

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, APPELLATE DIVISION,
SECOND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Matter of Schultz v. Nassau County Bd. of Elections

2026 NY Slip Op 03110 · No. 2026-04377 · Decided May 14, 2026

SUMMARY

The Appellate Division, Second Department affirmed the denial of a petition seeking to validate a designating petition for a New York State Assembly primary election. The court held that numerous signatures were invalid because the petition failed to accurately identify the signers' towns or cities, leaving fewer than the required 500 valid signatures. The court also rejected the petitioner's free-speech challenge and declined to consider the equal-protection claim because it was raised for the first time on appeal.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Lara J. Genovesi, J.P.; Deborah A. Dowling; Lillian Wan; Carl J. Landicino; Susan Quirk
JURISDICTION	New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department
DECIDED	May 14, 2026
DOCKET	2026-04377
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal from a final order denying a petition to validate a designating petition and, in effect, dismissing an Election Law § 16-102 proceeding.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published
PARTIES	Paul J. Schultz v. Nassau County Board of Elections, James D. Conroy

TOPICS

- election contests
- ballot access
- election law
- appellate procedure
- statutory interpretation

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the designating petition was invalid because numerous signatures failed to accurately identify the signer's town or city.
2. Whether Election Law §§ 6-130 and 6-132 violate the petitioner's constitutional right to free speech.
3. Whether the petitioner's Equal Protection Clause challenge was preserved for appellate review.

HOLDINGS

1. Because a designating petition must include the signer's town or city as legislatively mandated content, failure to include or accurately identify that information invalidates the affected signature and supports denial of validation of the petition.
2. The petitioner's contention that Election Law §§ 6-130 and 6-132 violate the constitutional right to free speech is without merit.
3. The petitioner's Equal Protection Clause challenge was improperly raised for the first time on appeal and was therefore not considered.

KEY QUOTATIONS

*"Therefore, 'the failure to accurately identify a signer's town or city, or county in the City of New York, will invalidate the signature involved'" (*1)*

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Paul J. Schultz submitted a designating petition containing 1,139 signatures for the Republican Party nomination for Member of the New York State Assembly for the 14th Assembly District. James D. Conroy objected to the signatures, and the Nassau County Board of Elections sustained 1,124 objections, many based on a signer's town or city being wrong or missing. The objections left Schultz with fewer than the 500 signatures required for the petition.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Schultz filed a designating petition containing 1,139 signatures for the Republican primary nomination for New York State Assembly District 14. After Conroy filed objections, the Nassau County Board of Elections sustained 1,124 objections, leaving fewer than the 500 required signatures. The Supreme Court, Westchester County, denied Schultz's petition to validate the designating petition and effectively dismissed the proceeding. Schultz appealed, and the Appellate Division affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Matter of Frome v. Board of Elections of Nassau County, 57 N.Y.2d 741, 742
- Matter of Stoppenbach v. Sweeney, 98 N.Y.2d 431, 433
- Matter of Tischler v. Hikind, 98 A.D.3d 926, 927
- Matter of Henry v. Trotto, 54 A.D.3d 424, 426
- Matter of Carlow v. Irwin, 76 A.D.3d 648, 650
- Matter of Stark v. Kelleher, 32 A.D.3d 663, 665
- Shmeria, LLC v. Sea Gate Assn., 2026 NY Slip Op 02862, *2
- State of N.Y. Mtge. Agency v. Costanza, 215 A.D.3d 990, 991

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

Matter of Schultz v Nassau County Bd. of Elections - 2026 NY Slip Op 03110

skip to main content

It appears you are using Adblock. Please disable Adblock to best experience our website.

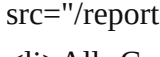
 Law Reporting Bureau Home Page

Law Reporting Bureau

Thomas J.K.

Smith, State Reporter

Court Decisions Resources About



Home

All Court Decisions

Decisions

Matter of Schultz v Nassau County Bd. of Elections

2026 NY Slip Op 03110

May 14, 2026

Appellate Division, Second Department

Published by New York State Law Reporting Bureau pursuant to Judiciary Law § 431.

This decision is uncorrected and subject to revision before publication in the Official Reports.

In the Matter of Paul J. Schultz, etc., appellant,

v

Nassau County Board of Elections, respondent, James D. Conroy, etc., respondent-respondent.

Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department

Decided on May 14, 2026

2026-04377, (Index No. 62849/26)

Lara J. Genovesi, J.P.

Deborah A. Dowling

Lillian Wan

Carl J. Landicino

Susan Quirk, JJ.

[*1]

DECISION & ORDER

In a proceeding pursuant to Election Law § 16-102, inter alia, to validate a petition designating the petitioner as a candidate in a primary election to be held on June 23, 2026, for the nomination of the Republican Party as its candidate for the public office of Member of the New York State Assembly for the 14th Assembly District, the petitioner appeals from a final order of the Supreme Court, Westchester County (Amy S. Puerto, J.), dated April 28, 2026.

The final order denied the petition, inter alia, to validate the designating petition and, in effect, dismissed the proceeding.

ORDERED that the final order is affirmed, without costs or disbursements.

The petitioner filed a petition designating himself as a candidate in a

primary election to be held on June 23, 2026, for the nomination of the Republican Party as its candidate for the public office of Member of the New York State Assembly for the 14th Assembly District.

The designating petition contained 1,139 signatures. James D. Conroy filed objections, and, after reviewing the objections, the Nassau County Board of Elections sustained 1,124 objections, which left the petitioner with fewer than the 500 required signatures. Many of the disputed signatures were invalidated on the ground that the signer's town or city was "Wrong or Missing."

The petitioner subsequently commenced the instant proceeding pursuant to Election Law § 16-102, inter alia, to validate the designating petition. In a final order dated April 28, 2026, the Supreme Court denied the petition, inter alia, to validate the designating petition and, in effect, dismissed the proceeding.

The petitioner appeals.

A candidate's "designating petition must set forth in every instance the name of the signer, his or her residence address, town or city (except in the city of New York, the county), and the date when the signature is affixed" (*id.* § 6-130 [emphasis added]). Pursuant to the Election Law, "'residence' shall be deemed to mean that place where a person maintains a fixed, permanent and principal home and to which he [or she], wherever temporarily located, always intends to return," but the Election Law does not specify the manner in which such address shall be recorded, except that customary abbreviations may be used (*id.* § 1-104[22]; *see id.* § 6-134[5]).

"A signature on a petition sheet shall not be deemed invalid solely because the address provided is the post office address of the signer provided that proof that such address is the accepted address of such signer is provided to the board of elections no later than three days following the receipt of specific objections to such signature" (*id.* § 6-134[12]).

In addition, the Election Law specifies that a voter's registration record shall include, inter alia, both "[t]he residence address at which the voter claims to reside and post office address, if not the same" (*id.* § 5-500[4][d]), and "[t]he assembly district or ward and the election district in which such residence address is located" (*id.* § 5-500[4][e]).

The Court of Appeals has held that the designation of the "city or town," because it is a matter of legislatively mandated content, is a matter of substance and not form, and thus, a failure to include such information is fatal to the petition (*Matter of Frome v Board of Elections of Nassau County*, 57 NY2d 741, 742 [internal quotation marks omitted]; *see* *Matter of Stoppenbach v Sweeney*, 98 NY2d 431, 433).

Therefore, "the failure to accurately identify a signer's town or city, or county in the City of New York, will invalidate the signature involved" (*Matter of Tischler v Hikind*, 98 AD3d 926, 927; *see* *Matter of Henry v Trotto*, 54 AD3d 424, 426).

Accordingly, the Supreme Court properly denied the petition, inter alia, to validate the designating petition and, in effect, dismissed the proceeding.

The petitioner's contention that Election Law §§ 6-130 and 6-132 violate his constitutional right to free speech is without merit (*see* *Matter of Carlow v Irwin*, 76 AD3d 648, 650; *Matter of Stark v Kelleher*, 32 AD3d 663, 665), and his contention that these statutes violate the Equal Protection Clause is improperly raised for the first time on appeal (*see* *Shmeria, LLC v Sea Gate Assn.*, __ AD3d __, __, 2026 NY Slip Op 02862, *2; *State of N.Y.*

Mtge. Agency v Costanza, 215 AD3d 990, 991).

In light of the foregoing, we need not reach Conroy's remaining contentions.

GENOVESI, J.P., DOWLING, WAN, LANDICINO and QUIRK, JJ., concur.

ENTER:

Darrell M. Joseph

Clerk of the Court

Court Decisions

All Court Decisions Official Reports Service Bound Volumes Decision Search

Resources

RSS Feeds Style Manual Citation Tools Opinion Formatting & Privacy Guidelines Opinion Selection Criteria Legal Research Portal Site Index

About

About the Law Reporting Bureau About our Operations Contact Us Twitter

Quick Contact Info

17 Lodge Street

Albany, NY 12207

Phone: (518) 453-6900

Links to or from other sites do not signify endorsement or relationship with them.

PER CURIAM.

Matter of Schultz v Nassau County Bd. of Elections - 2026 NY Slip Op 03110 skip to main content It appears you are using Adblock. Please disable Adblock to best experience our website. Law Reporting Bureau Thomas J.K. Smith, State Reporter Court Decisions Resources About Home All Court Decisions Decisions *Matter of Schultz v Nassau County Bd. of Elections* 2026 NY Slip Op 03110 May 14, 2026 Appellate Division, Second Department Published by New York State Law Reporting Bureau pursuant to Judiciary Law § 431.

This decision is uncorrected and subject to revision before publication in the Official Reports. In the *Matter of Paul J. Schultz, etc., appellant, v Nassau County Board of Elections, respondent, James D. Conroy, etc., respondent-respondent*. Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department Decided on May 14, 2026 2026-04377, (Index No. 62849/26) Lara J. Genovesi, J.P.

Deborah A. Dowling Lillian Wan Carl J. Landicino Susan Quirk, JJ. [*1] DECISION & ORDER In a proceeding pursuant to Election Law § 16-102, inter alia, to validate a petition designating the petitioner as a candidate in a primary election to be held on June 23, 2026, for the nomination of the Republican Party as its candidate for the public office of Member of the New York State Assembly for the 14th Assembly District, the petitioner appeals from a final order of the Supreme Court, Westchester County (Amy S. Puerto, J.), dated April 28, 2026.

The final order denied the petition, inter alia, to validate the designating petition and, in effect, dismissed the proceeding. ORDERED that the final order is affirmed, without costs or disbursements. The petitioner filed a petition designating himself as a candidate in a primary election to be held on June 23, 2026, for the nomination of the Republican Party as its candidate for the public office of Member of the New York State Assembly for the 14th Assembly District.

The designating petition contained 1,139 signatures. James D. Conroy filed objections, and, after reviewing the objections, the Nassau County Board of Elections sustained 1,124 objections, which left the petitioner with fewer than the 500 required signatures. Many of the disputed signatures were invalidated on the ground that the signer's town or city was "Wrong or Missing."

The petitioner subsequently commenced the instant proceeding pursuant to Election Law § 16-102, inter alia, to validate the designating petition. In a final order dated April 28, 2026, the Supreme Court denied the petition, inter alia, to validate the designating petition and, in effect, dismissed the proceeding.

The petitioner appeals. A candidate's "designating petition must set forth in every instance the name of the signer, his or her residence address, town or city (except in the city of New York, the county), and the date when the signature is affixed" (id. § 6-130 [emphasis added]). Pursuant to the Election Law, "'residence' shall be deemed to mean that place where a person maintains a fixed, permanent and principal home and to which he [or she], wherever temporarily located, always intends to return," but the Election Law does not specify the manner in which such address shall be recorded, except that customary abbreviations may be used (id. § 1-104[22]; see id. § 6-134[5]).

"A signature on a petition sheet shall not be deemed invalid solely because the address provided is the post office address of the signer provided that proof that such address is the accepted address of such signer is provided to the board of elections no later than three days following the receipt of specific objections to such signature" (id. § 6-134[12]).

In addition, the Election Law specifies that a voter's registration record shall include, inter alia, both "[t]he residence address at which the voter claims to reside and post office address, if not the same" (id. § 5-500[4][d]), and "[t]he assembly district or ward and the election district in which such residence address is located" (id. § 5-500[4][e]).

The Court of Appeals has held that the designation of the "city or town," because it is a matter of legislatively mandated content, is a matter of substance and not form, and thus, a failure to include such information is fatal to the petition (Matter of Frome v Board of Elections of Nassau County, 57 NY2d 741, 742 [internal quotation marks omitted]; see Matter of Stoppenbach v Sweeney, 98 NY2d 431, 433).

Therefore, "the failure to accurately identify a signer's town or city, or county in the City of New York, will invalidate the signature involved" (Matter of Tischler v Hikind, 98 AD3d 926, 927; see Matter of Henry v Trotto, 54 AD3d 424, 426).

Accordingly, the Supreme Court properly denied the petition, inter alia, to validate the designating petition and, in effect, dismissed the proceeding. The petitioner's contention that Election Law §§ 6-130 and 6-132 violate his constitutional right to free speech is without merit (see Matter of Carlow v Irwin, 76 AD3d 648, 650; Matter of Stark v Kelleher, 32 AD3d 663, 665), and his contention that these statutes violate the Equal Protection Clause is improperly raised for the first time on appeal (see Shmeria, LLC v Sea Gate Assn., ___ AD3d ___, ___, 2026 NY Slip Op 02862, *2; State of N.Y.

Mtge. Agency v Costanza, 215 AD3d 990, 991). In light of the foregoing, we need not reach Conroy's remaining contentions. GENOVESI, J.P., DOWLING, WAN, LANDICINO and QUIRK, JJ., concur. ENTER: Darrell M. Joseph Clerk of the Court Court Decisions All Court Decisions Official Reports Service Bound Volumes Decision Search Resources RSS Feeds Style Manual Citation Tools Opinion Formatting & Privacy Guidelines Opinion Selection Criteria Legal Research Portal Site Index About About the Law Reporting Bureau About our Operations Contact Us Twitter Quick Contact Info 17 Lodge Street Albany, NY 12207 Phone: (518) 453-6900 Links to or from other sites do not signify endorsement or relationship with them.

PER CURIAM.

<div>Matter of Schultz v Nassau County Bd. of Elections - 2026 NY Slip Op 03110 <div> skip to main content </div> <div> <p>It appears you are using Adblock. Please disable Adblock to best experience our website.</p> </div> <div> <header> <div> </div> <div> Law Reporting
Bureau Thomas J.K.

Smith, State Reporter <nav> Court Decisions Resources About </nav> </div> <div> </div> </header> </div> <nav> Home All Court Decisions Decisions </nav> <div> <div> <h1>Matter of Schultz v Nassau County Bd. of Elections</h1> <p>2026 NY Slip Op 03110</p> <p>May 14, 2026</p> <p>Appellate Division, Second Department</p> <p>Published by New York State Law Reporting Bureau pursuant to Judiciary Law § 431.</p> <p>This decision is uncorrected and subject to revision before publication in the Official Reports.</p> </div> <div> <p>In the Matter of Paul J. Schultz, etc., appellant,</p> <p>v</p> <p>Nassau County Board of Elections, respondent, James D. Conroy, etc., respondent-respondent.</p> </div> <p>Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department</p> <p>Decided on May 14, 2026</p> <p>2026-04377, (Index No. 62849/26)</p> <p>Lara J. Genovesi, J.P.</p> <p>Deborah A. Dowling</p> <p>Lillian Wan</p> <p>Carl J. Landicino</p> <p>Susan Quirk, JJ.</p>

[*1] <p>DECISION & ORDER</p> <p>In a proceeding pursuant to Election Law § 16-102, inter alia, to validate a petition designating the petitioner as a candidate in a primary election to be held on June 23, 2026, for the nomination of the Republican Party as its candidate for the public office of Member of the New York State Assembly for the 14th Assembly District, the petitioner appeals from a final order of the Supreme Court, Westchester County (Amy S. Puerto, J.), dated April 28, 2026.

The final order denied the petition, inter alia, to validate the designating petition and, in effect, dismissed the proceeding.</p> <p>ORDERED that the final order is affirmed, without costs or disbursements.</p> <p>The petitioner filed a petition designating himself as a candidate in a primary election to be held on June 23, 2026, for the nomination of the Republican Party as its candidate for the public office of Member of the New York State Assembly for the 14th Assembly District.

The designating petition contained 1,139 signatures. James D. Conroy filed objections, and, after reviewing the objections, the Nassau County Board of Elections sustained 1,124 objections, which left the petitioner with fewer than the 500 required signatures. Many of the disputed signatures were invalidated on the ground that the signer's town or city was "Wrong or Missing."

The petitioner subsequently commenced the instant proceeding pursuant to Election Law § 16-102, inter alia, to validate the designating petition. In a final order dated April 28, 2026, the Supreme Court denied the petition, inter alia, to validate the designating petition and, in effect, dismissed the proceeding.

The petitioner appeals.</p> <p>A candidate's "designating petition must set forth in every instance the name of the signer, his or her residence address, <i>town or city</i> (except in the city of New York, the county), and the date when the signature is affixed" (<i>id.</i> § 6-130 [emphasis added]). Pursuant to the Election Law, "'residence' shall be deemed to mean that place where a person maintains a fixed, permanent and principal home and to which he [or she], wherever temporarily located, always intends to return," but the Election Law does not specify the manner in which such address shall be recorded, except that customary abbreviations may be used (<i>id.</i> § 1-104[22]; <i>see id.</i> § 6-134[5]).

"A signature on a petition sheet shall not be deemed invalid solely because the address provided is the post office address of the signer provided that proof that such address is the accepted address of such signer is provided to the board of elections no later than three days following the receipt of specific objections to such signature" (<i>id.</i> § 6-134[12]).

In addition, the Election Law specifies that a voter's registration record shall include, inter alia, both "[t]he residence address at which the voter claims to reside and post office address, if not the same" (<i>id.</i> § 5-500[4][d]), and "[t]he assembly district or ward and the election district in

which such residence address is located" (*id.* § 5-500[4][e]).

The Court of Appeals has held that the designation of the "city or town," because it is a matter of legislatively mandated content, is a matter of substance and not form, and thus, a failure to include such information is fatal to the petition (*Matter of Frome v Board of Elections of Nassau County*, 57 NY2d 741, 742 [internal quotation marks omitted]; *see* *Matter of Stoppenbach v Sweeney*, 98 NY2d 431, 433).

Therefore, "the failure to accurately identify a signer's town or city, or county in the City of New York, will invalidate the signature involved" (*Matter of Tischler v Hikind*, 98 AD3d 926, 927; *see* *Matter of Henry v Trotto*, 54 AD3d 424, 426).

Accordingly, the Supreme Court properly denied the petition, inter alia, to validate the designating petition and, in effect, dismissed the proceeding.

The petitioner's contention that Election Law §§ 6-130 and 6-132 violate his constitutional right to free speech is without merit (*see* *Matter of Carlow v Irwin*, 76 AD3d 648, 650; *Matter of Stark v Kelleher*, 32 AD3d 663, 665), and his contention that these statutes violate the Equal Protection Clause is improperly raised for the first time on appeal (*see* *Shmeria, LLC v Sea Gate Assn.*, __ AD3d __, __, 2026 NY Slip Op 02862, *2; *State of N.Y.*

Mtge. Agency v Costanza, 215 AD3d 990, 991).

In light of the foregoing, we need not reach Conroy's remaining contentions.

GENOVESI, J.P., DOWLING, WAN, LANDICINO and QUIRK, JJ., concur.

ENTER:

Darrell M. Joseph

Clerk of the Court

Court Decisions

All Court Decisions

Official Reports

Service Bound Volumes

Decision Search

Resources

RSS Feeds

Style Manual

Citation Tools

Opinion Formatting & Privacy Guidelines

Opinion Selection Criteria

Legal Research Portal

Site Index

About

About the Law Reporting Bureau

About our Operations

Contact Us

Twitter

Quick Contact Info

17 Lodge Street

Albany, NY 12207

Phone: (518) 453-6900

Links to or from other sites do not signify endorsement or relationship with them.