

Via Email

June 8, 2026

(jrajoppi@ucnj.org and Emily.Monteagudo@ucnj.org)

Joanne Rajoppi, County Clerk
Union County New Jersey
2 Broad Street, Room 113
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07207

Re: Objections and Challenge to the *Purported* Direct/Independent Nominating Petition to the Office of Mayor, City of Rahway, in the November 3, 2026 General Election, filed by Hope Moran.

Dear Honorable Clerk Rajoppi:

I, Robert Rachlin, am a registered voter and resident of the City of Rahway, County of Union. I am writing to file the within Objections and Challenges to the purported direct/independent Nominating Petition of Hope Moran, who apparently seeks nomination, by way of the above-referenced nominating petition, to the office of Mayor, City of Rahway, in the November 3, 2026 General Election. *See Exhibit A, Hope Moran Petition, and hereinafter referred to as "Petition," which is attached hereto, hereinafter referred to as "Petition," attached hereto, inclusive of its eight (8) subparts.*

I make a General Objection and Challenge to the Petition's sufficiency inasmuch as it fails to comply with New Jersey election law. *See* N.J.S.A. 19:13-10. In addition, I assert the following Specific Objections and Challenges to the Petition, all of which correlate to the spreadsheet attached hereto as *Exhibit B – Challenged Signatories*, which is organized by petition subpart, petition line and bases for challenge:

1. The Petition contains at least 54 signatories who appear to be individuals not registered in Rahway under the listed name and/or address, and are therefore not a qualified voter eligible to sign the Petition, contrary to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 19:13-5. The challenged signatories are listed on Exhibit B, with "Bases for Challenge" column showing "Not Registered".
2. The Petition contains at least 7 signatories/signature lines for which there is no legible qualified voter named, contrary to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 19:13-4, N.J.S.A. 19:13-5 and N.J.S.A. 19:13-6. The signatories challenged on this basis are listed on Exhibit B, with "Bases for Challenge" column showing "Illegible".
3. The Petition contains at least 5 instances in which there is either no name, address and/or signature affixed to the signatory line, contrary to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 19:13-4, N.J.S.A. 19:13-5 and N.J.S.A. 19:13-6. The signatories challenged on this basis are listed on Exhibit B, with "Bases for Challenge" column showing "No Name, Address, No Signature".
4. The Petition contains 2 signatories who signed the Petition twice, contrary to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 19:13-5. In each such case only one signature for each signatory can be counted. The signatories challenged on this basis are listed on Exhibit B, with "Bases for Challenge" column showing "Duplicate".

5. The Petition contains 1 signatory who previously signed a 2026 Primary Election Nominating Petition for a candidate for the same office, the office of Mayor. More specifically, Jane Small previously signed the nominating petition of Raymond A. Giacobbe (See copy of relevant portion of said petition attached hereto as Exhibit C). This signature can not be counted toward the minimum signatures required for the subject Petition per N.J.S.A. 19:13-4. The signature challenged on this basis is listed on Exhibit B, with "Bases for Challenge" column showing "Signed Other Candidate Petition".

Under applicable law, 250 valid signatures of legally qualified voters residing within the City of Rahway upon the Petition are necessary before the hopeful candidate can be placed upon the ballot for the November Mayoral Election. The total purported number of signatories on the Petition is 297. As set forth herein above, 69 purported signatories can not be lawfully counted, leaving a maximum of only 228 ostensibly proper signatories which falls short of the minimum required under New Jersey law. See N.J.S.A. 19:13-5. Further, the Petition cannot be cured by adding new signatures. See N.J.S.A. 19:13-13.

Accordingly, because fewer than 250 identified qualified voters signed Hope Moran 's nominating Petition, the Petition is fatally defective. Therefore, the Petition should not be certified by your office but instead should be rejected for failure to comply with Title 19 of the New Jersey Statutes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Rachlin
2215 Allen Street
Rahway, NJ 07065

Cc: Bruce H. Bergen, Esq., Union County Counsel
Office of the Union County Clerk, Election Division