

Before the Election Board of Monroe County, Indiana

In the Matter Of: Candidate Challenges for Joseph Davis.

DECISION

On August 6, 2026, the Monroe County Election Board (hereafter referred to as the "Election Board") formally received five (5) candidate challenges regarding Joseph Davis. After receiving the challenges, the Election Board set a hearing on the matter for August 12, 2026.

The August 12, 2026, Election Board meeting was called to order at 9 AM by Election Board Chairperson Danny Shields. Members of the Election Board present in person were Clerk Nicole Browne, Republican Member Danny Shields, and Democratic Member Penny Githens.

Prior to the commencement of the hearing on the challenges, the Election Board held a discussion on whether to proceed with addressing the complaints individually or collectively as one. County Attorney Jeff Cockerill provided a summary of the complaints and advised that all the complaints addressed the fact that Mr. Joseph Davis was a candidate in the May 2026 Primary Election. Mr. Cockerill did provide that one of the complaints alleged that Mr. Joseph Davis had a "history of disruptive behavior." Clerk Nicole Browne motioned to combine the complaints into one collective complaint and to not address the history of disruptive behavior as such had been previously addressed. Board Member Penny Githens seconded the motion. Mr. Joseph Davis sought clarity on how procedurally time allowances would be handled when the complaints are combined into one. The Election Board provided that the complaints would have a collective timeframe of ten (10) minutes and that Mr. Joseph Davis would be afforded the same amount of time. If an extension of time was to be afforded to the complaints, then the same would be afforded to Mr. Davis.

The hearing on the Candidate Challenges was called to order by Chairperson Danny Shields. Present for the hearing was the following complaints were present in person: 1) John Willard Tilford; 2) Regina M. Moore; 3) Roberta E. Robinson; and 4) Dee Owens. Mr. Joseph Davis was present in person as the candidate being challenged. All witnesses were sworn in and affirmatively accepted the oath.

Complainant Tilford testified that he had watched the June 4th Election Board hearing on CATS. Mr. Tilford emphasized with the Election Board that the behavior exhibited in that hearing were he learned about Mr. Davis's intent to become a write-in complaint prompted his complaint. Tilford provided that some consideration is necessary to accept defeat and that allowing Mr. Davis to proceed would be against our election system. Complainant Dee Owens testified that Mr. Davis lost the Primary Election and therefore ineligible to run under Indiana Code. Complainant Dee Owens reiterated the information contained within her written statement provided with her completed CAN- 1 Candidate Filing Challenge form. This form and statement are contained within admitted "Exhibit 1."

Mr. Joseph Davis testified that he lost the primary and seemed to state that he meets the factual basis for removal. Mr. Davis raised objections to removal of his option as a write-in candidate and application of Indiana Code 3-8-1-5.5 based on the 1st and 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article 2, Section 1 of the Indiana Constitution. Mr. Davis introduced exhibits into the record including: 1) Exhibit 1: Notice of Hearing, Meeting Information. 2)

Exhibit 2: Proposed Order; 3) Exhibit 3) Write-In Filing; 4) Mr. Davis' response to complaint and 5) Exhibit 5: Certified Primary Election Results. Copies of all exhibits are attached and incorporated herein.

Complainant Dee Owens provided further testimony stating that after reviewing the exhibits and hearing the arguments, the Election Board was the wrong venue for this type of argument and that the Election Board could only apply the law before it. Mr. Joseph Davis reserved the right to seek injunctive relief through the Courts so that his candidacy remains intact for the General Election.

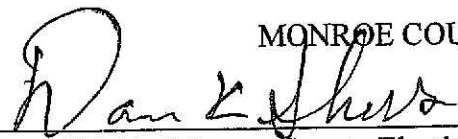
Discussion was held by the Election Board. Chairperson Danny Shields motioned to honor the challenges removing Mr. Davis from the ballot. Board Member Penny Githens seconded the motion. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 3-0.

The decision was based on the following Findings of Fact:

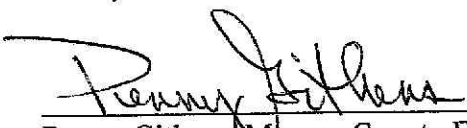
1. Mr. Davis was a Democratic candidate for the office of Monroe County Clerk in the Primary Election held in May of 2026.
2. The certified election results for that Primary Election reflect that Mr. Davis was defeated.

The Election Board recognized and advised Mr. Joseph Davis of his right to seek additional relief from the Courts.

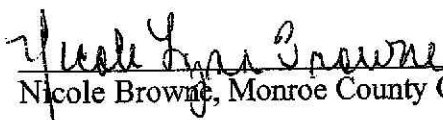
MONROE COUNTY ELECTION BOARD



Danny Shields, Monroe County Election Board Republican Member and Chair



Penny Githens, Monroe County Election Board Democrat Member



Nicole Brown, Monroe County Clerk and Election Board Secretary