



South Dakota Secretary of State

Monae L. Johnson
Secretary of State

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SECRETARY OF STATE ANNOUNCES VALIDATION OF FOURTH U.S. SENATE PETITIONS

(Pierre, S.D.) – Secretary of State Monae L. Johnson has announced that Brian L. Bengs will be placed on the ballot as an Independent candidate for U.S. Senate at the General Election held on November 3, 2026.

An Independent candidate for U.S. Senate requires 3,502 valid signatures to appear on the ballot. As outlined in SDCL § [12-1-36](#), the Secretary of State's office conducted a random sample of the petition signatures and found 93.85 percent to be valid. Based on the results of the random sample, 4,311 signatures were deemed valid.

Upon the filing of a candidate petition, any interested person may challenge the Secretary of State's validation of the petition under SDCL § [12-1-13](#). A person challenging the validation must submit an original, signed affidavit listing out each specific deficiency to the Secretary of State's office no more than five business days after validation. For this candidate petition, the deadline to file a challenge is Friday, May 1, 2026 at 5:00 PM (CT).

For more information on candidates who will be on the ballot at the General Election, please see the candidate list on the Secretary of State's website: <https://vip.sdsos.gov/candidatelist.aspx?eid=774>.