



July 31, 2026

Auditor Simone Rede
Portland City Auditor's Office
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 310
Portland, OR 97204
via email only at auditor.rede@portlandoregon.gov

Re: Requested Specific Error Correction and Evidence to Restart Preprocessing of IP 1PDX2026

Dear Auditor Rede:

We appreciate your Office's response to our letter and are encouraged by your statement, through counsel, that the Auditor's Office is committed to correcting errors. We share that commitment. Like you, we want Portland voters to have confidence that this verification process is fair, accurate, transparent, and worthy of public trust. As Secretary of State Read recently observed, "we can work within our trusted election systems with the shared goal of allowing the voters of Oregon to make their voices heard."

We are not asking for a guaranteed outcome. We are asking for a fair and accurate review of every signature and a transparent process rooted in integrity. If, after a lawful and accurate verification process, the petition qualifies or fails to qualify, we will accept that result. What we cannot accept is a verification process that proceeds on a petition universe materially affected by demonstrable preprocessing errors.

Some have suggested that our concerns reflect disagreement with Oregon's statutory verification process. They do not. We recognize that Oregon law requires preprocessing before statistical sampling and that the City has the authority to perform that work. Our concern is whether that authority was exercised accurately, consistently, and in a manner that protects the constitutional initiative rights of Portland voters.

The Chief Petitioners seek only one result: that every qualified Portland elector whose signature complies with Oregon law receives the consideration the law requires. As demonstrated below, the errors in the City's preprocessing decisions materially affected the petition universe itself. Because the petition universe is the foundation upon which the statutory sampling process depends, those errors cannot be cured by continuing the current verification process.

The City has already recognized that when a material error compromises the integrity of the statistical sample, the proper remedy is to stop, correct the error, and begin again. The same principle applies here. The verification process must restart with preprocessing so that the County conducts statistical sampling from an accurate and lawfully established petition universe.

We understand that the City may be hesitant to suspend verification or conduct the first sample anew for fear of robbing "elections officials of the time they need." We simply believe, and hope you agree, that there is more value to the Portland electorate's initiative rights under Article VI of the Oregon Constitution, and that protecting those rights is a more worthwhile goal than employee efficiency.

Background

We were provided information about the City's rejected petitions on the night of Friday, July 24, 2026. The "crosswalk" explaining renumbering was provided on Tuesday, July 28. Since then, we have worked diligently to review whether any of those rejections were made in error. **We have found numerous errors thus far and are continuing our research.** This letter does not attempt to catalog every preprocessing error identified to date. Rather, it provides representative examples demonstrating that the City's preprocessing determinations contain material errors affecting both the size and composition of the petition universe. We hope these examples will allow the City to fulfill its stated commitment to correcting errors before the verification process proceeds further.

The City's Renumbering Records Raise Additional Questions Regarding the Integrity of the Petition Universe.

Your response states that renumbering was "carefully tracked" and "recorded contemporaneously" on paper. The electronic records produced by the City do not support that assertion.

The City represented that it removed 498 petition sheets during preprocessing. It then produced what it described as a "crosswalk" identifying the replacement of those petition sheets. Rather than clarifying the City's preprocessing decisions, those records introduced substantial additional inconsistencies.

Most notably, the "crosswalk" identifies approximately 1,088 petition sheets as replacement sheets – more than double the number of petition sheets the City states it removed. In addition, the same replacement sheet appears in multiple places replacing different petition sheets, while other replacement sheets themselves appear later in the records as having then been replaced.

By way of example:

- Sheet 8337 replaced both Sheets 3833 and 3834.
- Sheet 8354 replaced both Sheets 1100 and 1154.
- Sheet 8494 replaced both Sheets 2830 and 2838.
- Sheet 8583 replaced both Sheet 10 and Sheet 8253.
- Sheet 8151 replaced both Sheets 4723 and 7627, but later appears as having itself been replaced by Sheet 783.

These inconsistencies raise substantial questions regarding the completeness and reliability of the City's renumbering records and further demonstrate why the petition universe is suspect.

The City's Errors Affected Both the Quantity and Quality of the County's Samples.

Presented below is a snapshot of our findings related to the City's erroneous rejection of 196 petition sheets based on an alleged mismatch between the circulator signature on petition declarations and the circulator's exemplar signature, which resulted in the disenfranchisement of potentially thousands of voters. (We are still reviewing evidence, and while we have discerned most of the specific rejection details, we have not been able to match all data to the City's "crosswalk" and other records; we are using the lowest confirmed numbers for the purposes of this letter.) This is one sample of the errors which we have found, and it alone provides a basis for the City to restart its

preprocessing, because the erroneous removal of these specific petitions artificially deflated the validity rate of the overall petition and therefore made the County incapable of conducting an accurate sample.

The City's error in removing these petition sheets created two distinct inaccuracies which render impossible an accurate County sample. First, there is the obvious *quantity error*: the County has over 3,400 fewer signatures than it should have, and that change in denominator is significant. This error exists in other places, and we include some additional examples which will need to be addressed in the next round of preprocessing. Second, and more importantly to these exemplar mismatches, there is a *quality error*: these exemplar errors result in the invalidation of potentially thousands of signatures collected by experienced, high-quality professional signature gatherers who, based on our campaign's internal review, provided clean, professional and high-validity petitions. These specific professional signature gatherers consistently had the cleanest petition sheets and the fewest signature errors during the campaign's pre-submission review. Now they are being excluded from the County's sample.

In other words, by removing 196 high quality and high-validity petitions from the population sampled by the County, the City provided a petition with an *artificially deflated* validity rate, and made the County unable to produce a sample that could accurately extrapolate to any quantity of signatures. In combination, these quality and quantity errors inflict a unique harm on the initiative and directly affect the rights of over 63,000 Portlanders who want the opportunity to vote on its content.

Sample of Quality and Quantity Error: The City Erred In Excluding 196 Petitions Based on an Alleged Mismatch Between A Circulators' Signatures on a Declaration and Those Circulators' Exemplar Signatures.

For the sake of brevity, we present these errors using examples to demonstrate the overall issue with disqualifying this batch of 196 petitions. Given that you have agreed to correct errors, we are sure that this provides you the basis necessary for our team and the City to work together and go through lines and Bates numbers we have identified to determine the scope of errors which require correction. As discussed above, the fact is that *any* improper exclusion of *any* petition from this batch results in an artificially decreased validity rate in the County sample. The County simply cannot accurately verify the petition with these exclusions. That alone justifies the City restarting preprocessing.

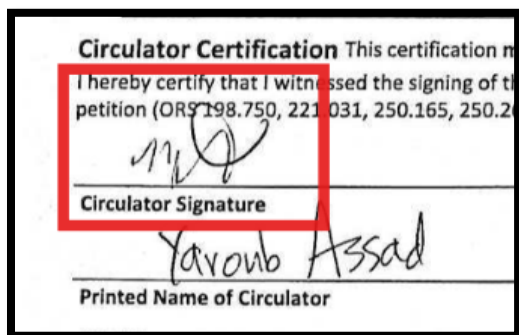
We of course understand that the City has a role in preventing fraud in its initiative process. It properly undertakes that effort when it confirms the identities of circulators so that it can verify that the signatures provided in the petition sheet bearing each declaration are accurate as to the circulator who signed it. The City seeks to confirm identity under its legal authority by matching the signature of a circulator to its records or, where no such records exist, using exemplars provided by the Chief Petitioners. The City invalidated 196 petitions because, it claims, the signatures on the declaration of circulator do not match the signatures on the exemplars provided.

Those determinations were made in error for four reasons. First, there were many matching signatures which were erroneously declared mismatches. I.e., there are clearly a cluster of similarities, or, at a minimum, there is no cluster of dissimilarities. (See OAR 165-014-0270 & VBM Manual at p 33 ["there must be a combination or cluster of dissimilarities to conclude that the signatures may be by different writers".]) Second, the City accepted some signatures from circulators

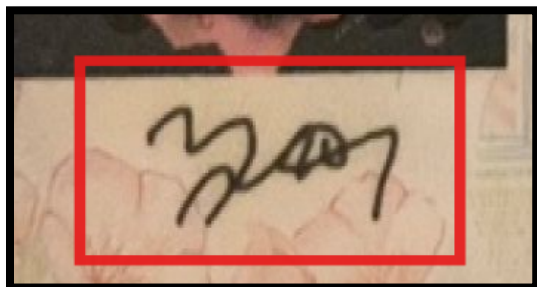
based on a match between the declaration and exemplar but also rejected similar circulator signatures on other declarations. We believe the City failed to compare those accepted declarations to others which it rejected, and, in so doing, failed to address consistent signatures and handwriting across a circulator's several petitions which would have justified the acceptance of that circulator's petition sheets. In comparing the signatures which were accepted to those which were rejected, we are simply unable to determine the difference. The same signatures were not given the same treatment under the law, and we cannot determine why the decisions would not be considered arbitrary, capricious or an abuse of discretion. Third, the City failed to provide us with an opportunity to give additional exemplars despite their queries into the sufficiency of exemplars during the permissible exemplar submission timeframe. Finally, the City has failed to incorporate extrinsic evidence which can be easily provided – including geolocation data for each circulator, live or written testimony from each circulator and additional exemplars – to satisfy its fraud-protection interest. In sum, these errors seem to demonstrate that the City has lost the fraud-prevention-forest for the signature-interpretation tree. Its myopic approach led to errors, and resulted in the disenfranchisement of potentially thousands of voters who simply want the opportunity to have their signatures counted properly.

The City's Determinations of Mismatch Were Incorrect. Reviewing the actual signatures on petition sheets to the exemplars provided demonstrates numerous errors in verification. Two exemplar comparisons demonstrate these errors. Yaroub Assad and Samuel Amick are Californians who assisted with the initiative circulation efforts. As Californians, the City did not have signatures for these two individuals in its database or files. The Chief Petitioners provided exemplars to the City in the form of driver's licenses. Despite the signatures on these individuals' driver's licenses demonstrating no cluster of dissimilarities, we have so far identified at least 71 of Mr. Assad's petitions and at least 14 of Mr. Amick's petitions which were removed.

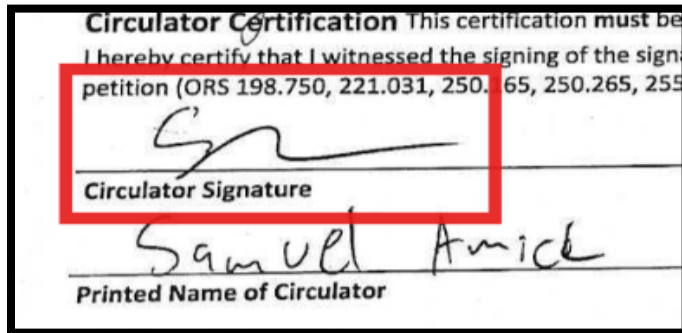
Here is a copy of Mr. Assad's signatures, which the City deemed to be mismatched:



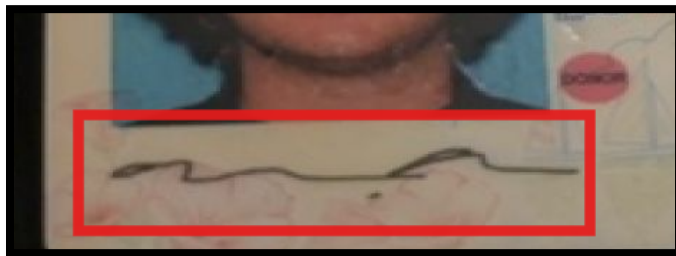
(Bates number 66.)



And here is a copy of Mr. Amick's signatures, which the City deemed to be mismatched:



(Bates number 98.)

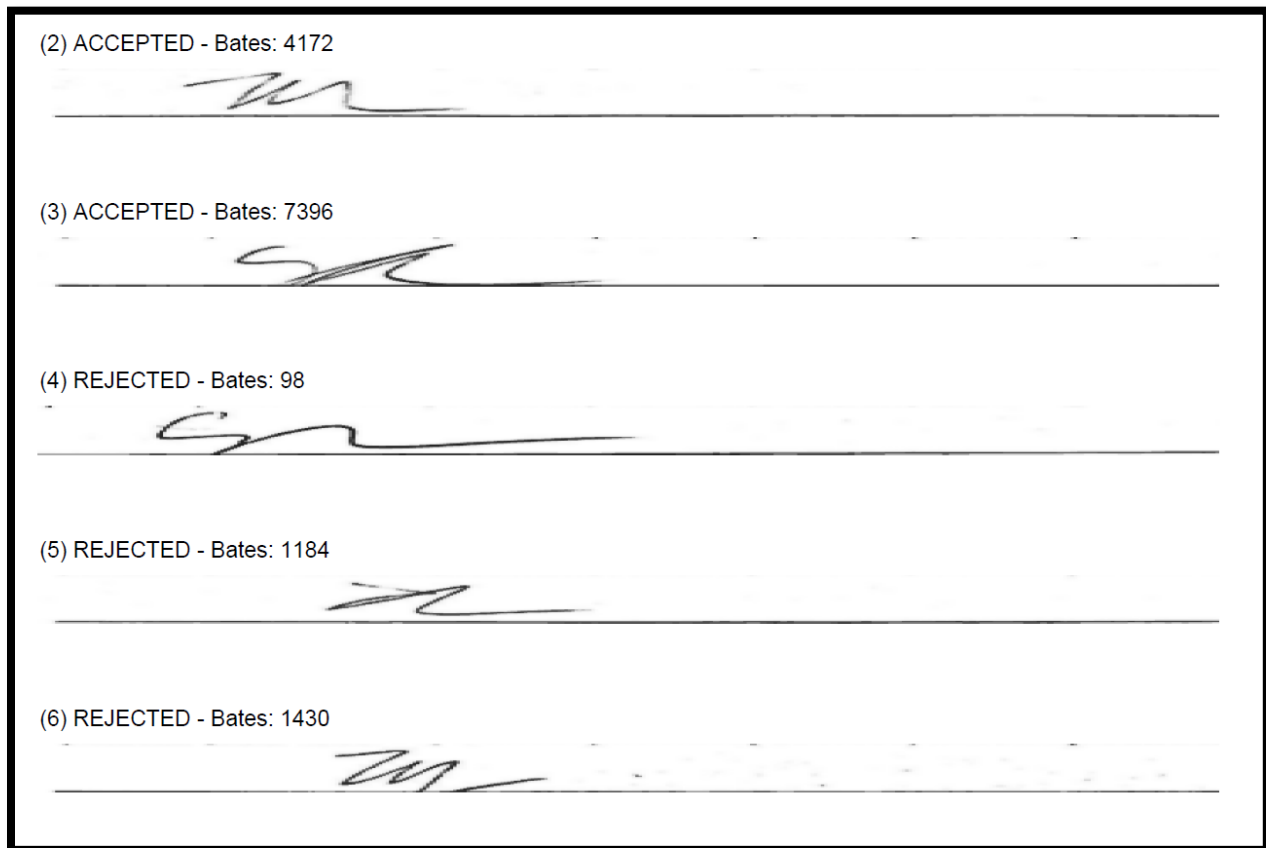


There are no clear clusters of dissimilarities in these signatures, and, as discussed below, the City in many cases agreed. Despite the clear signature matches and other evidence that these circulators were the individuals who signed their declarations, the City's decision to invalidate Mr. Assad and Mr. Amick's petition sheets – and only those two individuals – resulted in the disenfranchisement of nearly 750 Portland voters.

The City's Determination of Mismatch Failed to Incorporate Exemplar Materials It Had in Its Possession. Perhaps most notably, the City agreed that many of Mr. Assad and Mr. Amick's signatures *did* match. We have thus far found that the City accepted 66 declaration signatures from Mr. Assad and three declaration signatures from Mr. Amick. While this provides a sufficient basis to say that the City treated similar signatures differently, it also raises a separate significant process issue: the City had numerous examples of signatures and handwriting from Mr. Assad and Mr. Amick which it agrees were valid and which it should have used as exemplars against their other signatures. The Chief Petitioners and witnesses currently watching the verification process all confirm that Mr. Assad and Mr. Amick used consistent handwriting and signatures. There is a strong legal basis within Oregon law to look at multiple examples available to the City. (See, e.g., VBM Manual, p32, step 2 [providing that officials must "all signatures contained in the registration record" & VBM Manual at p 33, item 7 [supporting the use of handwriting examination in declarations be stating that officials "may review broad characteristics used to evaluate an entire signature"].) It seems clear then that the City should, in satisfying its interest in preventing fraud, be able to look at the accepted declaration signatures and handwriting as exemplars, and determine that circulators like Mr. Assad and Mr. Amick properly signed the petition sheets.

Looking at the signatures the City accepted in comparison to those it rejected raises the concern that similar signatures were not treated similarly under the law. We cannot determine any rationale which the City used in making its decisions and are therefore concerned that those decisions could be arbitrary, capricious or represent an abuse of discretion. Examples are helpful to demonstrate the disparate treatment of similar signatures.

Here are some accepted and rejected signatures from Mr. Amick:



Another relevant circulator example is Brandon Lee Hammott. Mr. Hammott's signature is admittedly a bit abstract. However, according to our research thus far, the City accepted seven petition sheets on which Mr. Hammott signed the declaration of circulator. Those signatures demonstrate the same pattern of signature (as well as the same handwriting) as the 75 which were rejected.

Here are some examples of signatures which were accepted compared to those which were rejected:

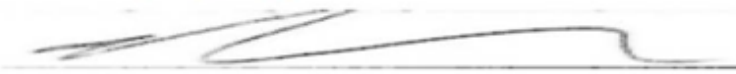
(2) ACCEPTED - Bates: 27



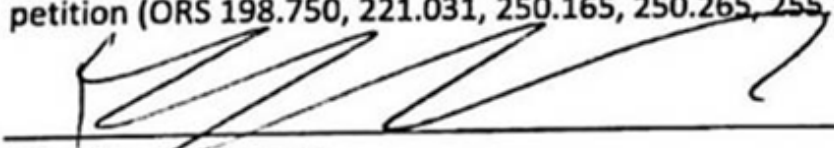
(20) REJECTED - Bates: 751



(36) REJECTED - Bates: 2260



Circulator Certification This certification must be completed by the circulator.
I hereby certify that I witnessed the signing of the signature sheet by each individual who signed the initiative petition (ORS 198.750, 221.031, 250.165, 250.265, 255.135). I also hereby certify that the signatures are true and correct.



Circulator Signature

We cannot discern any cogent reason to treat these signatures differently. We have also intentionally omitted the Bates number on the last example because we believe it is impossible for anyone to state with any certainty a rationale upon which the City rejected or accepted that signature. Again, the City's duty under statute is to prevent fraud by comparing signatures on the declaration of circulators to exemplars. We are simply asking that it properly use accepted signatures – signatures the City agrees are true examples of a circulator's signature – as exemplars while it accomplishes its fraud prevention interest. Where one signature is treated as nonfraudulent and therefore matching, it should treat similar signatures similarly.

The City Erroneously Indicated Additional Exemplar Materials Were Not Required. On Friday, July 10, 2026, the City told Chief Petitioners, through our team, that it was requesting exemplars for 23 circulators on or before 5pm on Monday, July 13, 2026. On the morning of July 13, Chief Petitioners, through our team, provided the City with exemplars in the form of driver licenses for 22 individuals, and told the City that it could not locate a driver license for one individual. At that time, our team also inquired whether the City needed any other documents in order to verify that the circulators signatures matched their exemplars. In other words, we requested that the City review the signatures and provide them an opportunity to give additional exemplars in the event the City found any exemplar mismatches. The City did not request any additional documentation. The Chief Petitioners had additional documentation and offered it to the City in the event there were mismatches. The City evidently felt no need to for such verification. As a result, potentially thousands of Portland voters are at risk of being disenfranchised.

Chief Petitioners Can Provide Additional Extrinsic Evidence Demonstrating No Fraud Occurred in the Signing of Circulator Declarations. In addition to the rejected offer of additional signature exemplars, Chief Petitioners can offer evidence demonstrating that the circulators who signed declarations actually went into the City of Portland with the petitions and gathered signatures on the petition sheets which bear their signatures. Chief Petitioners' agents have contemporaneous records of which petitions were given to which individuals, have geolocation data demonstrating that those individuals solicited signatures around the City of Portland, and have chain of custody records demonstrating that the circulators who circulated each of the petition sheets were the individuals who signed the circulator declarations. To the extent the City has any questions about which individuals circulated which petitions, Chief Petitioners are happy to provide that. Therefore the City can satisfy its fraud prevention interest without disenfranchising potentially thousands of Portland voters.

Sample of Additional Quantity Errors: The City Erred In Excluding Entire Petition Sheets Due to Purported Date Errors, and Disenfranchised Individual Voters By Excluding Their Signatures.

In addition to the significant and distinct quality errors which must be addressed during the City's restart of preprocessing, there exist numerous additional quantity errors which resulted in the erroneous invalidation of as many as 498 petition sheets and 4,600 individual signatures. We are happy to provide specific Bates stamps for each identified error, but include the following examples to demonstrate our claims in good faith.

Examples of demonstrable errors appear repeatedly in the City’s determination to invalidate entire petition sheets based on “crossed out,” “overwritten” or “ambiguous or partial” dates:

Date Signed mm/dd/yy

Overwritten

by the circulator and additional signatures should not be collected on this s
by each individual whose signature appears on the signature sheet, and I be
to hereby certify that compensation I received, if any, was not based on the n

05/22/26
Date Signed mm/dd/yy

2811 42nd Ave

(Bates number 161.)

n individual whose signature appears on
y certify that compensation I received, if

06/30/26
Date Signed mm/dd/yy

1161 1st Ave

(Bates number 4416.)

by the circulator and additional signatures should not be collect
y each individual whose signature appears on the signature she
ereby certify that compensation I received, if any, was not bas

06/10/26
Date Signed mm/dd/yy

709 Clark and 1/2 R

(Bates number 3776.)

y each individual whose signature appears on the signature sheet, and I believe each person is a voter qualified to sign the
ereby certify that compensation I received, if any, was not based on the number of signatures obtained for this petition.

6/18/26
Date Signed mm/dd/yy

2818
Sheet Number

lator and additional signatures should not be collected on this sheet once the certification has been signed and dated!
ividual whose signature appears on the signature sheet, and I believe each person is a voter qualified to sign the
ily that compensation I received, if any, was not based on the number of signatures obtained for this petition.

6.12.26
Date Signed mm/dd/yy

2943
Sheet Number

Ambiguous or Partial

A sample of a petition sheet. At the top, it says "Certify that compensation I received, if any, was not based on the number of signatures obtained for this petition." Below this, there is a line for the date, which has "05/10/26" written on it. To the right of the date line is a box labeled "Sheet Number" with "3126" written in it. Below the date line, there is a line for the signature, which has "C. L. Wilson" written on it. Below the signature line, there is a line for the date, which has "05/10/26" written on it. Below the date line, there is a line for the signature, which has "C. L. Wilson" written on it. Below the signature line, there is a line for the date, which has "05/10/26" written on it.

The cross-outs displayed here are not of dates. They are of single month-numbers, and several seem to demonstrate the simple human error of writing an adjacent month near a change in month. Those that contain any kind of “overwriting” simply look like someone whose pen was running out of ink. And we do not see anything ambiguous or partial about the date marked ambiguous or partial. We cannot understand how removing these petition sheets prevents fraud.

We of course concede that not all of those 243 petition sheets were erroneously invalidated, but we have thus far been able to identify hundreds of signers whose signatures should have been included in the petition given to the County. By disenfranchising these voters, the City has not provided the County with an opportunity to conduct an accurate sample.

Signature Invalidation Errors. There seem to be numerous errors in the City’s rejection of individual signatures on the petitions, which resulted in the invalidation of more than 4,600 signatures before the County was even given an opportunity to validate them. There is no specific pattern, and we are limited in our capacity to include examples in this letter by a concern with putting signers’ personal identifying information in a public document.

We are therefore providing the following examples of date-related errors which the City claims justify the invalidation of signatures before they can be validated:

A sample of a date written on a petition sheet. The date is "06/25/26".

(Line 1 Bates number 6402; invalidated due to invalid date.)

A sample of a date written on a petition sheet. The date is "6/25/2026".

Line 5 Bates number 4181 (invalidated due to invalid date)

Beyond these date-related invalidation errors, there are many others which we will be prepared to provide when the City restarts preprocessing. As quick examples to demonstrate good faith, Line 5 on Bates number 7658, and line 9 on Bates 4714 were invalidated as blank signatures, but the signatures are clearly present and should have been provided to the County for validation. Line 10 of Bates 3769 and line 1 of Bates number 6339 were invalidated as crossed out signatures, but those

signatures appear unaltered and without any lineouts and should have been provided to the County for validation. We have these errors in our records to provide when preprocessing restarts.

In sum, our goal is to provide the County with an accurate petition from which it can sample. To do so, preprocessing must be restarted in order to fix the artificially deflated validity rate caused by the City's errors.

We remain ready to work with the City to identify and correct these errors so that every qualified Portland elector receives the consideration Oregon law requires. We are not seeking a predetermined outcome. We are seeking a verification process that is accurate and transparent – so that the voters of Portland can be assured that their voice matters to the City Elections Division. We believe your agreement to correct errors demonstrates that you share our desire to avoid litigation. We are ready to get to work together, though of course reserve all of our rights to bring this matter before a court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Smith". The "C" is large and loops around the "S", which is written in a cursive style.

Cameron Smith
Safer Portland

cc: Elections Manager Deborah Scroggin: deborah.scroggin@portlandoregon.gov
General Counsel P.K. Runkles-Pearson: p.k.runkles-pearson@portlandoregon.gov
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Secretary of State Tobias Read: oregon.sos@sos.oregon.gov
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