



Secretary of State Jason Kander
Election Review
August 6, 2014

**Review of Alleged Potential Irregularities with
Initiative Petition Signatures**
Background

Several Missouri county clerks contacted the Secretary of State's Office in May, June, and July 2014 regarding alleged potential irregularities with signatures on initiative petitions 2014-024 and 2014-066. Following these contacts, the Secretary of State's Office conducted a review of those alleged irregularities in the following counties: Boone, Buchanan, Cole, Cooper, Grundy, Jackson, Knox, Macon, Pike, Schuyler, and St. Louis County. The purpose of these reviews was to determine whether signatures identified on the petitions were signed by the individual the signature purported to represent. As a result of these reviews, seven signatures – that were not already discounted by local election authorities – were discounted by the Missouri Secretary of State's Office during the signature verification process, all from Buchanan County and all relating to petition 2014-066.

Summary of Review

The Secretary of State's Office first gathered details, including the annotated pages and specific signatures associated with the alleged irregularities, from each respective county clerk and then reviewed those annotated pages and signatures. Next, the Office attempted to contact those individuals purportedly represented by the signatures. During the reviews, the Office also attempted to contact circulators of record for the pages and/or signatures questioned by the county clerks, as well as the organization(s) that employed such circulators.

The Office's review of Buchanan County's allegations regarding petition 2014-066 found: twelve individuals whose signatures were questioned did sign the petition; nine individuals whose signatures were questioned who stated they did not sign the petition; eight individuals whose signatures were questioned stated they did not recall if they did or did not sign the petition; eight individuals who purportedly signed the petition passed away before the date listed adjacent to the questioned signatures; and two individuals whose signatures were questioned had the same or similar name of an individual who passed away prior to the date listed

adjacent to the questioned signature. The Secretary of State's Office also attempted to contact additional individuals whose signatures were questioned by the Buchanan County Clerk. The Secretary of State's Office was not able to locate accurate contact information for some of those individuals. For whom the Office was able to locate contact information, the Office was unsuccessful in contacting them within the time period allotted by state law for signature verification.

The Office's review of Boone County's allegations regarding petition 2014-066 found: seven individuals who purportedly signed the petition passed away before the date listed adjacent to the questioned signatures; and one individual whose alleged signature had been questioned could not be verified so as to permit further review.

The Office reviewed Cole County's allegations regarding petition 2014-066 and attempted to contact one individual whose signature was questioned by the Cole County Clerk's office. The Secretary of State's Office was not able to locate accurate contact information for that individual and thus, was unable to reach any conclusions during this review.

The Office's review of Cooper County's allegations regarding petition 2014-066 found: four individuals who purportedly signed the petition passed away before the

date listed adjacent to the questioned signatures.

The Office's review of Grundy County's allegations regarding petition 2014-024 found that one individual who purportedly signed the petition confirmed having signed the petition, but listed a work address because they were unsure if the petition was legitimate. The Office's review of Grundy County's allegations regarding petition 2014-066 found that two individuals who purportedly signed the petition stated they did not sign the petition.

The Office reviewed Jackson County's allegations regarding petition 2014-066 and attempted to contact additional individuals whose alleged signatures were questioned by the Jackson County Election Board. The Secretary of State's Office was not able to locate accurate contact information for some of those individuals. For whom the Office was able to locate contact information, the Office was unsuccessful in contacting them within the time period allotted by state law for signature verification.

The Office's review of Knox County's allegations regarding petition 2014-066 found: two individuals whose signatures were questioned had the same or similar name of an individual who passed away prior to the date listed adjacent to the questioned signature.

The Office's review of Macon County's allegations regarding petition 2014-066 found: four individuals who purportedly signed the petition passed away before the date listed adjacent to the questioned signatures; and one individual whose signature was questioned possessed the same name of an individual who passed away prior to the date listed adjacent to the questioned signature.

The Office's review of Pike County's allegations regarding petition 2014-066 found: seven individuals who purportedly signed the petition passed away before the date listed adjacent to the questioned signatures; one individual whose signature was questioned had the same name of an individual who passed away prior to the date listed adjacent to the questioned signature; and one individual whose signature on a specific petition page was questioned stated they did not sign the petition on that particular page.

The Office's review of Schuyler County's allegations regarding petition 2014-066 found: three individuals whose signatures were questioned stated they did not sign the petition; and one individual who purportedly signed the petition who had passed away before the date listed adjacent to the questioned signature.

The Office's review of St. Louis County's allegations regarding petition 2014-066 found: one individual whose signature was questioned did not recall signing

the petition but could not definitively state that she did not sign the petition; and one individual whose signature was questioned and who stated she did sign a petition but was unsure if it related to early voting. The Secretary of State's Office attempted to contact additional individuals whose signatures were questioned by the St. Louis County Board of Elections but the Office either lacked accurate contact information to reach them or was unsuccessful in contacting them within the time period allotted by state law for signature verification.

During the review of these allegations of potential irregularities, the Secretary of State's office contacted the respective county prosecuting attorneys, when appropriate, pursuant to section 116.090, RSMo. On August 5, 2014, the Secretary of State's office communicated referrals of its findings to the following county prosecuting attorneys: Boone County, Buchanan County, Cooper County, Grundy County, Knox County, Pike County, and Schuyler County.