



# Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **ELECTION BOARD DENIES PETITION INITIATIVE REGARDING CONSTITUTION**

**St. Regis Mohawk Tribe-** Members of the Election Board of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe have formally determined that last year's petition initiative which questioned the validity of the Constitution failed to collect the requisite number of signatures from eligible voters. Given that the petition drive fell short of the required number of eligible voter signatures, the Election Board denied the petition.

The circulated petition posed the question: Is the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council Constitution valid?

Organizers of the petition drive formally submitted the petition to the Tribal Clerk on November 7, 2007. On that date, there were 7,628 eligible voters according to the Election Board. According to rules that govern referenda, 25 percent of the eligible voters—or 1,907 signatures must have been obtained in order for the petition to gain approval. The Election Board conducted a thorough review and concluded that organizers obtained 1,087 valid eligible voter signatures, 820 signatures shy of what was needed.

In August 2007, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe conducted a referendum to approve adoption of the 1995 Constitution. The Constitution was voted down by a two-thirds margin.

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