



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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MAURA HEALEY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

TEL: (617) 727-2200  
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March 22, 2018

Stephen F. Tougas  
78A Gilbert Street  
Quincy, MA 02169

Re: Initiative Petition No. 17-09: A Law to End All Tolling in Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Tougas:

I am in receipt of your letter dated March 16, 2018, which addresses the above-referenced initiative petition which you submitted on or before the first Wednesday in August 2017 and which the Attorney General was unable to certify as compliant with the requirements of Amendment Article 48 of the Massachusetts Constitution for the reasons set forth in my letter to you dated September 6, 2017.

I understand from your letter that you disagree with the Attorney General's September 2017 determination regarding your petition, but that you would be willing to settle any legal claims related to that determination for your petition being "submitted forthwith as a certified 2018 ballot question." We must respectfully decline your request. First, the Attorney General's determination is strongly supported by settled precedent of the Supreme Judicial Court, as set forth in my September 6, 2017 letter. Second, your requested resolution is not possible. Because sufficient certified registered voter signatures were not submitted to the Secretary of the Commonwealth on or before the first Wednesday in December 2017, Amendment Article 48 does not allow your petition to appear on the ballot for the November 2018 biennial statewide election. *See* Mass. Const. Amend. Art. 48, The Init., Pt. II, §§ 3, 4; Pt. V, § 1.

Thank you for your correspondence, and I hope this additional information is helpful to you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Juliana deHaan Rice".

Juliana deHaan Rice  
Deputy Chief, Government Bureau  
617-963-2583

JdHR/sc

