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Release Date

August 24, 2026

## Anthony Forlini Speaks to the Outcome of the Citizens Only Voting Ballot Amendment

*The Board of State Canvassers dismissed affidavits, ignoring the people's voice*

**Macomb, Mich:** Today the Michigan Board of State Canvassers met to consider the *Citizens Only Voting* constitutional ballot amendment. After six and a half hours of meeting and review, the board tied in deadlock, refusing to send the item to Michigan voters in November.

Anthony Forlini, Republican candidate for Michigan Secretary of State, issued the following statement, *"Affidavits matter. In fact, an affidavit carries more weight than a simple signature. When someone puts their name on an affidavit under penalty of perjury, that must be taken seriously and investigated on the merits. I am deeply troubled that the political leanings of hyper-partisan board members appear to have been placed ahead of a signed and notarized affidavit."*

*"Today's dismissal of just enough affidavits for this issue to fail to qualify for the ballot raises serious questions: are we following the evidence, or are political interests driving the decision? People deserve better from those entrusted with public responsibility. The law should be applied consistently, evidence should be considered honestly, and politics should never outweigh sworn testimony."*

The process of this review was done in private with no transparency. Their method of looking at 1,000 signatures should have been done months ago, instead of being slow-walked.

For reference, 446,198 valid signatures are needed to place this issue on the November ballot. The *Citizens Only Voting* committee submitted over 709,000 signatures. The Bureau chose their sample size of 1,000 signatures (0.0014% of total signatures submitted) and found only 626 valid. 629 valid signatures were needed based on this small proportion.

Forlini noted, *"The outcome of today's Board of Canvassers meeting is disappointing. They did not alleviate concerns on process, procedures, and transparency. But what they did do is stir the hornet's nest because now over 709,000 people feel their government isn't representing them."*

Three weeks ago, the State Board of Canvassers approved signatures for a separate measure, with slight variations from what would otherwise be required. Now that *Citizen Only Voting* came before them, they reversed their position to exclude the signatures.

*"The four-member board is playing party politics. They recently passed the Money Out of Politics petition but somehow rejected Citizens Only Voting. This doesn't pass the smell test: it gives a feel that the Bureau is advocating for policies that will best fit their election agendas,"* concluded Forlini.

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