

Restore Public Trust in the Secretary of State!

Hold JOCELYN BENSON accountable for dishonoring statements her office made in courts of law to the Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan.



Accept the ban fracking petitions and canvass them!

In 2016, Committee to Ban Fracking sued, seeking to challenge the constitutionality of the 180-day signature gathering law. The Secretary of State claimed the suit was premature, and the case was dismissed. She stated to the courts, twice:

“The Committee may continue to circulate their petition without any interference from... Secretary Johnson and the other defendants... If and when the [Committee] obtain[s] the additional signatures they require, then they would be able to file their petition.”

The Secretary knew what the Committee’s petition said on the front. The court acknowledged the Committee was continuing to collect using the same petition sheets. The Committee did just that. They collected enough signatures—about 271,000—and submitted them to the Secretary of State/Bureau of Elections office on November 5, 2018. The Director of Elections rejected all the signatures within an hour, refusing to take them in, stating the projected election date on the front of the petition was inaccurate. They now claim the Committee did not even “file” the signatures in November. However, there could be no rejection if they were not in fact filed/tendered/submitted.

On March 7, 2019 Secretary Benson, in response to the Committee’s new lawsuit, challenging the rejection, said to the court that **their previous statements--that the Committee “would be able to file their petition”--were not made by THEM, but were merely words in legal briefs by their attorneys, and that the Committee should not have relied on them!**

Let that sink in. Everyone knows that attorneys represent their clients’ positions and statements. The Secretary of State would like the Courts, and everyone, to believe that what their office says in legal briefs, (which are public statements in our public courts), are **not to be believed or relied upon**. Furthermore, the Secretary admitted that a projected date on a petition is not a requirement. Is this transparent, ethical, trustworthy government? Quite obviously, it is not.