

February 9, 2019

St. Paul Charter Commission  
City of St. Paul  
15 Kellogg Boulevard West  
St. Paul, MN 55102

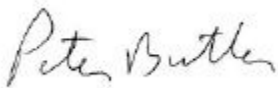
Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to oppose Charter Commission Item 19-6 amending Section 8.03: Determination of Sufficiency. The proposed language mandates the city clerk to reject a petition signature when the provided name, address and birth year do not match the voter's corresponding record on the public list of registered voters.

Referendum petitions are inherently opposed to a council's action. The proposed Section 8.03 language gives the council-appointed city clerk substantial discretion to decide whether the petition information "matches" the voter record. Signatures could be rejected for any discrepancy with the voter list (see examples in Attachment A).

Signing a petition is neither a vote nor a legislative act. I recommend that "eligible voter" replace "registered voter" for a valid signature under Section 8.02. The city clerk need only verify that the petition address is within St. Paul. This validation process eliminates subjective determinations about whether a signature "matches" the voter record and is readily transparent to the petitioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Butler".

Peter K. Butler  
2140 Bayard Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55116

# ATTACHMENT A: Examples of invalidated signatures not "matching" the voter record

Ramsey County Elections Office invalidated these signatures on my 2017 charter-amendment petition because the "Signer [is] not registered to vote in Saint Paul as indicated on petition." I have provided the signer's contemporaneous public voter record data above the signature line for comparison.

Voter ID 4759926      ANDREA ELVIRA NELL-ROSENBERG      581 ST CLAIR AVE      1986

10. <i>Andrea Rosenberg</i>	5/26	Andrea Rosenberg	581 St. Clair	St. Paul	86
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Voter ID 2211439      CHARLES T RUDBERG      1381 GOODRICH      1954

7. <i>Tom Rudberg</i>	3/12/16	Tom Rudberg	1381 Goodrich Ave	St Paul	54
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Voter ID 2259876      MAUREEN J DRISCOLL      310 MISSISSIPPI RIVER BLVD S      1954

10. <i>Maureen Driscoll</i>	4/18/16	Maureen Driscoll	310 S Miss Riv Blvd	St P	54
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Voter ID 2280771      KATHLEEN DALY MCMAHON      2006 WELLESLEY      1974

5. <i>Kathleen Daly</i>	4/10/16	Kathleen Daly	2006 Wellesley	St Paul	1974
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Voter ID 2244753;      DIANE MCDANEL HEIDEMAN      767 ASHLAND AVE      1953

4. <i>Diane McDanel</i>	6-16-16	Diane McDanel	767 Ashland	Ramsey	53
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Voter ID 5158434      GUNILLA M L MALMROS-SJOBERG      1031 TOPPING ST      1962

8. <i>Gunilla Sjoberg</i>	6/4/17	Gunilla Sjoberg	1031 Topping St	St Paul Ramsey	1962
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Voter ID 3022161      ELIZABETH ANN EGNASH      525 HOLLY AVE      1961

X <i>Lisa Egnash</i>	4/8/17	Lisa Egnash	525 Holly Ave	St. Paul	1961
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Voter ID 3471121      MARY ELLEN STOFFEL      1329 JUNO AVE      1984

X <i>Elly Stoffel</i>	4/10/16	Elly Stoffel	1329 JUNO Ave.	St. Paul Ramsey	84
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Voter ID 2266313      AURELIA HARRISON WILLS      955 LOMBARD AVE      1963

X <i>Aurelia Wills</i>	3/30/16	Aurelia Wills	955 Lombard	St Paul Ramsey	63
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Voter ID 2134164      JUDITH ANN MILLER      854 LINWOOD AVE # 1      1940

8. <i>Judy Miller</i>	5-6-17	Judy Miller	854 Linwood	Ramsey	40
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Voter ID 3166452      STEPHEN MATTHEW BOYD-SMITH      2099 BERKELEY      1967

X <i>Steve Boyd-Smith</i>	5/4/16	Steve M Boyd-Smith	2099 Berkeley Ave	"	1967
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Voter ID 4431676      ZACHERY LEMOYNE HARPER      175 CHARLES AVE # 233      1980

X <i>Zach Harper</i>	3/1/17	Zach Harper	175 Charles Ave	St Paul	80
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ATTACHMENT B: "Registered voter" and "registered to vote" are not equivalent

City of St. Paul Charter Section 8.02 requires petition signers to be registered voters, not registered to vote. A registered voter who moves, changes name or becomes inactive remains a registered voter but must update his or her registration before voting again. The person is not required to re-register.

## 2018 Minnesota Statutes

### 201.021 PERMANENT REGISTRATION SYSTEM.

A permanent system of voter registration by county is established, with a single, official, centralized, interactive computerized statewide voter registration list defined, maintained, and administered at the state level that contains the name and registration information of every legally registered voter in the state, and assigns a unique identifier to each legally registered voter in the state. The interactive computerized statewide voter registration list constitutes the official list of every legally registered voter in the state. The county auditor shall be chief registrar of voters and the chief custodian of the official registration records in each county. The secretary of state is responsible for defining, maintaining, and administering the centralized system.

**History:** [1973 c 676 s 3](#); [1975 c 204 s 94](#); [1981 c 29 art 2 s 5](#); [1984 c 560 s 2](#); [1987 c 361 s 2](#); [2004 c 293 art 1 s 1](#)

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## Prepare to Vote

Voting in elections is your opportunity to be heard, hold elected officials accountable and have a say in important issues that affect your community. Prepare to vote so you can take part in our democracy.

- [Find where you vote](#)
- [Prepare for key election dates](#)
- [Look at a list of elected officials](#) (PDF)
- [Print voter outreach materials](#)
- [Polling place list](#)

### Information for Saint Paul landlords

- Register to vote
- Or update your voter registration

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/elections-voting/voters/prepare-vote>  
Accessed February 9, 2019

<b>7.</b>	mark one box and provide the number that applies to you:									
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I have a MN-issued driver's license or MN ID card number:								
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not have a MN-issued driver's license or MN ID card								
	The last four digits of my Social Security Number are:									
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not have a MN-issued driver's license, a MN-issued ID card, or a Social Security Number.								
<b>Registration Updates - Are you currently registered under a different name or address?</b>										
previous last name				previous first name				previous middle name		
previous address where you were last registered							city	state	zip code	

Minnesota Voter Registration Application excerpt