

Office of the Governor  
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



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GOV.LA.GOV

March 21, 2023

Dr. Sandra Wilson, Ph.D.  
Registrar of Voters  
Parish of Orleans  
1300 Perdido Rm 1W23  
New Orleans, LA 70112-2127

Dear Dr. Wilson:

This morning, my office received your correspondence and delivery of the Certification and Petition to Recall LaToya Cantrell, Mayor of the City of New Orleans, prepared by you in your capacity as Registrar of Voters for the Parish of Orleans.

The Election Code provides that certain requirements must be met in order to trigger the calling of an election by governor's proclamation. In particular, La. R.S. 18:1300.2(B) provides, in pertinent part:

(2) The petition shall be signed by a percentage of the total number of electors of the voting area wherein and for which a recall election is petitioned as provided in Paragraph (3) of this Subsection.

...

(3)(d) If one hundred thousand or more qualified electors reside within the voting area, the petition shall be signed by at least twenty percent of the electors.

Louisiana Revised Statute 18:1300.7(A) recognizes the authority of the governor to issue a proclamation ordering an election to be held as a result of the recall petition, provided the formal requirements are met, utilizing the certification of the registrar of voters to determine the total number of registered voters in the voting area and the total number of registered voters in the voting area signing the petition.

As provided in the Certification you submitted, the City of New Orleans had 224,876 qualified electors on the day the petition was filed with you, and you determined that the petition contained the valid signatures of 27,243 qualified electors (noting that, while the petition contained 67,022 signatures, you certified that 39,805 of those signatures were not electors of

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the area within the parish at the time the petition was submitted to you.) A petition containing 27,243 validated signatures represents approximately 12.11% of the 224,876 qualified electors of the City of New Orleans.

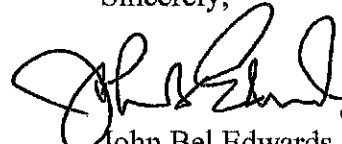
In accordance with La. R.S. 18:1300.2(B), since the City of New Orleans is a voting area of more than one hundred thousand qualified electors, a recall petition sufficient to trigger the calling of an election requires the signatures of 20% of the qualified electors of that voting area.

As reflected in your Certification, the Recall Petition for LaToya Cantrell, Mayor of the City of New Orleans, fails to meet the legal requirements for the Governor to issue a proclamation ordering that an election be held.

Also, I would be remiss if I failed to thank you and your staff for all of your diligent work and preparation under difficult circumstances to complete the enormous task of sorting, copying, and certifying this petition while ensuring this was a transparent and fair process, all within the deadlines prescribed by law. Thank you for your tremendous service to our State.

Should you wish to contact me about this, please contact my office at (225) 342-7015.

Sincerely,



John Bel Edwards  
Governor

cc: Mayor LaToya Cantrell  
R. Kyle Ardoin, Louisiana Secretary of State