



Data Analysis of Verify the Recall & True the Vote¹ Walker Challenges

I. Abstract Summary of Analysis

Reading True the Vote’s summary analysis reveals that True the Vote has drawn many false conclusions not supported by their own data. Their data actually reveals that there is no widespread problem with signatures and that not enough signatures could be challenged to stop the recall. Despite their data confirming the validity of the recall, True the Vote has made many false claims to the media:

True the Vote’s claim that 50% of signatures are invalid is false

True the Vote’s own data show they simply do not have any way to mathematically support a claim of a 50% invalid rate. What their data does suggest is a conclusion of an ‘invalid rate’ of only 6%, far less than any other recall to date.

True the Vote did not challenge enough signatures to stop the recall

There is no need for GAB to consider True the Vote’s challenges because they fall hundreds of thousands of signatures short of threatening to stop the recall. They would need to challenge 459k signatures and fall hundreds of thousands short of challenging that number.

The sheer number of factual errors in the line-by-line challenges calls into question True the Vote’s entire operation

True the Vote claims to have found 55,000 invalid signatures. Yet a simple review of many of those challenged pages reveal the challenges are simply inaccurate and false on their face- claiming information is missing that is clearly present on the page. The sheer number of these inaccuracies – when True the Vote claims each challenge was reviewed by volunteers 3 times – leads one to suspect that either True the Vote’s claimed quality control methods were not implemented, or that factually inaccurate claims were submitted despite their own quality control indicating they were false..

True the Vote’s claim about total signatures submitted is false

True the Vote has made the claim that the recall committee submitted less than 820,000 signatures, despite the fact that their own data proves the recall committees submitted hundreds of thousands of signatures more than that number.

¹ For the purposes of this document, this 3rd party challenge effort will be referred to as “True the Vote”

I. True the Vote’s own data analysis disproves the pro-Walker spin they have promoted in the press. The recalls should proceed.

True the Vote’s analysis of their own data is included in the document “Walker Executive Summary” available on their website. It is as follows²:

True the Vote Analysis of Walker Recall Petition		
Only 50% of ~1,500,000 Records Submitted Will Be Eligible, Based on Current Data Trends		
Total Signatures Submitted Will Be ~ 150,000 FEWER Than the Touted Million Signature Mark		
Governor Scott Walker Recall Petition Audit - Summary Analysis as of 2.26.12		
Variables Analyzed*		Total Counts
1 Total Number of Pages Submitted		152,508
2 Total Number of Pages Processed		138,203
3 Number of Pages Unable to Access		undetermined
4 Number Records Processed		1,382,058
5 Blank Lines		557,469
6 Unique Records		819,233
7 Incomplete / Indecipherable Records		36,127
8 Sign Date Out of Range		14,763
9 Out of State		4718
10 Duplicate Signatures		5356
11 Total Ineligible Signatures		55,608
12 Total Signatures for Further Investigation**		228,940
13 Total Eligible Signatures based on data available		534,685

Despite the numbers provided in their own data summary above, True the Vote makes the following factually false claims to the media:

1. *The ‘invalid rate’ for the signatures they have analyzed is 50%.* This claim is false.
2. *If all of True the Vote’s challenges would be accepted by GAB, they have challenged enough signatures to stop the recall.* This claim is false.
3. *They have found 55,608 ineligible signatures.* This claim is false.
4. *The recall committees submitted less than 820,000 signatures.* This claim is false.

These claims are refuted below.

² The red line numbers to the summary table added for reference purposes throughout this document.

II. False Claim- ‘Invalid Rate’ for The Signatures They Have Analyzed is 50%.

The sub headline to True the Vote’s Executive Summary Analysis claims that their analysis predicts that only 50% of the signatures submitted will be eligible, based on current trends:

True the Vote Analysis of Walker Recall Petition
Only 50% of ~1,500,000 Records Submitted Will Be Eligible, Based on Current Data Trends
Total Signatures Submitted Will Be ~ 150,000 FEWER Than the Touted Million Signature Mark

Yet this number remains unsubstantiated throughout the entire report. Simple math of the numbers provided proves that an ‘ineligible rate of 50%’ is simply not present.

- According to True the Vote, 55,608 signatures are ineligible³ of 819,233 entered⁴. 6th grade arithmetic reveals that is a rate of 6.78%. No where near 50%.
- If True the Vote sought to claim that “further investigation” signatures⁵ should also be disqualified along with the ‘ineligible signatures’⁶, the math once again is simple: $(55,608 + 228,940) / 819,233 = 34.7\%$. Once again, no where near 50% and that includes the completely unlikely notion that every single ‘needs further investigation’ would result in an invalid signature.⁷

It should be noted that nowhere in True the Vote’s documentation do they advocate that those signatures flagged as “need further investigation” should be summarily disqualified. Yet in their executive summary table, they arbitrarily add these “needs further investigation” signatures in with those they are claiming are “ineligible” to come up with their final conclusion that only 534,685 signatures are valid.⁸ This unexplained addition of two unrelated numbers gives the reader the dubious impression that 284,548 are ‘challenged’ despite only 55,608 actually being challenged under their own designation.

Conclusion:

Thus, by True the Vote’s own summary table, the ‘invalid rate’ for signatures comes no where near reaching 50%, as they have claimed to the press.

³ True the Vote Executive Summary, Line 11

⁴ True the Vote Executive Summary, Line 6

⁵ True the Vote Executive Summary, Line 12

⁶ True the Vote Executive Summary, Line 11

⁷ It should be noted that for nearly every ‘needs further investigation’ challenged, not a single reason explaining why it needs further review has been offered, nor any proof explaining why such a signature should be called into question. It appears these names were simply selected at random.

⁸ True the Vote Executive Summary, Line 13

III. False Claim- True the Vote Challenged Enough Signatures to Stop The Recall

Number of signatures submitted to GAB: Approximately 1 million
Number of signatures needed to challenge to defeat recall: 459,792

Number of 'hard' challenges'⁹ by True the Vote: 55,608
Number of 'soft challenges'¹⁰ "needing further review" by True the Vote: 228,940
Total signatures challenged: 284,548

Thus, even if every challenge, including the ambiguous "needs further review" were accepted, the recall committee has well over 175,000 signatures remaining as a 'buffer.'" And this is before any actual review of the challenges for validity has occurred.

Conclusion:

Thus, by True the Vote's own summary table, not enough signatures have been challenged to stop the recall.

⁹ Referred to as 'ineligible signatures' by True the Vote, from Executive Summary, Line 11

¹⁰ Many in this category are challenged for often ridiculous and legally incorrect reasons, but usually with no reason at all. But they are included in this analysis for argument's sake. From Executive Summary, Line 12

IV. False Claim- They have found 55,608 ineligible signatures.

Once one unpacks the actual challenges proffered by True the Vote, it is clear that despite their claims that each signature was entered “2.67 times”¹¹, a facial review of hundreds of thousands of challenged signatures prove that the challenges stipulate inaccurate information regarding what appears on the page.

Challenges regarding missing information when compared to the actual petition page fall flat as the information is clearly present. On these points, there is no room for subtlety or interruptions. The challenges are simply inaccurate and false. The sheer number of these inaccuracies when True the Vote claims each challenge was reviewed nearly 3 times for quality control leads one to suspect that either True the Vote’s claimed quality control methods were not implemented, or factually inaccurate claims were submitted despite their quality control indicating they were false claims. For example:

- True the Vote claims Gena Clarson’s signature doesn’t count because it is dated “2012” instead of 2011 (Pg 5 of Ineligible Report). Review of the actual petition shows her signature is correctly dated “11/15/2011.”¹²

2. Gena Clarson Qual Clo	10455 Sutcliffe Rd Black Earth WI 53515	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City Black Earth (Municipality Name)	11/15/2011 (Month) (Day) (Year)
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- True the Vote claims Dana Johnson’s signature doesn’t count because it is dated: “1/072012”. (pg 1, Ineligible Report). Review of actual petition shows her signature is correctly dated 1/7/2012.¹³

2. Dana Johnson Dana Johnson	7953 1/2 Daring Ln Rd Summit 54880	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City Summit (Municipality Name)	1/7/2012 (Month) (Day) (Year)	Dana Phone ()
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- True the Vote challenges Thomas Beck as being “Questionable” with no further explanation. (Pg 9751 of Ineligible Report). Review of the actual petition shows that a Thomas Beck¹⁴ lives at that address... Why should his signature not count?

¹¹ “Key Points and Statistics” section of Walker Executive Summary document.

¹² <http://ttvverify.com/petitions/sw001117.png>

¹³ <http://ttvverify.com/petitions/sw000171.png>

¹⁴ White page search reveals a Thomas Beck on Elm St. Petition page: <http://ttvverify.com/petitions/sw112192.png>

1.	Thomas J. Beck		Street: 205 Elm St	<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City	Antigo	11/07/2011 <small>(Month) (Day) (Year)</small>
2.			City: Antigo WI ZIP: 54409			
			205 Elm St	<input type="checkbox"/> Town		

There are hundreds of thousands of these types of factual errors committed by True the Vote. The sheer number of errors defies all plausible explanation of occasional accidental errors.

Conclusion:

Thus, by True the Vote's own line-by-line challenges, so many factual errors have occurred as to call into doubt their entire operation.

V. False Claim- Recall Committee Only Submitted 824,589 Signatures, Not 1 Million.

Despite their own data indicating otherwise, True the Vote falsely reported to the media that recall committees submitted less than 820,000 signatures to recall Governor Walker, rather than the approximately 1 million signatures reported to GAB.

According to True the Vote’s executive analysis, they only entered 819k signatures¹⁵. Yet they note that from the 152,508 pages available to enter¹⁶, they only entered 138,203 pages¹⁷. That is over 14,305 pages True the Vote admits to not entering, yet then later concludes those pages must contain no signatures and report to the press that only 800k signatures were submitted by recall petitioners to GAB.¹⁸

This failure to enter thousands of pages on their part matches their failure to enter thousands of pages during the Senate verification process. Just as with the Senate petitions, they falsely use their own failure as ‘statistical proof’ that less signatures were submitted than claimed by the recall committees.¹⁹ For example, True the Vote reported²⁰ that Senator Fitzgerald committee only submitted 14,601 raw signatures before any signatures are challenged. GAB’s own internal numbers verified the recall committee’s assertion that 20,723 signatures were submitted before any signatures were disqualified. A review of True the Vote’s own raw data entry for Senator Fitzgerald confirms of the first 50 pages available for download from GAB’s website, 15 of those 50 pages were not data entered by True the Vote yet True the Vote used their lack of entry as ‘proof’ that fewer signatures were submitted to GAB than reported.²¹

In the case of the Governor’s challenge, True the Vote admits they didn’t enter 14,305 pages. As they know, this potential accounts for hundreds of thousands of signatures. For example:

Avg. signatures per page scenario for 14,305 pages	Potential number of signatures not entered by True the Vote
10	143,050
9	128,745

¹⁵ True the Vote Executive Summary, Line 6

¹⁶ True the Vote Executive Summary, Line 1

¹⁷ True the Vote Executive Summary, Line 2

¹⁸ This false claim reported by WTMJ (<http://www.620wtmj.com/blogs/jeffwagner/139222219.html>) as well as by MagIver institute (<http://twitter.com/#!/MacIverWisc/status/174165396134436866>)

¹⁹ As reported by The Wisconsin Reporter <http://www.wisconsinreporter.com/missing-signatures-review-finds-gap-in-wisconsin-recall-figures>

²⁰ Same Wisconsin Reporter article

²¹ This failure to enter pages by True the Vote was reported by Recall Petitioner Lori Compas to GAB in an email on Feb 12th in which she indicated, in part, “...the first 50-pages of Truth the Vote’s file is missing pages 4, 5, 8, 29, 32, 35, 37, 39, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and 50, despite the fact that all those pages are posted on the Government Accountability Board’s website.”

8	114,440
7	100,135

These pages alone could account for between 100k to 140k signatures True the Vote admits they have undercounted by. And this doesn't even include the tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of individual signatures that True the Vote failed to enter on a given. (e.g., if 10 signatures appear on the page, but they only entered 8, they undercounted the page by 2 signatures). All of these acknowledged data entry errors on their end add up to explaining their undercount of hundreds of thousands of signatures.

Conclusion:

Thus, by True the Vote's own summary table, the recall committees could not possibly have submitted less than 820k signatures, as they have claimed in the press.