individuals be notified that they have been disqualified?
 - b. How will individuals be notified that they have been disqualified, e.g., phone, mail, electronically, etc.?
 - c. What information will individuals have to provide as evidence of their eligibility?
 - d. What methods may they use to return that information, e.g., phone, mail, electronically, etc.?
 - e. How long will they have to return that information?
 - f. Will they be permitted assistance in returning that information?

The City's process is straight forward and designed to protect the rights of all qualified voters as well as the public. First, a review of names will be made by checking voter registration rolls to determine how many signatures of registered voters appear on the submitted petitions. It is not uncommon for petitioners across the country to submit large numbers of petition entries of unqualified individuals. Here, that would be individuals who are either not registered to vote or not registered in the City of Atlanta at the relevant times. Unqualified individuals' names typically appear on petitions because a great deal of signature gathering occurs in public places, including street corners and outside of supermarkets or other commercial establishments where there are many people who are not registered to vote in Atlanta, or at all.

The City will make available a report showing which lines of which pages have been deemed invalid and identifying the reason(s) for such. Further, the City will make public a list of all voters who are qualified Atlanta voters in both 2021 and 2023 so that anyone who discovers their signature has not been counted and wishes to contest their status may do so by presenting evidence that they were in fact Atlanta electors at the relevant times and that they signed the petition during its circulation period. ~~By statute, the verification process may~~

~~only last 50 days, so anyone wishing to dispute their status will have a week to do so from when the list of ineligible entries is made public.~~ The City will accept such information electronically as well as in person, and will accept information picked up from an elector and returned for them to City Hall by a third party.

The City will accept evidence of a voter's eligibility up to the 40th day (as opposed to within one week of their name being posted). That change is being made so that individuals will have more time in which to respond, and petition organizers will have more time in which to contact individuals whose eligibility could not be confirmed.

4. The City has outlined a cure process for individuals who are disqualified on the basis of their signature match.
 - a. How long will an individual have to cure a signature mismatch?
 - b. Will individuals be permitted to return their attestation form by fax or to cure by phone?
 - c. Will the City allow those assisting individuals with the cure process to return attestation forms electronically (i.e., on the signers' behalf)?

As set forth in the City's September 1 guidance on this topic:

- **To ensure transparency and facilitate the cure process, the review team will publish a list of any signors whose signatures have been flagged for cure on Monday and Thursday after the Signature Verification Phase of review has begun. This additional step in the process was put in place to ensure that no one's intent to sign the petition is frustrated during this important process.**
 - **Within three (3) business days of posting any elector's name on such list, the review team will send that elector whose signature was flagged for cure a letter and call them (if a number is available).**
 - **A person will be permitted to return an attestation via mail, in person at City Hall, or electronically, i.e., by scanning it and emailing it back to the City.**

- **An individual will have up to the 45th day of the verification period to return their attestation.**
 - **The City will also accept attestations that are picked up from electors and returned to City Hall for them by third parties.**
5. Will the City establish a phone number or some other means of direct communication for general questions and support regarding the cure process?

Yes. The City will establish a phone line for questions and assistance regarding the cure processes that operates from 8 am to 8 pm, Monday through Saturday, so as to ensure ease of access for individuals with various work schedules.

And, as previously explained, the City has a robust Language Access Plan, known as iSpeakATL. It offers free, timely, and efficient language services to the City's Limited English Proficient (LEP) population. Constituents will be able to receive excellent service from the City no matter what language they speak. Further information about iSpeakATL can be accessed via the following website:

<https://www.welcomingatlanta.com/ispeakatl/>