



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

March 18, 2026

Barbara Wagner
Director, Frederick County Board of Elections
8490 Progress Drive, Suite 300
Frederick, Maryland 21701

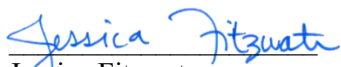
Dear Director Wagner:

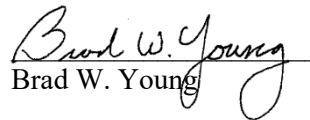
The Frederick News-Post reported that the committee seeking to challenge the County's data center land use decisions "absolutely, definitely" exceeded its signature collection "goals in a significant way." We strongly urge you to count and verify the signatures when they are submitted.

The committee was aware when they launched their petition drive of the mountains they needed to climb to get the issue onto the ballot. Signatures were the first mountain, and legal sufficiency is the second one. We do not suggest you ignore the County Attorney's opinion – we simply request you determine whether the committee climbed the first mountain before making a legal determination.

Your office plays a vital role in protecting the public's trust in free and fair elections and rejecting the signatures outright will undermine the public's faith in democracy. For the forgoing reasons, we ask that you count and verify the signatures before determining the petition's legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,


Jessica Fitzwater


Brad W. Young

Cc: County Council
Board of Elections
Bryon Black, County Attorney