



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

### 2023 and 2024

#### HB2225

Introduced 2/8/2023, by Rep. Marcus C. Evans, Jr.

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/10-10	from Ch. 46, par. 10-10
10 ILCS 5/28-3	from Ch. 46, par. 28-3
10 ILCS 5/28-9	from Ch. 46, par. 28-9
10 ILCS 5/28-11	from Ch. 46, par. 28-11
10 ILCS 5/28-12	from Ch. 46, par. 28-12
10 ILCS 5/28-13	from Ch. 46, par. 28-13

Amends the Election Code. Removes provisions specifying petition and referenda requirements for proposed statewide advisory public questions. Modifies the procedures for: petition signature sample verification, including removing specified responsibilities of election authorities; valid signature calculation; and petition verification watchers. Makes conforming changes. Makes other changes. Effective immediately.

LRB103 25610 BMS 51959 b

1 AN ACT concerning elections.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Election Code is amended by changing  
5 Sections 10-10, 28-3, 28-9, 28-11, 28-12, and 28-13 as  
6 follows:

7 (10 ILCS 5/10-10) (from Ch. 46, par. 10-10)

8 Sec. 10-10. Within 24 hours after the receipt of the  
9 certificate of nomination or nomination papers or proposed  
10 question of public policy, as the case may be, and the  
11 objector's petition, the chair of the electoral board other  
12 than the State Board of Elections shall send a call by  
13 registered or certified mail to each of the members of the  
14 electoral board, and to the objector who filed the objector's  
15 petition, and either to the candidate whose certificate of  
16 nomination or nomination papers are objected to or to the  
17 principal proponent or attorney for proponents of a question  
18 of public policy, as the case may be, whose petitions are  
19 objected to, and shall also cause the sheriff of the county or  
20 counties in which such officers and persons reside to serve a  
21 copy of such call upon each of such officers and persons, which  
22 call shall set out the fact that the electoral board is  
23 required to meet to hear and pass upon the objections to

1 nominations made for the office, designating it, and shall  
2 state the day, hour and place at which the electoral board  
3 shall meet for the purpose, which place shall be in the county  
4 court house in the county in the case of the County Officers  
5 Electoral Board, the Municipal Officers Electoral Board, the  
6 Township Officers Electoral Board or the Education Officers  
7 Electoral Board, except that the Municipal Officers Electoral  
8 Board, the Township Officers Electoral Board, and the  
9 Education Officers Electoral Board may meet at the location  
10 where the governing body of the municipality, township, or  
11 community college district, respectively, holds its regularly  
12 scheduled meetings, if that location is available; provided  
13 that voter records may be removed from the offices of an  
14 election authority only at the discretion and under the  
15 supervision of the election authority. In those cases where  
16 the State Board of Elections is the electoral board designated  
17 under Section 10-9, the chair of the State Board of Elections  
18 shall, within 24 hours after the receipt of the certificate of  
19 nomination or nomination papers or petitions for a proposed  
20 amendment to Article IV of the Constitution or proposed  
21 statewide question of public policy, send a call by registered  
22 or certified mail to the objector who files the objector's  
23 petition, and either to the candidate whose certificate of  
24 nomination or nomination papers are objected to or to the  
25 principal proponent or attorney for proponents of the proposed  
26 Constitutional amendment or statewide question of public

1 policy and shall state the day, hour, and place at which the  
2 electoral board shall meet for the purpose, which place may be  
3 in the Capitol Building or in the principal or permanent  
4 branch office of the State Board. The day of the meeting shall  
5 not be less than 3 nor more than 5 days after the receipt of  
6 the certificate of nomination or nomination papers and the  
7 objector's petition by the chair of the electoral board.

8 The electoral board shall have the power to administer  
9 oaths and to subpoena and examine witnesses and, at the  
10 request of either party and only upon a vote by a majority of  
11 its members, may authorize the chair to issue subpoenas  
12 requiring the attendance of witnesses and subpoenas duces  
13 tecum requiring the production of such books, papers, records  
14 and documents as may be evidence of any matter under inquiry  
15 before the electoral board, in the same manner as witnesses  
16 are subpoenaed in the Circuit Court.

17 Service of such subpoenas shall be made by any sheriff or  
18 other person in the same manner as in cases in such court and  
19 the fees of such sheriff shall be the same as is provided by  
20 law, and shall be paid by the objector or candidate who causes  
21 the issuance of the subpoena. In case any person so served  
22 shall knowingly neglect or refuse to obey any such subpoena,  
23 or to testify, the electoral board shall at once file a  
24 petition in the circuit court of the county in which such  
25 hearing is to be heard, or has been attempted to be heard,  
26 setting forth the facts, of such knowing refusal or neglect,

1 and accompanying the petition with a copy of the citation and  
2 the answer, if one has been filed, together with a copy of the  
3 subpoena and the return of service thereon, and shall apply  
4 for an order of court requiring such person to attend and  
5 testify, and forthwith produce books and papers, before the  
6 electoral board. Any circuit court of the state, excluding the  
7 judge who is sitting on the electoral board, upon such showing  
8 shall order such person to appear and testify, and to  
9 forthwith produce such books and papers, before the electoral  
10 board at a place to be fixed by the court. If such person shall  
11 knowingly fail or refuse to obey such order of the court  
12 without lawful excuse, the court shall punish him or her by  
13 fine and imprisonment, as the nature of the case may require  
14 and may be lawful in cases of contempt of court.

15 The electoral board on the first day of its meeting shall  
16 adopt rules of procedure for the introduction of evidence and  
17 the presentation of arguments and may, in its discretion,  
18 provide for the filing of briefs by the parties to the  
19 objection or by other interested persons.

20 In the event of a State Electoral Board hearing on  
21 objections to a petition for an amendment to Article IV of the  
22 Constitution pursuant to Section 3 of Article XIV of the  
23 Constitution, to a petition proposing a statewide advisory  
24 public question, or to a petition for a question of public  
25 policy to be submitted to the voters of the entire State, ~~the~~  
26 ~~certificates of the county clerks and boards of election~~

1 ~~commissioners showing~~ the results of the random sample of  
2 signatures on the petition shall be prima facie valid and  
3 accurate, and shall be presumed to establish the number of  
4 valid and invalid signatures on the petition ~~sheets reviewed~~  
5 ~~in the random sample~~, as prescribed in Section 28-11 and 28-12  
6 of this Code. Either party, however, may introduce evidence at  
7 such hearing to dispute the findings as to particular  
8 signatures. In addition to the foregoing, in the absence of  
9 competent evidence presented at such hearing by a party  
10 substantially challenging the results of a random sample, such  
11 results ~~or showing a different result obtained by an~~  
12 ~~additional sample, this certificate of a county clerk or board~~  
13 ~~of election commissioners~~ shall be presumed to establish the  
14 ratio of valid to invalid signatures on the petition ~~within~~  
15 ~~the particular election jurisdiction.~~

16 The electoral board shall take up the question as to  
17 whether or not the certificate of nomination or nomination  
18 papers or petitions are in proper form, and whether or not they  
19 were filed within the time and under the conditions required  
20 by law, and whether or not they are the genuine certificate of  
21 nomination or nomination papers or petitions which they  
22 purport to be, and whether or not in the case of the  
23 certificate of nomination in question it represents accurately  
24 the decision of the caucus or convention issuing it, and in  
25 general shall decide whether or not the certificate of  
26 nomination or nominating papers or petitions on file are valid

1 or whether the objections thereto should be sustained and the  
2 decision of a majority of the electoral board shall be final  
3 subject to judicial review as provided in Section 10-10.1. The  
4 electoral board must state its findings in writing and must  
5 state in writing which objections, if any, it has sustained. A  
6 copy of the decision shall be served upon the parties to the  
7 proceedings in open proceedings before the electoral board. If  
8 a party does not appear for receipt of the decision, the  
9 decision shall be deemed to have been served on the absent  
10 party on the date when a copy of the decision is personally  
11 delivered or on the date when a copy of the decision is  
12 deposited in the United States mail, in a sealed envelope or  
13 package, with postage prepaid, addressed to each party  
14 affected by the decision or to such party's attorney of  
15 record, if any, at the address on record for such person in the  
16 files of the electoral board.

17 Upon the expiration of the period within which a  
18 proceeding for judicial review must be commenced under Section  
19 10-10.1, the electoral board shall, unless a proceeding for  
20 judicial review has been commenced within such period,  
21 transmit, by registered or certified mail, a certified copy of  
22 its ruling, together with the original certificate of  
23 nomination or nomination papers or petitions and the original  
24 objector's petition, to the officer or board with whom the  
25 certificate of nomination or nomination papers or petitions,  
26 as objected to, were on file, and such officer or board shall

1 abide by and comply with the ruling so made to all intents and  
2 purposes.

3 (Source: P.A. 99-78, eff. 7-20-15; 99-642, eff. 7-28-16;  
4 100-1027, eff. 1-1-19.)

5 (10 ILCS 5/28-3) (from Ch. 46, par. 28-3)

6 Sec. 28-3. Form of petition for public question. Petitions  
7 for the submission of public questions shall consist of sheets  
8 of uniform size and each sheet shall contain, above the space  
9 for signature, an appropriate heading, giving the information  
10 as to the question of public policy to be submitted, and  
11 specifying the state at large or the political subdivision or  
12 district or precinct or combination of precincts or other  
13 territory in which it is to be submitted and, where by law the  
14 public question must be submitted at a particular election,  
15 the election at which it is to be submitted. In the case of a  
16 petition for the submission of a public question described in  
17 subsection (b) of Section 28-6, the heading shall also specify  
18 the regular election at which the question is to be submitted  
19 and include the precincts included in the territory concerning  
20 which the public question is to be submitted, as well as a  
21 common description of such territory in plain and nonlegal  
22 language, such description to describe the territory by  
23 reference to streets, natural or artificial landmarks,  
24 addresses or any other method which would enable a voter  
25 signing the petition to be informed of the territory



1 concerning which the question is to be submitted. The heading  
2 of each sheet shall be the same. Such petition shall be signed  
3 by the registered voters of the political subdivision or  
4 district or precinct or combination of precincts in which the  
5 question of public policy is to be submitted in their own  
6 proper persons only, and opposite the signature of each signer  
7 his residence address shall be written or printed, which  
8 residence address shall include the street address or rural  
9 route number of the signer, as the case may be, as well as the  
10 signer's county, and city, village or town, and state;  
11 provided that the county or city, village or town, and state of  
12 residence of such electors may be printed on the petition  
13 forms where all of the electors signing the petition reside in  
14 the same county or city, village or town, and state. Standard  
15 abbreviations may be used in writing the residence address,  
16 including street number, if any. No signature shall be valid  
17 or be counted in considering the validity or sufficiency of  
18 such petition unless the requirements of this Section are  
19 complied with.

20 At the bottom of each sheet of such petition shall be added  
21 a circulator's statement, signed by a person 18 years of age or  
22 older who is a citizen of the United States, stating the street  
23 address or rural route number, as the case may be, as well as  
24 the county, city, village or town, and state; certifying that  
25 the signatures on that sheet of the petition were signed in his  
26 or her presence and are genuine, and that to the best of his or

1 her knowledge and belief the persons so signing were at the  
2 time of signing the petition registered voters of the  
3 political subdivision or district or precinct or combination  
4 of precincts in which the question of public policy is to be  
5 submitted and that their respective residences are correctly  
6 stated therein. Such statement shall be sworn to before some  
7 officer authorized to administer oaths in this State.

8 Such sheets, before being filed with the proper officer or  
9 board, shall be bound securely and numbered consecutively. The  
10 sheets shall not be fastened by pasting them together end to  
11 end, so as to form a continuous strip or roll. All petition  
12 sheets which are filed with the proper local election  
13 officials, election authorities or the State Board of  
14 Elections shall be the original sheets which have been signed  
15 by the voters and by the circulator, and not photocopies or  
16 duplicates of such sheets. A petition, when presented or  
17 filed, shall not be withdrawn, altered, or added to, and no  
18 signature shall be revoked except by revocation in writing  
19 presented or filed with the board or officer with whom the  
20 petition is required to be presented or filed, and before the  
21 presentment or filing of such petition, except as may  
22 otherwise be provided in another statute which authorize the  
23 public question. Whoever forges any name of a signer upon any  
24 petition shall be deemed guilty of a forgery, and on  
25 conviction thereof, shall be punished accordingly.

26 In addition to the foregoing requirements, a petition

1 proposing an amendment to Article IV of the Constitution  
2 pursuant to Section 3 of Article XIV of the Constitution, a  
3 petition proposing a statewide advisory public question, or a  
4 petition proposing a question of public policy to be submitted  
5 to the voters of the entire State shall be in conformity with  
6 the requirements of Section 28-9 of this Article.

7 If multiple sets of petitions for submission of the same  
8 public questions are filed, the State Board of Elections,  
9 appropriate election authority or local election official  
10 where the petitions are filed shall within 2 business days  
11 notify the proponent of his or her multiple petition filings  
12 and that proponent has 3 business days after receipt of the  
13 notice to notify the State Board of Elections, appropriate  
14 election authority or local election official that he or she  
15 may cancel prior sets of petitions. If the proponent notifies  
16 the State Board of Elections, appropriate election authority  
17 or local election official, the last set of petitions filed  
18 shall be the only petitions to be considered valid by the State  
19 Board of Elections, appropriate election authority or local  
20 election official. If the proponent fails to notify the State  
21 Board of Elections, appropriate election authority or local  
22 election official then only the first set of petitions filed  
23 shall be valid and all subsequent petitions shall be void.

24 (Source: P.A. 98-756, eff. 7-16-14.)

25 (10 ILCS 5/28-9) (from Ch. 46, par. 28-9)

1           Sec. 28-9. Petitions for proposed amendments to Article IV  
2 of the Constitution pursuant to Section 3, Article XIV of the  
3 Constitution shall be signed by a number of electors equal in  
4 number to at least 8% of the total votes cast for candidates  
5 for Governor in the preceding gubernatorial election. Such  
6 petition shall have been signed by the petitioning electors  
7 not more than 24 months preceding the general election at  
8 which the proposed amendment is to be submitted and shall be  
9 filed with the Secretary of State at least 6 months before that  
10 general election.

11           Upon receipt of a petition for a proposed Constitutional  
12 amendment, the Secretary of State shall, as soon as is  
13 practicable, but no later than the close of the next business  
14 day, deliver such petition to the State Board of Elections.

15           Petitions for advisory questions of public policy to be  
16 submitted to the voters of the entire State shall be signed by  
17 a number of voters equal in number to 8% of the total votes  
18 cast for candidates for Governor in the preceding  
19 gubernatorial election. Such petition shall have been signed  
20 by said petitioners not more than 24 months preceding the date  
21 of the general election at which the question is to be  
22 submitted and shall be filed with the State Board of Elections  
23 at least 6 months before that general election.

24           ~~The proponents of the proposed statewide advisory public~~  
25 ~~question shall file the original petition in bound sections.~~  
26 ~~Each section shall be composed of consecutively numbered~~

1 ~~petition sheets containing only the signatures of registered~~  
2 ~~voters. Any petition sheets not consecutively numbered or~~  
3 ~~which contain duplicate page numbers already used on other~~  
4 ~~sheets, or are photocopies or duplicates of the original~~  
5 ~~sheets, shall not be considered part of the petition for the~~  
6 ~~purpose of the random sampling verification and shall not be~~  
7 ~~counted toward the minimum number of signatures required to~~  
8 ~~qualify the proposed statewide advisory public question for~~  
9 ~~the ballot.~~

10 ~~Within 7 business days following the last day for filing~~  
11 ~~the original petition, the proponents shall also file copies~~  
12 ~~of the petition sheets with each proper election authority and~~  
13 ~~obtain a receipt therefor.~~

14 For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be  
15 defined and construed as follows:

- 16 1. "Board" means the State Board of Elections.
- 17 2. "Election Authority" means a county clerk or city or  
18 county board of election commissioners.
- 19 3. (Blank).
- 20 4. "Proponents" means any person, association, committee,  
21 organization or other group, or their designated  
22 representatives, who advocate and cause the circulation and  
23 filing of petitions for a statewide advisory question of  
24 public policy or a proposed constitutional amendment for  
25 submission at a general election and who has registered with  
26 the Board as provided in this Act.

1           5. "Opponents" means any person, association, committee,  
2 organization or other group, or their designated  
3 representatives, who oppose a statewide advisory question of  
4 public policy or a proposed constitutional amendment for  
5 submission at a general election and who have registered with  
6 the Board as provided in this Act.

7 (Source: P.A. 97-81, eff. 7-5-11; 98-1171, eff. 6-1-15.)

8           (10 ILCS 5/28-11) (from Ch. 46, par. 28-11)

9           Sec. 28-11. ~~The Board shall design a standard and~~  
10 ~~scientific random sampling method for the verification of~~  
11 ~~petition signatures for statewide advisory referenda and shall~~  
12 ~~conduct a public test to prove the validity of its sampling~~  
13 ~~method. Notice of the time and place for such test shall be~~  
14 ~~given at least 10 days before the date on which such test is to~~  
15 ~~be conducted and in the manner prescribed for notice of~~  
16 ~~regular Board meetings.~~ Signatures on petitions for  
17 constitutional amendments initiated pursuant to Article XIV,  
18 Section 3 of the Illinois Constitution or statewide advisory  
19 referenda need not be segregated by election jurisdiction. The  
20 Board shall design a ~~an alternative~~ signature verification  
21 method using random sampling for referenda initiated pursuant  
22 to Article XIV, Section 3 of the Illinois Constitution and  
23 statewide advisory referenda.

24           ~~The~~ Within 14 business days following the last day for the  
25 ~~filing of the original petition as prescribed in Section 28 9,~~

1 ~~the~~ Board shall apply its ~~proven~~ random sampling method to the  
2 petition sheets ~~in each election jurisdiction section~~ for the  
3 purpose of selecting and identifying the petition signatures  
4 to be included in the sample signature verification to be  
5 conducted by the Board. ~~for the respective jurisdictions and~~  
6 ~~shall prepare and transmit to each proper election authority a~~  
7 ~~list by page and line number of the signatures from its~~  
8 ~~election jurisdiction selected for verification.~~

9 ~~For each election jurisdiction, the sample verification~~  
10 ~~shall include an examination of either (a) 10% of the~~  
11 ~~signatures if 5,010 or more signatures are involved; or (b)~~  
12 ~~500 signatures if more than 500 but less than 5,010 signatures~~  
13 ~~are involved; or (c) all signatures if 500 or less signatures~~  
14 ~~are involved.~~

15 The State Board of Elections ~~Each election authority with~~  
16 ~~whom jurisdictional copies of petition sheets were filed shall~~  
17 determine the validity ~~use the proven random sampling method~~  
18 ~~designed and furnished by the Board for the verification of~~  
19 those signatures contained in the sample ~~shown on the list~~  
20 ~~supplied by the Board and in accordance with the following~~  
21 ~~criteria for determination of petition signature validity:~~

22 1. Determine if the person who signed the petition is  
23 a registered voter in that election jurisdiction or was a  
24 registered voter therein on the date the petition was  
25 signed;

26 2. Determine if the signature of the person who signed

1 the petition reasonably compares with the signature shown  
2 on that person's registration record card.

3 The Board may adopt rules, as necessary, to implement the  
4 provisions of this Section.

5 ~~Within 14 business days following receipt from the Board~~  
6 ~~of the list of signatures for verification, each election~~  
7 ~~authority shall transmit a properly dated certificate to the~~  
8 ~~Board which shall indicate; (a) the page and line number of~~  
9 ~~petition signatures examined, (b) the validity or invalidity~~  
10 ~~of such signatures, and (c) the reasons for invalidity, based~~  
11 ~~on the criteria heretofore prescribed. The Board shall prepare~~  
12 ~~and adopt a standard form of certificate for use by the~~  
13 ~~election authorities which shall be transmitted with the list~~  
14 ~~of signatures for verification.~~

15 ~~Upon written request of the election authority that, due~~  
16 ~~to the volume of signatures in the sample for its~~  
17 ~~jurisdiction, additional time is needed to properly perform~~  
18 ~~the signature verification, the Board may grant the election~~  
19 ~~authority additional days to complete the verification and~~  
20 ~~transmit the certificate of results. These certificates of~~  
21 ~~random sample verification results shall be available for~~  
22 ~~public inspection within 24 hours after receipt by the State~~  
23 ~~Board of Elections.~~

24 (Source: P.A. 97-81, eff. 7-5-11.)

25 (10 ILCS 5/28-12) (from Ch. 46, par. 28-12)



1           Sec. 28-12. Upon completion of the signature verification  
2 for referenda initiated pursuant to Article XIV, Section 3 of  
3 the Illinois Constitution and statewide advisory referenda,  
4 ~~Upon receipt of the certificates of the election authorities~~  
5 ~~showing the results of the sample signature verification,~~ the  
6 Board shall:

7           1. Based on the sample of signatures examined,  
8 calculate the ratio of invalid and ~~or~~ valid signatures ~~in~~  
9 ~~each election jurisdiction.~~

10           2. Apply the ratio of invalid to valid signatures ~~in~~  
11 ~~an election jurisdiction sample~~ to the total number of  
12 petition signatures submitted on the petition ~~from that~~  
13 ~~election jurisdiction.~~

14           3. Compute the degree of multiple signature  
15 contamination ~~in each election jurisdiction sample.~~

16           4. Adjusting ~~Adjust~~ for multiple signature  
17 contamination and the number of invalid signatures,  
18 project the total number of valid petition signatures  
19 submitted ~~from each election jurisdiction.~~

20           5. (Blank). ~~Aggregate the total number of projected~~  
21 ~~valid signatures from each election jurisdiction and~~  
22 ~~project the total number of valid signatures on the~~  
23 ~~petition statewide.~~

24           If such statewide projection establishes a total number of  
25 valid petition signatures less ~~not greater~~ than 95.0% of the  
26 minimum number of signatures required to qualify the proposed

1 statewide advisory public question for the ballot, the  
2 petition shall be presumed invalid; provided that, prior to  
3 the last day for ballot certification for the general  
4 election, the Board shall conduct a hearing for the purpose of  
5 allowing the proponents to present competent evidence or an  
6 additional sample to rebut the presumption of invalidity. At  
7 the conclusion of such hearing, and after the resolution of  
8 any specific objection filed pursuant to Section 10-8 of this  
9 Code, the Board shall issue a final order declaring the  
10 petition to be valid or invalid and shall, in accordance with  
11 its order, certify or not certify the proposition for the  
12 ballot.

13 If such statewide projection establishes a total number of  
14 valid petition signatures greater than 95.0% of the minimum  
15 number of signatures required to qualify the proposed  
16 Constitutional amendment or statewide advisory public question  
17 for the ballot, the results of the sample shall be considered  
18 inconclusive and, if no specific objections to the petition  
19 are filed pursuant to Section 10-8 of this Code, the Board  
20 shall issue a final order declaring the petition to be valid  
21 and shall certify the proposition for the ballot.

22 In either event, the Board shall append to its final order  
23 the detailed results of the sample ~~from each election~~  
24 ~~jurisdiction~~ which shall include: (a) specific page and line  
25 numbers of signatures actually verified or determined to be  
26 invalid ~~by the respective election authorities~~, and (b) the

1 calculations and projections performed by the Board ~~for each~~  
2 ~~election jurisdiction.~~

3 (Source: P.A. 97-81, eff. 7-5-11.)

4 (10 ILCS 5/28-13) (from Ch. 46, par. 28-13)

5 Sec. 28-13. Each political party and civic organization as  
6 well as the registered proponents and opponents of a petition  
7 for an amendment to Article IV of the Constitution pursuant to  
8 Section 3 of Article XIV of the Constitution, or a proposed  
9 statewide advisory public question shall be entitled ~~to one~~  
10 ~~watcher in the office of the election authority~~ to observe the  
11 conduct of the sample signature verification and participate  
12 in any proceedings related thereto. ~~However, in those election~~  
13 ~~jurisdictions where a 10% sample is required, the proponents~~  
14 ~~and opponents may appoint no more than 5 assistant watchers in~~  
15 ~~addition to the 1 principal watcher permitted herein.~~

16 Within 7 days following the last day for filing of the  
17 original petition, the proponents and opponents shall certify  
18 in writing to the Board that they publicly support or oppose  
19 the proposed statewide advisory public question. The  
20 proponents and opponents of such questions shall register the  
21 name and address of its group and the name and address of its  
22 chair and designated agent for acceptance of service of  
23 notices with the Board. Thereupon, the Board shall prepare a  
24 list of the registered proponents and opponents and shall  
25 adopt a standard proponents' and opponents' watcher credential

1 form. ~~A copy of such list and sufficient copies of such~~  
2 ~~credentials shall be transmitted with the list for the sample~~  
3 ~~signature verification to the appropriate election~~  
4 ~~authorities. Those election authorities shall issue~~  
5 ~~credentials to the permissible number of watchers for each~~  
6 ~~proponent and opponent group; provided, however, that a~~  
7 ~~prospective watcher shall first present to the election~~  
8 ~~authority a letter of authorization signed by the chair of the~~  
9 ~~proponent or opponent group he or she represents.~~

10 Political party and qualified civic organization watcher  
11 credentials shall be substantially in the form and shall be  
12 authorized in the manner prescribed in Section 7-34 of this  
13 Code.

14 The rights and limitations of pollwatchers as prescribed  
15 by Section 7-34 of this Code, insofar as they may be made  
16 applicable, shall be applicable to watchers at the conduct of  
17 the sample signature verification.

18 The ~~principal watcher for the~~ proponents and opponents may  
19 make signed written objections to the Board relating to  
20 procedures observed during the conduct of the sample signature  
21 verification which could materially affect the results of the  
22 sample. ~~Such written objections shall be presented to the~~  
23 ~~election authority and a copy mailed to the Board and shall be~~  
24 ~~attached to the certificate of sample results transmitted by~~  
25 ~~the election authority to the Board.~~

26 (Source: P.A. 100-1027, eff. 1-1-19.)

1           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
2    becoming law.