

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 7th, 2024

STATEMENT ON PETITION CHALLENGE FROM MAYORAL CANDIDATE LINH NGUYEN, PH.D.

Although the right to challenge candidate petitions serves a critical watchdog function, it is essential to recognize that not all objections are filed in good faith.

Some petition challenges are a strategic political move, aimed at undermining an opponent's campaign. This can create significant barriers to entry for candidates and defeat the healthy competition of our democratic process.

When candidates focus more on navigating objection procedures than articulating their visions, it can lead to a less robust campaign.

Qualified, rule-abiding candidates who lack the financial backing of special interests encounter severe difficulties when faced with a more affluent opponent who exploits the objection process. Wealthier candidates may initiate objections as a strategy to delay or thwart the campaigns of opponents who may not have the resources to mount a defense.

The consequences of defending one's right to appear on the ballot can be overwhelming. Significant legal efforts can result in expenses that drain financial resources and divert attention from campaigning. Additionally, candidates may experience substantial emotional stress and time away from their professional commitments while navigating these legal hurdles.

Such challenges underscore the need for a more equitable electoral process that allows all qualified candidates to participate fully in democratic elections.

I am well-equipped to break down such barriers. However, I feel compelled to call out this behavior and educate voters on the consequences of inequity in the democratic process.

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Linh Nguyen is defending her petition for Mayoral candidacy against a challenge by Albert William Vodden.

In the electoral process, individuals have the right to file objections against the petitions of candidates for a variety of reasons. This provision serves a critical purpose: to ensure that all candidates adhere to the necessary legal standards and qualifications required for running for office. Such qualifications might include signature requirements, residency, and adherence to ethical guidelines.