

Miscellaneous Docket Sheet

Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania

Docket Number: 138 MD 2026**Page 1 of 9****June 17, 2026****CAPTION**

In re: Nomination Petition of Taiba
Sultana for the Democratic Party
Nomination for Senator in the General
Assembly from the 18th Legislative
District in the May 19, 2026 Primary
Election

Objections of: Patricia M. Hitzel,
Celeste Lillian Dee, Patricia Joan
Bruno, and Pamela A. Panto

CASE INFORMATION

Initiating Document: Objection to Nominating Petition

Case Status: Closed

Case Processing Status: April 9, 2026 Completed

Journal Number:

Case Category: Election Case Type(s): Objection to Nomination Papers

CONSOLIDATED CASES**RELATED CASES****COUNSEL INFORMATION**

Petitioner **Panto, Pamela A.**

IFP Status:

Pro Se: No

Attorney: Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel

Law Firm: Lahoud Law Group, P.C.

Address: Lahoud Law Group Pc
600 Hamilton St Ste 300
Allentown, PA 18101

Phone No: (484) 544-0022 Fax No:

Petitioner **Hitzel, Patricia M.**

IFP Status:

Pro Se: No

Attorney: Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel

Law Firm: Lahoud Law Group, P.C.

Address: Lahoud Law Group Pc
600 Hamilton St Ste 300
Allentown, PA 18101

Phone No: (484) 544-0022 Fax No:

Miscellaneous Docket Sheet**Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania****Docket Number: 138 MD 2026****Page 2 of 9****June 17, 2026****COUNSEL INFORMATION****Petitioner Dee, Celeste Lillian**

IFP Status:

Pro Se: No

Attorney: Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel

Law Firm: Lahoud Law Group, P.C.

Address: Lahoud Law Group Pc
600 Hamilton St Ste 300
Allentown, PA 18101

Phone No: (484) 544-0022

Fax No:

Petitioner Bruno, Patricia Joan

IFP Status:

Pro Se: No

Attorney: Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel

Law Firm: Lahoud Law Group, P.C.

Address: Lahoud Law Group Pc
600 Hamilton St Ste 300
Allentown, PA 18101

Phone No: (484) 544-0022

Fax No:

Other Mullen, Kathleen

IFP Status:

Pro Se: No

Attorney: Mullen, Kathleen Ann

Law Firm: Pennsylvania Governor's Office of General Counsel

Address: Dept of State
306 N Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0102

Phone No: (717) 743-7563

Fax No:

Other Everhart, Ian

IFP Status:

Pro Se: No

Attorney: Everhart, Ian Blythe

Law Firm: Pennsylvania Department of State

Address: Pa Department Of State
301 Fifth Ave Ste 290
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone No: (717) 996-8723

Fax No:

Other DeLaurentis, Carolyn

IFP Status:

Pro Se: No

Attorney: DeLaurentis, Carolyn Antoinette

Law Firm: Pennsylvania Department of Sate

Address: 306 N Office Building
401 North St
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Phone No: (717) 783-0736

Fax No:

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COUNSEL INFORMATION

Other Darr, Gregory

IFP Status:

Pro Se: No

Attorney: Darr, Gregory Mitchell
Law Firm: Pennsylvania Department of State
Address: Pa Dept Of State Occ
306 N Office Bldg
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Phone No: (717) 571-5598 Fax No:
Phone No: (717) 346-0462

Respondent Sultana, Taiba

IFP Status:

Pro Se: Yes

Pro Se: Taiba Sultana
Address: 227 Vista Drive
Easton, PA 18042

Phone No: (610) 713-1638 Fax No:

FEE INFORMATION

Table with 6 columns: Fee Dt, Fee Name, Fee Amt, Receipt Dt, Receipt No, Receipt Amt. Rows include Miscellaneous Docket Filing Fee, Subpoena, and Subpoena.

AGENCY/TRIAL COURT INFORMATION

Order Appealed From: Notice of Appeal Filed:
Order Type:
Documents Received: March 17, 2026

Court Below:
County: Division:
Judge: OTN:
Docket Number: Judicial District:

ORIGINAL RECORD CONTENT

Table with 3 columns: Original Record Item, Filed Date, Content Description

Date of Remand of Record:

BRIEFING SCHEDULE

None None

DOCKET ENTRY

Table with 5 columns: Filed Date, Docket Entry / Filer, Representing, Participant Type, Exit Date. Row for March 17, 2026 with entries for Hitzel, Patricia M., Dee, Celeste Lillian, and Bruno, Patricia Joan.

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DOCKET ENTRY

Filed Date	Docket Entry / Filer	Representing	Participant Type	Exit Date
	Panto, Pamela A.		Petitioner	

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DOCKET ENTRY

Filed Date	Docket Entry / Filer	Representing	Participant Type	Exit Date
March 18, 2026	Order Filed Per Curiam			03/18/2026
Document Name: Scheduling and Case Management Order/Hearing Scheduled 3/23/2026, 10:00am, Harrisburg				



DOCKET ENTRY

Filed Date	Docket Entry / Filer	Representing	Participant Type	Exit Date
	<p>Comment: NOW, March 18, 2026, upon consideration of the Petition to Set Aside Nomination Petition (Objection Petition):</p> <p>1. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:</p> <p>A. Hearing on the Objection Petition is scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., in Courtroom Number 3001, 3rd Floor, Pennsylvania Judicial Center, 601 Commonwealth Avenue, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Objectors are directed to secure the services of a court stenographer for the hearing. Failure of Objectors to secure the services of a court stenographer may result in the dismissal of this matter.</p> <p>B. If signature lines are challenged, Objectors shall secure, by request or subpoena, the presence of a Statewide Uniform Registry of Electors (SURE) system operator at the hearing.</p> <p>2</p> <p>C. Service of the Objection Petition on Candidate and this Order on all parties is complete upon the posting of the Objection Petition and this Order on the Court's website in accordance with this Court's Notice and Order in In re: Objections to Nomination Petitions, Papers, and Certificates of Candidates for Statewide and State-Level Office (Pa. Cmwlth., No. 126 Misc. Dkt. No. 3, January 22, 2026).</p> <p>D. At the hearing, Objectors shall offer proof of timely service of the Objection Petition on the Secretary of the Commonwealth.</p> <p>2. It is FURTHER ORDERED that the parties shall comply with the following in advance of the hearing:</p> <p>A. Objectors shall file a list of all witnesses to be called at the hearing and the curriculum vitae and expert report for each expert witness. Any witness not identified may be precluded from testifying except for good cause shown.</p> <p>B. Candidate shall file a list of all witnesses to be called at the hearing and the curriculum vitae and expert report for each expert witness. Any witness not identified may be precluded from testifying except for good cause shown.</p> <p>3. If signature line challenges are at issue, it is FURTHER ORDERED that the parties shall comply with the following in advance of the hearing:</p> <p>A. Objectors and Candidate or Candidate's representative and, if appropriate, a SURE system operator, shall meet to review each and every challenged signature line.</p> <p>B. Objectors and Candidate shall file a stipulation of the parties that identifies:</p> <p>3</p> <p>(a) the total number of completed signature lines submitted;</p> <p>(b) the total number of uncontested signature lines submitted;</p> <p>(c) the total number of signature lines challenged;</p> <p>(d) each and every signature line to which there is an objection, identified by page number and line number, and the basis for the objection;</p> <p>(e) each and every signature line to be stricken as invalid or for which an objection is to be withdrawn, identified by page number and line number, if the parties can reach such a stipulation.</p> <p>C. Candidate shall file a list of all signature lines, identified by page number and line number, that are facially defective and that Candidate intends to rehabilitate. Candidate shall also state the manner in which Candidate intends to rehabilitate the signature lines.</p> <p>4. Objectors and Candidate may each file a memorandum of law in support of their respective positions. No further memoranda will be permitted unless ordered by the Court.</p> <p>5. Unless otherwise ordered, the parties shall file all items required or permitted by paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 of this Order no later than 48 hours in advance of the hearing. Filing may be accomplished electronically by PACFile (the Pennsylvania appellate court electronic filing system) or in person with the Prothonotary at the Pennsylvania Judicial Center, Suite 2100, 601 Commonwealth Avenue, P.O. Box 69185, Harrisburg, PA 17106-9185. Parties may not file by facsimile or email without express prior permission from the Court.</p> <p>4</p> <p>6. Failure to comply with any provision of this Order may preclude the noncompliant party from entering any evidence, and may result in the imposition of monetary sanctions.</p>			

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Filed Date	Docket Entry / Filer	Representing	Participant Type	Exit Date
March 19, 2026	Order Filed Per Curiam			03/19/2026
	Document Name: Amended Scheduling and Case Management Order/Hearing Scheduled 3/25/2026, 11:00am, Harrisburg			
	Comment: The Hearing on the Objection Petition is rescheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in Courtroom Number 3002, 3rd Floor, Pennsylvania Judicial Center, 601 Commonwealth Avenue, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania			
	All other provisions in this Court's Scheduling and Case Management Order of March 18, 2026, shall remain in effect			
March 23, 2026	Pre-trial Statement Sultana, Taiba		Respondent	
	Document Name: Candidate's Pre-Trial Submission			
March 23, 2026	Filed - Other Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Hitzel, Patricia M.	Petitioner	
	Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Dee, Celeste Lillian	Petitioner	
	Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Bruno, Patricia Joan	Petitioner	
	Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Panto, Pamela A.	Petitioner	
	Document Name: Petitioners' Witness List			
March 23, 2026	Certificate of Service Filed Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Hitzel, Patricia M.	Petitioner	
	Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Dee, Celeste Lillian	Petitioner	
	Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Bruno, Patricia Joan	Petitioner	
	Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Panto, Pamela A.	Petitioner	
	Document Name: Service of Petition on Secretary of the Commonwealth			
March 23, 2026	Filed - Other Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Hitzel, Patricia M.	Petitioner	
	Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Dee, Celeste Lillian	Petitioner	
	Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Bruno, Patricia Joan	Petitioner	
	Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Panto, Pamela A.	Petitioner	
	Document Name: Subpoena			
March 23, 2026	Filed - Other Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Hitzel, Patricia M.	Petitioner	
	Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Dee, Celeste Lillian	Petitioner	
	Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Bruno, Patricia Joan	Petitioner	
	Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Panto, Pamela A.	Petitioner	
	Document Name: Subpoena			
March 24, 2026	Memorandum of Law Filed Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Hitzel, Patricia M.	Petitioner	
	Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Dee, Celeste Lillian	Petitioner	
	Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Bruno, Patricia Joan	Petitioner	
	Lahoud, Raymond Gabriel	Panto, Pamela A.	Petitioner	
	Document Name: Petitioners' Memorandum of Law			

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Filed Date	Docket Entry / Filer	Representing	Participant Type	Exit Date
March 24, 2026	Praeipice Sultana, Taiba		Respondent	
	Document Name: Praeipice to attach additional documents to Candidate's Pre-Trial Submission			
April 1, 2026	Nom Pet Set/Aside Gr. Covey, Anne E.			04/01/2026
	Document Name: Memorandum Opinion: Petition to Set Aside is GRANTED / Nomination Petition of Candidate is SET ASIDE			
	Comment: AND NOW, this 1st day of April, 2026, the Petition to Set Aside Nominating Petition of Taiba Sultana for the Democratic Party Nomination for Senator in the General Assembly from the 18th Legislative District in the May 19, 2026 Primary Election is GRANTED, and the Nomination Petition of Taiba Sultana is hereby SET ASIDE.			
	The Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Secretary) is directed to REMOVE the name of Taiba Sultana as a Candidate for the Democratic Party Nomination for Senator in the General Assembly from the 18th Legislative District in the General Primary Election to be held on May 19, 2026.			
	Given the failure of the parties to stipulate in advance of the hearing regarding signature challenges as this Court directed in its Scheduling and Case Management Order, each side is directed to pay 50% of the costs of the Court Reporter and of the Statewide Uniform Registry of Electors operator.			
	The Prothonotary shall notify the parties hereto and their counsel of this Order and shall also certify a copy hereof to the Secretary forthwith.			
April 2, 2026	Notice of Appeal to PA Supreme Court Filed Sultana, Taiba		Respondent	
April 2, 2026	Notice of Appeal to PA Supreme Court Filed Sultana, Taiba		Respondent	
	Document Name: Jurisdictional Statement			
April 6, 2026	Notice Commonwealth Court Filing Office			
	Document Name: 27 MAP 2026-Record forwarded to the Supreme Court of PA, Middle District.			
April 6, 2026	Certificate of Service Filed Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania			
	Document Name: List of documents forwarded to counsel & all unrepresented parties pursuant to Pa. R.A.P. 1931(d).			
April 9, 2026	Commonwealth Court Decision Affirmed Supreme Court of Pennsylvania			
	Document Name: 27 MAP 2026			
April 13, 2026	Transcript Filed Commonwealth Court Filing Office			
	Document Name: Hearing dated 3/25/26			
May 1, 2026	Notice Supreme Court of Pennsylvania			
	Document Name: 27 MAP 2026-Record returned by the Supreme Court of PA, Middle District.			

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Final Disposition: Yes

Related Journal No:

Judgment Date:

Category: Disposed Before Decision

Disposition Author: Covey, Anne E.

Disposition: Nom Pet Set/Aside Gr.

Disposition Date: April 1, 2026

Disposition Comment: AND NOW, this 1st day of April, 2026, the Petition to Set Aside Nominating Petition of Taiba Sultana for the Democratic Party Nomination for Senator in the General Assembly from the 18th Legislative District in the May 19, 2026 Primary Election is GRANTED, and the Nomination Petition of Taiba Sultana is hereby SET ASIDE.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Secretary) is directed to REMOVE the name of Taiba Sultana as a Candidate for the Democratic Party Nomination for Senator in the General Assembly from the 18th Legislative District in the General Primary Election to be held on May 19, 2026.

Given the failure of the parties to stipulate in advance of the hearing regarding signature challenges as this Court directed in its Scheduling and Case Management Order, each side is directed to pay 50% of the costs of the Court Reporter and of the Statewide Uniform Registry of Electors operator.

The Prothonotary shall notify the parties hereto and their counsel of this Order and shall also certify a copy hereof to the Secretary forthwith.

Dispositional Filing:

Memorandum Opinion

Filing Author:

Covey, Anne E.

Filed Date:

4/1/2026 12:00:00AM