

Precinct Committeepersons

State of Illinois

2024 CANDIDATE'S GUIDE

Issued by the
Illinois State Board of Elections



AMENDMENTS

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PREFACE

THE 2024 CANDIDATE'S GUIDE

This Candidate's Guide has been prepared to provide information for candidates seeking office in 2024. In addition, information is provided regarding nomination procedures and the objection process, as well as a section that provides answers to some of the more frequently asked questions about nominating petitions and procedures. A signature requirements section is included with each specific office in this guide.

All citations contained in this guide refer to the Illinois Election Code (10 ILCS 5/1-1 *et seq.*, as amended) or as otherwise indicated. This guide may be amended to include new legislation and court decisions as they arise. Please visit the Illinois State Board of Elections' website (www.elections.il.gov) for any updates.

Legal information contained in this guide is not binding and should not be construed as legal advice or sufficient argument in response to an objection to any candidate's nominating papers. The State Board of Elections recommends that all prospective candidates consult with competent legal counsel when preparing their nomination papers.

Statutory deadlines for filing objections and for withdrawing from all but one incompatible office will depend on the filing period. Specific deadline dates can be found in the SBE Election and Campaign Finance Calendar for 2024 located on the [publications page](#) under "Election Guides." The calendar, this guide, and filing date announcements can be found on the State Board of Elections' website.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting your election authority or the State Board of Elections.

APPARENT CONFORMITY

The State Board of Elections conducts an "apparent conformity" review of all nominating petitions filed therewith. The review will take place after a petition is filed and will be limited to determining the following:

(1) whether a signed Statement of Candidacy has been filed, and (2) whether the filed nominating sheets contain gross signatures equal to or exceeding 10% of the minimum number of signatures required for the office sought.

All candidates whose petitions fail the apparent conformity review will be notified in writing and given the opportunity to appear before the State Board of Elections at its first meeting held to call petition objection cases before a determination is made to reject the candidate's petition on the basis of non-conformity.

Please note, SBE employees are not available during filing periods to notarize documents.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The State Board of Elections also produces additional guides that can be helpful when preparing to run for office. The Election and Campaign Finance Calendar lists more specific dates and deadlines to follow, and the County Officers book and Federal and State Officers book, located under "Directory of Officials," have relevant contact information for elected officials. On our website under the Campaign Disclosure tab, you can also find information regarding campaign disclosure and different tutorials on the financial filing process.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Illinois State Board of Elections – Springfield Office
2329 South MacArthur Boulevard
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Phone: (217) 782-4141
Fax: (217) 782-5959

Illinois State Board of Elections – Chicago Office
69 West Washington Street, Pedway LL-08
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Phone: (312) 814-6440
Fax: (312) 814-6485

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GLOSSARY

BUSINESS DAY

Any day in which the office of an election authority, local election official, or the State Board of Elections is open to the public for a minimum of seven hours. (10 ILCS 5/1-3(22))

Note: If the first or last day fixed by law to do any act required or allowed by the Election Code falls on a State holiday or a Saturday or a Sunday, the period shall extend through the first business day next following the day otherwise fixed as the first or last day, irrespective of whether any election authority or local election official conducts business on the State holiday, Saturday, or Sunday. (10 ILCS 5/1-6(a))

If the time within which any act provided by law (but outside of the Election Code) is to be done and the last day is Saturday or Sunday or is a holiday as defined or fixed in any statute, then it shall also be excluded. If the day succeeding such Saturday, Sunday, or holiday is also a holiday, then such succeeding day shall also be excluded. (5 ILCS 70/1.11)

CALL

A notice to members of the electoral board, the objector, and the candidate (or proponent of the referendum) of the time and place that the electoral board will convene to begin the hearing on the objection.

DISTRICT

Any area which votes as a unit for the election of any officer, other than the State or a unit of local government or school district, including but not limited to, legislative, representative, congressional and judicial districts, judicial circuits, county board districts, municipal and sanitary district wards, school board districts, and precincts. (10 ILCS 5/1-3(14))

ELECTION AUTHORITY

The county clerk or Board of Election Commissioners. (10 ILCS 5/1-3(8))

ELECTION JURISDICTION

- 1) An entire county, in the case of a county in which no city board of election commissioners is located or which is under the jurisdiction of a county board of election commissioners;
- 2) The territorial jurisdiction of a city board of election commissioners; and
- 3) The territory in a county outside of the jurisdiction of a city board of election commissioners.

In each instance, election jurisdiction shall be determined according to which election authority maintains the permanent registration records of qualified electors. (10 ILCS 5/1-3(9))

ESTABLISHED POLITICAL PARTY

A political party which at the last election received more than 5% of the entire vote cast in the district, political subdivision, or State. (10 ILCS 5/7-2)

For more information on established political parties, see page 15.

LEADING POLITICAL PARTY

One of the two political parties whose candidates for governor at the most recent three gubernatorial elections received either the highest or second highest average number of votes. The political party whose candidates for governor received the highest average number of votes shall be known as the first leading political party and the political party whose candidates for governor received the second highest average number of votes shall be known as the second leading political party. (10 ILCS 5/1-3(21))

NEW POLITICAL PARTY

A party other than an established party, initially formed by a petition filed with the local election official for that unit of government. (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

For more information on new political parties, see page 16.

NOTARY

Any individual appointed and commissioned to perform notarial acts. A notarial act is any act that a notary is authorized to perform and includes taking an acknowledgement, administering an oath or affirmation, taking a verification upon oath or affirmation, and witnessing or attesting a signature. (5 ILCS 312/1-104(a), 6-101(a))

POLITICAL SLOGAN

Any word or words expressing or connoting a position, opinion, or belief that the candidate may promote, including but not limited to, any word or words conveying any meaning other than that of the personal identity of the candidate. (10 ILCS 5/7-17(b), 16-3(e))

POLITICAL OR GOVERNMENTAL SUBDIVISION

Any unit of local government or school district in which elections are or may be held. For election purposes, this includes Regional Boards of School Trustees and Township Boards of School Trustees. (10 ILCS 5/1-3(6))

REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE STATE, POLITICAL SUBDIVISION, OR DISTRICT

Whenever a statute requires that a nomination petition or a petition proposing a public question shall be signed by a specific percentage of the registered voters of the state, political subdivision or district, the total number of voters to which the percentage is applied shall be the number of voters who are registered in the state, political subdivision or district, as the case may be, on the date registration closed before the regular election next preceding the last day on which such petition may be filed. (10 ILCS 5/3-1.3)

VOTER

For the purpose of determining eligibility to sign a nominating petition or a petition proposing a public question, the terms “voter,” “registered voter,” “qualified voter,” “legal voter,” “elector,” “qualified elector,” “primary elector” and “qualified primary elector” as used in the Election Code or in another statute shall mean a person who is registered to vote at the address shown opposite their signature on the petition or was registered to vote at such address when they signed the petition. Any person, otherwise qualified under Section 3-1.2 of the Election Code, who has not moved to another residence but whose address has changed as a result of implementation of a 9-1-1 emergency telephone system shall be considered a “voter,” “registered voter,” “qualified voter,” “legal voter,” “elector,” “qualified elector,” “primary elector” and “qualified primary elector.” (10 ILCS 5/3-1.2)

GENERAL PRIMARY
MARCH 19, 2024

GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 5, 2024

OFFICERS NOMINATED AT THE PRIMARY & ELECTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(a))	
President and Vice President of the United States	County Commissioners (in counties not under township organization)
Representatives in Congress: All Districts	County Board Members (in counties under township organization) This includes elected President of the County Board or County Chief Executive.
State Senators Districts: 1,4,7,10,13,16,19,22,25,28, 31,34,37,40,43,46,49,52,55,58 (10 ILCS 5/29C-10)	Members of Boards of Review (in counties with elected Boards, including Cook County)
Representatives in the General Assembly Districts 1-118	County Circuit Clerks
Judges: Supreme Court, Appellate Court, Circuit Court, Resident Circuit Court, Subcircuits. Vacancies will be filled if required, all judges seeking retention will appear on the ballot at the General Election, and additional judgeships, if required	County Coroners (10 ILCS 5/2A-18)
Regional Superintendent of Schools (vacancies)	County Recorder of Deeds (population over 60,000) (55 ILCS 5/3-5001, 10 ILCS 5/2A-13)
Sanitary District Commissioners and Trustees, other than Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago or Fox Metro Water Reclamation District (10 ILCS 5/2A-41)	State's Attorneys
County Auditors in counties with a population of 75,000- 3,000,000 (55 ILCS 5/3-1001, 10 ILCS 5/2A-14)	

OFFICERS ELECTED AT THE PRIMARY (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(b))

Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the National nominating conventions (requirements available in the President & Delegates publication)	Special Charter Municipalities, Annual Municipal Election (officers)
Ward Committeepersons (City of Chicago)	Precinct Committeepersons (all counties except Cook)
School Districts under Article 33 of the School Code (members)	

ANNUAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Municipal Primary (if required): February 6, 2024	Municipal General Election: March 19, 2024
Contact the county clerk, board of election commissioners, or municipal clerk for filing information. (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(b)(3))	

CANDIDATE FILING PERIODS

Federal, State, and County

	FILING PERIOD	PETITION CIRCULATION
Established Political Parties	November 27 – December 4, 2023 (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 7-12(1), 8-8, 8-9)	September 5, 2023
Special Judicial Filing Period	December 18 – December 26, 2023 (10 ILCS 5/7-12(1)) <i>For Supreme, Appellate, and Circuit Court judges when a vacancy occurs within the three-week period prior to the filing deadline, November 13 – December 4, 2023.</i>	
New Political Parties and Independents	June 17 – June 24, 2024 (10 ILCS 5/10-4, 10-6)	March 26, 2024

Municipal

	FILING PERIOD	PETITION CIRCULATION
Nonpartisan	October 16 – October 23, 2023 (10 ILCS 5/10-4, 10-6(5))	July 25, 2023
Established Political Parties and New Political Parties	November 27 – December 4, 2023 (10 ILCS 5/10-4, 10-6(3))	September 5, 2023

CANDIDATE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Meet **residency, age, and other qualifications** for the specific office
- ☐ File paperwork with the **SBE Campaign Disclosure division** or the **Federal Election Commission** regarding finances (if needed)
- ☐ File a notarized **Statement of Candidacy** including (but not limited to):
 - Your name
 - Your address
 - Office sought
 - Party
 - Office location (for example, the district or county)
 - Date of the election
- ☐ File a **Statement of Economic Interests with the Secretary of State (or proper filing entity) and receipt of filing with the State Board of Elections (or proper filing entity)** (does not apply to federal offices or political party offices)
- ☐ File a **Loyalty Oath** (optional)
- ☐ File a **Code of Fair Campaign Practices** (optional)
- ☐ File notarized **petition sheets** with the required number of signatures, numbered consecutively starting with the number "1"
- ☐ Include **Certificate of Deletions** with petitions, numbered consecutively starting with the number "1" (if applicable)
- ☐ Fill out **data entry card** (for people who file with the State Board of Elections) and place on top of nominating petition packet (does not need to be attached to the nominating packet)
- ☐ **File with the appropriate** election authority (see specific office in this guide for details)

Note: This checklist is not binding and should not be construed as sufficient argument in response to any objection or legal argument. If you have further questions, you may contact the division of Election Operations at the State Board of Elections or your legal counsel.

FILING FOR OFFICE

GENERAL FILING INFORMATION

OBTAIN LEGAL COUNSEL

Candidates are strongly advised to obtain legal counsel regarding their legal qualifications for office, the proper method for completing the petition forms with respect to the office, the minimum and maximum number of signatures required, the qualifications of signers and circulators, and other information.

FORMAT OF NOMINATION PAPERWORK

Election laws prescribe the general format of forms and documents to be submitted when seeking nomination to office. The State Board of Elections (“SBE”) has prepared suggested forms for petitions, statements of candidacy and other applicable forms. The official SBE form number to be used is included under each office in this guide. The forms can be downloaded by clicking on the link or they may be obtained from your election authority. You may also purchase forms from election supply vendors.

FILING NOMINATING PAPERWORK

Nominating papers may be filed by mail or in person, either by the candidate or an agent of the candidate, in the appropriate filing period noted on [page four](#). The location of where to file is included under each office in this guide.

Filings must be received no earlier than 8:00 AM, or the normal opening hour of such office, on the first day of the filing period, and no later than 5:00 PM, or the close of business (whichever is later), on the last day of that filing period.

Welsh v. Education Officers Electoral Board, 322 Ill. App. 3d 568, 750 N.E. 2d 222 (1st Dist. 2001) (10 ILCS 5/1-4(a), 7-12(6), 10-6.2)

Note: The SBE **will not** accept any petition(s) for filing after 5:00 PM on the last day of the filing period. This applies to any individual(s) waiting in line as of the 5:00 PM deadline who have not yet filed their petition(s). (26 Ill. Adm. Code 201.10, 202.10)

Candidates file nomination papers with the State Board of Elections for federal, state, judicial, and multi-county offices. Nomination papers for county offices are filed with the county clerk. Candidates in Peoria County file with the Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners.

PETITIONS SENT IN BY MAIL

Petitions sent by mail (United States Post Office only) and received after midnight of the first day for filing, and in the first U.S. Postal Service delivery of that day, shall be deemed filed as of 8:00 AM or as of the normal opening hour of such day for purposes of the ballot placement lottery (26 Ill. Adm. Code 201.20, 202.20). Candidates who file by mail with the SBE, and who wish to qualify for the lottery, must mail petitions to the Springfield office at 2329 S. MacArthur Blvd., Springfield, IL 62704-4503. Nominating petitions received through other delivery systems are not considered “mail” and will not be included in the lottery. **It is important to note that petitions received before the first day of filing cannot be accepted and will be returned to the candidate.** (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6), 8-9, 10-6.2)

BALLOT PLACEMENT LOTTERY

The lottery is held within nine days following the last day to file petitions. Petitions filed in person at 8:00 AM on the first filing day or at the normal opening hour of such day, and petitions filed by mail and received in the first mail delivery of the first filing day, are included in the lottery drawing to determine the first ballot position. All other petitions, besides ones filed in the last hour of the filing deadline, are placed on the ballot in the order they are filed.

Two or more petitions filed within the last hour of the filing deadline (between 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM on the last filing day) shall be deemed filed simultaneously and are included in the lottery drawing to determine the final ballot position. For further information on the lottery process, see [page 22](#). (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6), 8-9(2), 10-6.2; 26 Ill. Adm. Code 201.40, 202.40)

MULTIPLE FILINGS OF NOMINATION PAPERS

If multiple sets of nomination papers are filed for a candidate for the same office, the SBE, appropriate election authority, or local election official where the petitions are filed shall, within two business days, notify the candidate of the multiple petition filings and that the candidate has **three business days after receipt of the notice** to notify the appropriate filing authority that the prior set of petitions may be canceled.

If the candidate notifies the proper filing authority, the last set of petitions filed shall be the only petitions to be considered valid. If the candidate fails to notify the proper filing authority, only the first set of petitions filed shall be valid and all subsequent petitions shall be void. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(11), 8-9(4), 10-6.2)

Note: If petitions for nomination have been filed for the same person for more than one political party, the candidate's name shall not be certified for the primary ballot for any party. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(9))

INCOMPATIBLE OFFICES

If petitions for nomination have been filed for the same person for two or more offices that are incompatible (e.g., State Representative and State Senator), where the same person could not serve in more than one of such offices if elected, that person must withdraw as a candidate from all but one of such offices **within five business days** following the last day for petition filing. If petitions are filed for the same person for more than one political party, the candidate shall not be certified nor printed on the primary ballot of any party. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(9), 8-9, 10-7)

Judicial candidates at the circuit court level are limited to filing a petition for one circuit court vacancy and/or a petition for one subcircuit vacancy in any filing period. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(9))

Note: When a candidate withdraws their nomination papers, the original petition is not returned to the individual, but remains in the office of either the State Board of Elections, the election authority, or local election official in which they filed. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 10-4)

The Office of the Illinois Attorney General has issued a number of opinions on the incompatibility of offices. For questions concerning the same, contact the Opinions Bureau of the Attorney General's office at (217) 782-9070.

CANDIDATES MUST FILE AS:

- A candidate of an established political party;
- A candidate of a new political party;
- An independent candidate; or
- A nonpartisan candidate (certain sanitary districts, school boards, and nonpartisan municipalities).

CANDIDATES MUST FILE:

- Statement of Candidacy
- Loyalty Oath (optional)
- **Receipt** from filing a Statement of Economic Interests (not required for federal or political party offices – see page 13)
- Nominating petitions containing a sufficient number of original signatures
- Certificate of officers authorized to fill vacancies (for new political parties) (10 ILCS 5/10-5, 10-11)

*The SBE has provided signature requirements for each office in this guide for offices that file with the SBE. For candidates that file with a different election authority or local election official, contact the appropriate filing office for specific signature requirements.

NOMINATION PAPERWORK & FORMATTING

COMPLETING A STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

Each candidate, whether an individual candidate or one whose name appears on a slate or certificate of nomination, must complete and file a Statement of Candidacy. The form of the candidate's name, as printed and signed, should match the name as printed on the petition. The address of the candidate, the office which the candidate is running for, the political party designation (if applicable) and statements that the person is qualified for the office specified, should also match the information that is printed on the petition. See each individual office in this guide for the correct SBE suggested Statement of Candidacy form.

The candidate must swear to or affirm the accuracy of the statements within the Statement of Candidacy, sign the Statement of Candidacy, and have the statement notarized. The Statement of Candidacy must accompany the nomination papers and should be attached at the beginning of the packet. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

PREPARING PETITION SHEETS

The petition signature sheets must be original, all one uniform size, and numbered consecutively, beginning with the top petition signature sheet as the number "1." The Statement of Candidacy, optional Loyalty Oath and receipt for filing the Statement of Economic Interests should be attached to the petition sheets, preferably on top, and do not need to be of uniform size to the petition sheets nor be numbered. The petition signature sheets must be neatly fastened together in book form at one edge in a secure and suitable manner (paperclips, clipboards, etc., are not secure ways to fasten petitions and those bound in this manner will not be accepted by the State Board of Elections). The petitions must contain the original signatures of the voters and the original signature of the circulator and shall not be photocopies or duplicates of such sheets. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

Note: Once the petition has been filed it cannot be modified, altered, or added to in any way. The only exception to this is adding the receipt for filing a Statement of Economic Interests, which must be filed no later than 5:00 PM for the State Board of Elections filers, or the close of business for other offices, on the last day to file nomination papers. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 7-12, 10-4, 10-5)

The heading of the nomination petition pages must include information relative to the election, the candidate, the office, political party (when applicable), and the candidate's place of residence. The headings on any particular page must be completed prior to the circulation of that petition sheet and the heading on each sheet shall be the same. **The State Board of Elections will certify each candidate's information as it appears on the first numbered page of the petition;** however, other election authorities may follow a different policy in regard to petition filing. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

NAMES ON PETITION SHEETS AND STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

The candidate's name should appear in exactly the same form on the petition sheets, Statement of Candidacy, and Loyalty Oath. The SBE will certify each candidate's name as it appears on the first numbered page of the petition (other election authorities may follow a different policy with regards to petitions filed with their offices). A candidate's failure

to match their name on the petition to their name on the Statement of Candidacy can result in the candidate not being certified for the ballot.

Note: Petitions of candidates for specified offices, which are to be filed with the same officer, may contain the names of two or more candidates of the same political party for the same or different offices; however, each candidate must submit their own Statement of Candidacy, receipt for filing a Statement of Economic Interests, and optional Loyalty Oath. (10 ILCS 5/7-10)

USING A NICKNAME OR OTHER TITLES ON FORMS

The candidate's given name or names, initial or initials, nickname by which the candidate is commonly known, or a combination thereof may be used in addition to the candidate's surname. No other designation such as a title, degree, or nickname suggesting or implying possession of a title, degree or professional status, or similar information may be used in connection with the candidate's surname. Also, a candidate may not use a political slogan as part of their name on the ballot, notwithstanding that the political slogan may be part of the candidate's name. (10 ILCS 5/7-10.2, 7-17(b), 8-8.1, 10-5.1, 16-3(e))

Note: The State Board of Elections, election authority, or local election official shall not certify to any election authority any candidate name designation that is inconsistent with these provisions. (10 ILCS 5/7-17(c), 16-3(f))

CANDIDATE LEGAL NAME CHANGE

If a candidate has changed their name, whether by a statutory or common law procedure in Illinois or any other jurisdiction within three years before the last day for filing the petition or certificate for that office, whichever is applicable, then the following must ensue:

- 1) The candidate's name on the petition or certificate must be followed by "formerly known as (list all prior names during the three-year period) until name changed on (list date of each name change)";
- 2) The petition or certificate must be accompanied by the candidate's affidavit stating the candidate's previous names during the specified period; and,
- 3) The date(s) each of those name(s) were changed.

Failure to meet these requirements shall be grounds for denying certification of the candidate's name for the ballot or removing the candidate's name from the ballot, as appropriate, but these requirements **do not** apply to name changes resulting from adoption to assume an adoptive parent's or parents' surname, marriage or civil union to assume a spouse's surname, or dissolution of marriage or civil union or declaration of invalidity of marriage or civil union to assume a former surname, or a name change that conforms the candidate's name to his or her gender identity. (10 ILCS 5/7-10.2, 7-17(b)-(c), 8-8.1, 10-5.1, 16.3(e)-(f))

OPTIONAL FILINGS:

Loyalty Oath: The filing of the Loyalty Oath is optional for candidates. The following court cases have held that the requirement for filing the Loyalty Oath is unconstitutional: Communist Party of Indiana v. Witcomb, 414 U.S. 441 (1974); Communist Party of Illinois v. Ogilvie, 357 F. Supp. 105 (N.D. Ill. 1972); Socialist Workers Party v. Ogilvie, 357 F. Supp. 109 (N.D. Ill. 1972).

Code of Fair Campaign Practices:

Candidates and committees are urged to abide by the provisions for campaigning outlined in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices. This is a voluntary statement made and filed prior to an election, vowing that the candidate making the statement will conduct a positive, rather than a negative, campaign. If a candidate or committee chooses to make such a statement, it shall be filed with the county clerk if the candidate is a local candidate or committee, or the State Board of Elections for offices that file within. (10 ILCS 5/29B-5 *et seq.*)

SIGNING AND CIRCULATING PETITIONS

PETITION CIRCULATOR REQUIREMENTS

- Must be at least 18 years of age or will be 18 by the date of the upcoming General Election; and,
- A citizen of the United States (can be from outside of the district, county, or state).

The circulator must personally witness all signatures given and sign the required circulator's statement affirming that all signatures were given in their presence. No one may be considered a circulator of any petition page except the person who signs the circulator's statement. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

Petition sheets **must not** be circulated more than 90 days prior to the last day for the filing of the petitions. The circulator's statement on a candidate's petition sheet must specify either the dates on which the sheets were circulated, the first and last dates on which the sheet was circulated, or that none of the signatures on the sheet were signed more than 90 days preceding the last day for filing the petitions. See [page four](#) for dates when candidates may start circulating petition sheets. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

Note: Blank nomination petitions may be reproduced prior to circulation. The signatures of the signers, circulator, and the notary public must be original. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

CIRCULATOR'S STATEMENT

A petition circulator must complete the circulator's statement at the bottom of each petition sheet certifying their address, age, citizenship information, and that the signatures on that sheet were signed in their presence. They must certify that the signatures are genuine and, to the best of their knowledge, that the persons signing were duly registered voters of the political subdivision for which the candidate or candidates shall be nominated, or elected, and that their respective registration addresses are correctly stated therein. This statement shall be sworn to and signed by a notary. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

Petition circulators shall indicate on such petition their residence address (written or printed) including the street address or rural route number, as well as the county, city, village or town, and state. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

SIGNING A PETITION

A signer must sign their own signature on the petition, meaning they cannot sign for someone else, such as another member of the family or another person in the household. Signers must also be registered voters in the political subdivision in which the candidate is seeking nomination or election. (10 ILCS 5/3-1.2, 7-10, 8-8, 10-2, 10-3, 10-4)

Petition signers shall indicate on such petition their residence address (written or printed) including the street address or rural route number, as well as their city, village or town, county, and state. The state, county, city, village and town of

CIRCULATING RESTRICTIONS:

- A circulator may not circulate petitions for **more than one** political party. (10 ILCS 5/10-4); *Schober v. Young*, 322 Ill. App. 3d 996, 751 N.E.2d 610 (4th Dist. 2001)
- A circulator may not circulate petitions for an independent candidate(s) **in addition to** candidates for a new political party. (10 ILCS 5/10-4)
- A circulator may not circulate petitions for **more than one new** political party. (10 ILCS 5/10-4)
- A circulator may not circulate petitions for an established party **and** an independent or new party candidate. (10 ILCS 5/10-4)

residence may be pre-printed on the petition form when all of the electors signing the petition form reside therein. Standard abbreviations may be used in writing the residence address. A petition signer must be a registered voter from the address shown opposite their signature on the petition. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-2, 10-3, 10-4)

Note: A petition signer may change party affiliation from one election to another. *Kusper v. Pontikes*, 414 U.S. 51 (1973); *Sperling v. County Officers Electoral Board*, 57 Ill. 2d 81, 309 N.E. 2d 589 (Ill. 1974)

STRIKING SIGNATURES FROM A PETITION

Signatures may be struck from a petition by the circulator or the candidate prior to filing the petition. **All** of the following requirements are necessary to affect a valid striking of any signature:

- The person striking the signature must initial the petition at the place where the signature is struck;
- The person striking the signature must sign a certification (such as [SBE Form P-2A](#)) listing the page number and line number of each signature struck from the petition, which is to be filed as a part of the petition; and,
- The person striking signatures from independent candidate petitions must sign an additional certificate ([SBE Form P-2B](#)) specifying the number of certification pages listing stricken signatures, which are attached to the petition, and the page numbers indicated on such certifications. This additional certificate must be filed as part of the petition, shall be numbered, and shall be attached immediately following the last page of voters' signatures and before the certifications of stricken signatures.

(10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-3)

COMPUTING SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

When figuring signature requirements, the number of primary electors is determined as follows:

- In a **district**: total votes cast for the candidate for such political party who received the highest number of votes, statewide, at the last General Election in the state at which electors for President of the United States were elected.
- In a **political subdivision**: total votes cast for the candidate for such political party who received the highest number of votes in such political subdivision at the last regular election at which an officer was regularly scheduled to be elected from that subdivision.
- In **wards or districts of political subdivisions**: total votes cast for the candidate for that political party who received the highest number of votes in the ward or district at the last regular election at which an officer was regularly scheduled to be elected from that ward or district.

(10 ILCS 5/7-10)

Note: Signature calculations can be found with each office in this guide for offices that file with the State Board of Elections. For offices that do not file with the SBE, signature requirement information has been provided, but the candidate will need to contact the individual county/election authority to determine the exact signature calculations for that office.

SIGNING RESTRICTIONS:

- A signer **may not** sign petitions for a candidate of **more than one** political party for the same election. (10 ILCS 5/7-10)
- A signer **may** sign petitions of one established political party for a primary election **and** one new political party or independent candidate for the following General Election. (10 ILCS 5/10-3)
- A signer **may** sign petitions of as many candidates of the same political party as desired.*

*This differs for Nonpartisan/Independent candidates. The number of seats to be elected is the number of petitions that a voter can sign.

STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS RECEIPT

OBTAINING A STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS FORM

Candidates filing a petition with the State Board of Elections may obtain a Statement of Economic Interests form from the State Board of Elections or the Index Division of the Office of the Secretary of State. Candidates filing with the county or local election authorities may obtain Statement of Economic Interests forms from the county clerk's office.

FILING THE FORM

For candidates that file petitions with the State Board of Elections, a completed Statement of Economic Interests **form** must be filed with the Index Division of the Office of the Secretary of State, 111 East Monroe, Springfield, IL 62756. For candidates filing with another election authority, the Statement of Economic Interests may be filed with the county clerk in the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located. For more information on filing the form, contact the election authority or the Secretary of State's Index Division at (217) 782-7017 or (312) 814-8218. (5 ILCS 420/4A-106)

Exception: The Illinois Statement of Economic Interests disclosure is not required for candidacy in federal or party offices.

FILING THE RECEIPT

Each candidate must file a **receipt** indicating that they filed a Statement of Economic Interests as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 7-12(8), 8-8, 10-5; 5 ILCS 420/1-101 *et seq.*)

Exception: The receipt is not required if the Statement of Economic Interests is filed with the same officer with which the nominating papers are filed (e.g., county officers). (10 ILCS 5/7-12(8))

Candidates are advised to file their receipt at the same time they file their nominating petitions. While the receipt does not need to accompany the nominating petitions at the time of filing, it must be filed not later than 5:00 PM for the State Board of Elections, or the close of business for other offices, on the last day to file those petitions.

Note: The date and time at which a nominating petition was filed is not changed when the Statement of Economic Interests receipt is filed at another time during the filing period. (10 ILCS 5/7-12, 10-5)

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

NOTICE OF OBLIGATION

The official with whom nomination papers are filed must provide to each candidate at the time they file nomination papers a notice of obligation to comply with the Illinois Campaign Financing Act. If a candidate files their nomination papers by mail, or an agent of the candidate files the nomination papers, the clerk or secretary with whom the petitions were filed will send the notice to the candidate by first class mail. The notice will state that the manual of instructions and forms for statements required to be filed under Article 9 of the Election Code are available from the State Board of Elections. Forms may also be downloaded from the SBE's website. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(7), 9-16, 10-6.1)

WHO IS REQUIRED TO FILE WITH THE SBE?

Candidates, groups or individuals who raise or spend more than \$5,000 in any 12-month period in support of or in opposition to a candidate, question of public policy, or for electioneering communication, generally must file paperwork to create a political committee with the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/9-3) Once created, political committees must then file disclosure reports with the Board, detailing the money they raise and spend. This filing obligation continues until a committee ceases operations, disposes of any remaining assets, and files an acceptable "Final Report" with the Board. (10 ILCS 5/9-5, 9-10)

Note: Electioneering communication is defined as any broadcast, cable, or satellite communication, including radio, TV or internet communication, that refers to a clearly identified candidate, political party or question of public policy that will appear on the ballot, is made within the 60 days before a general or consolidated election, or 30 days before a primary election, is targeted to the relevant electorate, and is clearly an appeal to vote for or against the candidate, party or question. Electioneering communication does not include communications by Section 501(c)(3) organizations, exclusively between labor unions and their members or Section 501(c)(6) organizations and their members. (10 ILCS 5/9-1.14(a))

Any entity other than a natural person who spends more than \$5,000 during a 12-month period on independent expenditures, or other expenditures supporting or opposing a candidate, must organize as a political committee and file disclosures with the Board. Individuals who spend more than \$3,000 during any 12-month period on independent expenditures supporting or opposing a particular candidate are required to file a special written disclosure with the Board. This disclosure, which must be filed within two business days of exceeding the \$3,000 threshold, gives information about the person making the independent expenditure as well as the dates, amounts and nature of the spending. Once the threshold is reached, the individual is required to report additional independent expenditures made in connection with the same election, in \$1,000 increments, until the conclusion of the election. (10 ILCS 5/9-8.6)

Note: "Independent expenditure" means any payment, gift, donation, or expenditure of funds (i) by a natural person or political committee for the purpose of making electioneering communications or of expressly advocating for or against the nomination for election, election, retention, or defeat of a clearly identifiable public official or candidate or for or against any question of public policy to be submitted to the voters and (ii) that is not made in connection, consultation, or concert with or at the request or suggestion of the public official or candidate, the public official's or candidate's designated political committee or campaign, or the agent or agents of the public official, candidate, or political committee or campaign. (10 ILCS 5/9-1.15)

INFLUENCING VOTERS WITH PUBLIC FUNDS

No public funds shall be used to urge any elector to vote for or against any candidate or proposition, or be appropriated for political or campaign purposes to any candidate or political organization. This provision shall not prohibit the use of public funds for dissemination of factual information relative to any proposition appearing on an election ballot, or for dissemination of information and arguments published and distributed pursuant to law in connection with a proposition to amend the Constitution of the State of Illinois. (10 ILCS 5/9-25.1(b))

MORE ON CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

For more information on filing reports, campaign finance questions and committee related questions, click [here](#) for frequently asked questions on campaign disclosure. If you have further questions, visit the Campaign Disclosure section of our [website](#) or contact our office to speak to a member of our Campaign Disclosure staff.

TYPES OF CANDIDATES

ESTABLISHED POLITICAL PARTY CANDIDATES

WHAT DEFINES AN ESTABLISHED POLITICAL PARTY STATEWIDE?

A political party which at the last general election for state and county offices polled for its candidate for Governor more than 5% of the entire vote cast for Governor, is an “established political party” as to the state and as to any district or political subdivision thereof. If any other statewide candidates of such political party polled more than 5% of the entire vote cast for the office for which they were running, then such political party shall be an “established political party” in the State, but not as to any district or political subdivision within the State. (10 ILCS 5/7-2, 10-2)

For example, if a Governor for the “Imaginary” party received more than 5% of the entire votes cast for Governor in Illinois, the “Imaginary” party would be an established political party throughout the entire state and for every office running established party candidates. If the Attorney General for the “Imaginary” party received more than 5% of the entire votes cast for Attorney General, the “Imaginary” party would only be an established political party for statewide offices and not for any district offices, such as State Representative or State Senator.

Note: For the 2024 elections, the only statewide established political parties in Illinois are the Democratic Party and the Republican Party.

WHAT DEFINES AN ESTABLISHED POLITICAL PARTY WITHIN THE JURISDICTION?

A political party which at the last election in any congressional district, legislative district, county, township, municipality, political subdivision, or district in the State polled more than 5% of the entire vote cast within such territorial area or political subdivision, as the case may be, has voted as a unit for the election of officers to serve the respective territorial area of such district or political subdivision, is an “established political party” as to such district or political subdivision. (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

For example, if a candidate of the “Imaginary” party for Treasurer in “County #1” received more than 5% of the entire votes cast in the county in 2022, the “Imaginary” party would be an established political party as to just “County #1” in 2024.

FILING PARTISAN IN THE PRIMARY & GETTING DEFEATED FOR NOMINATION

A candidate for whom a nomination paper has been filed as a partisan candidate at a primary election, and who is defeated for nomination, is prohibited from being listed on the ballot as an independent candidate, a candidate of another political party, and may not file a Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate at that general election. (10 ILCS 5/7-43, 7-61, 10-3, 17-16.1, 18-9.1)

NEW POLITICAL PARTY CANDIDATES

WHAT DEFINES A NEW POLITICAL PARTY?

A new political party is created when nomination papers are filed for a new political group within the state, a specific district or a political subdivision. If the new party receives more than 5% of the total votes cast at the general election for Governor, it becomes an established political party as to the State and as to any district or political subdivision

thereof. (10 ILCS 5/7-2, 10-2) See “What Defines an Established Political Party Statewide” and “What Defines an Established Political Party within the Jurisdiction” above for further information.

NEW POLITICAL PARTY NAME

The name for the new political party cannot contain more than five words. The new party name cannot bear the same name or include the name of any established political party. (10 ILCS 5/10-2, 10-5(2))

Note: See *Norman v. Reed*, 502 U.S. 279 (1992), which held that Illinois’ provision prohibiting use of the name of an established party so as to bar candidates running in one political subdivision from ever using the name of a political party established only in another, swept broader than necessary to advance the state’s interest in electoral order and, accordingly, violated the First Amendment right of political association.

CANDIDATES SEEKING ELECTION FROM DISTRICTS & AT-LARGE

When a petition to form a new political party is filed within a political subdivision for which officers are elected from districts and at-large, such petition shall consist of separate components for each district from which an officer is to be elected (see [SBE Form P-8B](#)). Each component shall be circulated only within the district of the political subdivision and signed only by qualified electors who are residents of that district. Each sheet of such petition must contain a complete list of the names of the candidates of the party for all offices to be filled in the political subdivision at-large, but the sheets comprising each component shall also contain the names of those candidates to be elected from the particular district.

Each component of the petition for each district from which an officer is to be elected must be signed by qualified voters of the district equaling not less than 5% of the number of voters who voted at the last regular election in such district at which officers were elected to serve the district. The entire petition, including all components, must be signed by a total of qualified voters of the entire political subdivision equaling in number not less than 5% of the number of voters who voted at the last regular election in such political subdivision at which an officer was elected to serve the political subdivision at-large. (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICERS FORM

In addition to the candidate’s nomination papers for a new political party, the candidate’s paperwork must include a Certificate of Officers ([SBE Form P-8C](#)) listing the names and addresses of the new party officers authorized to fill vacancies in nomination. **Failure to file this certificate may result in the party forfeiting the right to fill vacancies in nomination, but will not invalidate the petition.** (10 ILCS 5/10-5, 10-11); see *Peoples Independent Party v. Petroff*, 191 Ill. App. 3d 706, 548 N.E.2d 145 (5th Dist. 1989).

Note: If a new political party is invalidated in its entirety by an electoral board or upon judicial review, the new party officers cannot replace the entire slate of candidates on the pretext of filling vacancies in nomination. (10 ILCS 5/10-7); *People ex. Rel. Vigilant Party v. Village of Dolton*, 118 Ill. App. 2d 392, 254 N.E.2d 832 (1st Dist. 1969).

NOMINATION PAPERWORK

Every candidate for a new political party must file, in addition to a Certificate of Officers form, a Statement of Candidacy, a Loyalty Oath (optional) and a receipt for filing a Statement of Economic Interests, even if candidates are filing as a slate. (10 ILCS 5/10-5)

The party must nominate one candidate for each office to be filled within the political subdivision at the General Election. In the case of a group of offices, the number of candidates nominated must equal the number of positions being elected. See Green Party v. Henrichs, 355 Ill. App. 3d 445, 822 N.E.2d 910 (3d Dist. 2005); Reed v. Kusper, 154 Ill. 2d 77, 607 N.E.2d 1198 (Ill. 1992).

Note: In 2017, the U.S Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit held that the full-slate requirement for new political parties was unconstitutional. Libertarian Party of Illinois v. ISBE, 872 F.3d 518 (7th Cir. 2017).

FILING FOR AND/OR VOTING A PARTISAN OFFICE

A person who (i) filed a Statement of Candidacy for a partisan office as a qualified voter of an established political party or (ii) who voted the ballot of an established political party at a general primary election may not file a Statement of Candidacy as a candidate of a different established political party, a new political party, or as an independent candidate for a partisan office to be filled at the general election immediately following the general primary for which the person filed the statement or voted the ballot. A person may file a Statement of Candidacy for a partisan office as a qualified primary voter of an established political party regardless of any prior filing of candidacy for a partisan office or voting the ballot of an established political party at any prior election. (10 ILCS 5/7-43)

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

WHAT DEFINES AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE?

Independent candidates are those individuals who are not candidates of any political party, but who are candidates in a general election at which party candidates may appear on the ballot. Such candidates are listed on the ballot under the heading "Independent." (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

Note: Because an independent candidate is an individual candidate not supported by a political party structure, there is no political party organization to fill a vacancy in nomination. (10 ILCS 5/10-7)

FILING PARTISAN IN THE PRIMARY & GETTING DEFEATED FOR NOMINATION

A candidate who has filed a Statement of Candidacy as a partisan candidate at a primary election is prohibited from being listed on the ballot at a general election as an Independent candidate or as a candidate of another political party, and may not file a Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate at that general election. (10 ILCS 5/7-43, 7-61, 10-3, 17-16.1, 18-9.1)

FILING OR VOTING A PARTISAN OFFICE

A person who (i) filed a Statement of Candidacy for a partisan office as a qualified primary voter of an established political party or (ii) who voted the ballot of an established political party at a general primary election may not file a Statement of Candidacy as a candidate of a different established political party, a new political party, or as an Independent candidate for a partisan office to be filled at the general election immediately following the general primary for which the person filed the statement or voted the ballot. A person may file a Statement of Candidacy for a partisan office as a qualified primary voter of an established political party regardless of any prior filing of candidacy for a partisan office or voting the ballot of an established political party at any prior election. (10 ILCS 5/7-43)

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

HOW TO BECOME A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE

A write-in candidate must file a notarized “Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate” no later than 61 days prior to the election. The declaration **must be filed with the proper election authority or authorities** in those jurisdictions in which the candidate is seeking to be a write-in candidate. Declaration of Intent forms are **not to be filed** with the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/7-59(b), 17-16.1, 18-9.1)

The “Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate” form can be obtained from the election authority’s office. (10 ILCS 5/17-16.1, 18-9.1)

Note: Whenever an objection to a candidate’s nominating papers for any office is sustained after the 61st day before the election, the candidate may file a notarized Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate form for that office with the proper election authority or authorities no later than seven days prior to the election. (10 ILCS 5/7-59(b), 17-16.1, 18-9.1)

WRITE-IN CANDIDATE QUALIFYING FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION

For write-in candidates running in the primary to qualify as a candidate for an established political party in a general election, a write-in candidate must receive the number of votes that is equal to or greater than the number of signatures required on a petition for that office if the number of candidates whose names appear on the primary ballot is less than the number of persons the party is entitled to nominate or elect to that office at the primary election. (10 ILCS 5/7-59(c)(1))

The number of votes required for a write-in candidate to be nominated or elected to an office at a primary election, as outlined above, does not apply if:

- a) The number of votes they receive exceeds the number of votes received by at least one of the candidates whose name was printed on the ballot for nomination or election to the same office; or
- b) The number of candidates whose names appear on the ballot equals or exceeds the number of persons the party is entitled to nominate or elect to that office. (10 ILCS 5/7-59(c)(1))

For example, if there are four Republicans running in the primary for one office, and there is one write-in candidate, then the write-in candidate has to receive the highest number of votes. If there is no one besides that one write-in candidate running, then that candidate must get the number of votes equal to or greater than the number of signatures that were required to get on the general primary ballot for that office.

FILING PARTISAN IN THE PRIMARY & GETTING DEFEATED FOR NOMINATION

A candidate who is defeated for nomination at the general primary election is prohibited from filing a Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate at the subsequent general election. (10 ILCS 5/17-16.1, 18-9.1)

WINNING IN THE PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION

A winning write-in candidate in the general primary election who receives the required number of votes at the primary must file a Statement of Candidacy, receipt for the filing of the Statement of Economic Interests (exception for federal and party offices only) and an optional Loyalty Oath.

These forms must be filed within 10 days of the canvass and be filed with the certifying officer or board. For example, winning write-in candidates for State Representative would file with the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/7-60)

A winning write-in candidate in a general election must file a Statement of Candidacy, receipt for the filing of the Statement of Economic Interests (exception for federal and party offices only), and an optional Loyalty Oath. (10 ILCS 5/22-1)

OBJECTIONS TO NOMINATING PAPERS

FILING OBJECTIONS

Nomination papers shall be deemed to be valid unless objections are filed in writing, **with an original and two copies**, within **five business days after the last day for the filing of nomination papers**. Objection petitions that do not include two copies thereof shall not be accepted.

The last day to file an objection will depend on the filing period. For specific deadlines, see the SBE Election and Campaign Finance Calendar for 2024 located under [“Election Guides.”](#) The objection shall be filed with the State Board of Elections, the election authority, or local election official with whom the original nomination petition was filed. In the instance of an objection for the office of ward or precinct committeeperson, the objections shall be filed within five business days after the last day for filing nomination papers. (10 ILCS 5/7-13, 10-8)

PROCESSING OBJECTIONS

No later than noon on the second business day after receipt of an objector’s petition, the State Board of Elections, election authority, or local election official shall transmit by registered mail or receipted personal delivery the Certificate of Nomination or nomination papers and the original objector’s petition to the chair of the proper electoral board designated in Section 10-9, or their authorized agent. The official shall transmit a copy of the objector’s petition, by registered mail or receipted personal delivery, to the candidate whose Certificate of Nomination or nomination papers are objected to, addressed to the place of residence designated in their Certificate of Nomination or nomination papers. (10 ILCS 5/10-8)

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AS THE ELECTORAL BOARD

Within 24 hours of the receipt of the objector’s petition, the Chair of the State Board of Elections shall send a call, by registered or certified mail, to the objector and candidate whose Certificate of Nomination or nomination papers are objected to stating the day, hour, and place at which the State Board of Elections shall meet to hear the objection. (10 ILCS 5/10-10)

IN CASES WHERE THE SBE IS NOT THE ELECTORAL BOARD

The chair of the electoral board shall send a call by registered or certified mail to each of the members of the electoral board, the objector, and the candidate and shall also cause the Sheriff of the county or counties in which such officers and persons reside to serve a copy of such call upon each of the officers and persons within 24 hours after the receipt of the objector’s petition. (10 ILCS 5/10-10)

ELECTORAL BOARD MEETING

The meeting of the electoral board shall not be less than three nor more than five days after receipt of the objector’s petition by the chair of the electoral board. The electoral board, on the first day of its meeting, shall adopt rules and procedures for the introduction of evidence and the presentation of arguments and may, in its discretion, provide for the filing of briefs by the parties to the objection or by other interested persons. (10 ILCS 5/10-10)

FILING FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW

Within five days after the decision of the electoral board, the candidate or objector aggrieved by the decision of the board may file a petition for judicial review with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the county in which the hearing of the electoral board was held, and must serve a copy of the petition upon the electoral board and other parties to the proceedings. The petition shall contain a brief statement of the reason why the decision of the board should be reversed. Court hearings are to be held within 30 days after the filing of the petition and the decisions delivered promptly thereafter. (10 ILCS 5/10-10.1)

If no petition for judicial review has been filed within five days after the decision of the electoral board, the electoral board shall transmit a copy of its ruling, together with the original Certificate of Nomination or nomination papers or petitions, and the original objector's petitions to the officers or board with whom they were on file, and such officers or board shall abide and comply with the ruling so made to all intents and purposes. (10 ILCS 5/10-10, 10-10.1)

MULTIPLE PETITIONS AT ONCE

If the candidate designates a particular petition as the chosen petition, staff will accept that petition and return the rest of the petitions to the candidate.

In the absence of a designation by the candidate, and if the petitions are all oriented such that the print side of each petition faces the same way, staff practice is to accept the top petition in the pile and return the rest of the petitions to the candidate.

In the absence of a designation by the candidate, and if the petitions are not all oriented with the print facing the same way, staff practice is to accept the petition that was on top of the pile when the petitions were removed from the envelope with the postage, postmarked and/or mailing label side of the envelope or package facing up, and return the rest of the petitions to the candidate.

If petitions are mailed in multiple envelopes, the first envelope processed will be the one accepted and all other petitions will be returned to the candidate.

WITHDRAWING PETITIONS

A withdrawal of a previously filed petition will be allowed, but no new petition for a different judicial vacancy will be accepted after a withdrawal. Withdrawal and filing of a new petition for the same vacancy will be permitted.

REDACTION – JUDICIAL PRIVACY ACT (705 ILCS 90/ ET SEQ.)

A judicial officer may submit a written request to the State Board of Elections to refrain from disclosing their personal information. (705 ILCS 90/2-5(a)(1))

The judicial officer's home address would be redacted from the Statement of Candidacy, the headers of the petition pages, and the receipt for filing a Statement of Economic Interests. (705 ILCS 90/1-10)

The Judicial Privacy Act is not intended to restrain a judicial officer from independently making public his or her own personal information. Should a judicial officer include their information by voluntarily signing or circulating their petition page, that information would not automatically be redacted because they have voluntarily chosen to provide their information by signing or circulating the petition page. The State Board of Elections will redact the address from a signature line or circulator affidavit if the judicial officer specifies the pages affected in their request for redaction.

WARD & PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSONS

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Established Party, Ward Committeeperson ([SBE Form P-10](#)), Precinct Committeeperson ([SBE Form P-27](#))

Statement of Candidacy: Established Party ([SBE Form P-1](#))

Loyalty Oath (optional): All candidates ([SBE Form P-1C](#))

Statement of Economic Interests: Not required for party offices.

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Established Party: Ward Committeeperson – not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater*) of the primary electors of the candidate's party in the ward.

Signature requirements may be obtained from the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners (312/269-7900). (10 ILCS 5/7-10(i))

Precinct Committeeperson – a minimum of 10 primary electors of the candidate's party in their precinct. (10 ILCS 5/7-10(ii))

*Although the express language of Section 7-10(i), which applies in this instance, requires not less than 10% nor more than 16% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the primary electors of the candidate's party in the ward, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit held in *Gjersten v. Board of Election Commissioners for City of Chicago*, 791 F. 2d 472 (7th Cir., 1986), that a signature requirement in excess of 5% is unconstitutional and thus unenforceable. Thus, 5% of the primary electors of the candidate's party in the ward is the minimum number of signatures required for ward committeeperson petitions.

FILING INFORMATION

Established Party: Not more than 113 nor less than 106 days prior to the General Primary. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(5))

All candidates will file with the Office of the County Clerk. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(5))

Campaign Contributions: Reports must be filed either electronically or on paper with the State Board of Elections, 2329 S. MacArthur Blvd., Springfield, IL 62704, or 69 W. Washington St., Pedway LL-08, Chicago, IL 60602.

QUALIFICATIONS:

(10 ILCS 5/7-8(b), 7-10, 10-5)

- United States citizen
- Registered voter
- Resident of the ward or precinct for which the candidate wishes to seek office

FILING PERIODS:

Established Party:

November 27 – December 4, 2023

TERM:

Term of office:

Ward Committeeperson: Four years

Precinct Committeeperson: Two years
(10 ILCS 5/7-8(b))

Term begins: Date of completion of canvass and proclamation
(10 ILCS 5/7-58)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SIGNING PETITIONS

Can a registered voter sign petitions for candidates of more than one political party for the same Primary Election?

No. A “qualified primary elector” of a party may not sign petitions for or be a candidate in the primary of more than one party. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 10-4)

May a voter who voted Republican in the last Primary Election now sign a petition for a Democratic candidate?

Yes; however, no one may sign petitions for candidates of more than one political party for the same Primary Election. *Kusper v. Pontikes*, 414 U.S. 51 (1973); *Sperling v. County Officers Electoral Board*, 57 Ill.2d 81, 309 N.E.2d 589 (Ill. 1974).

Can a voter sign an established party petition, and a new party and/or independent petition?

Yes, a voter may sign an established party candidate’s petition prior to a General Primary Election and subsequent to that election, sign a petition of an Independent or new political party candidate prior to a General Election. The voter may not, however, sign a petition of more than one Independent or new political party candidate’s petition for the same office. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 10-3)

Can a voter sign more than one established party candidate’s petition?

Yes, a signer can sign petitions for as many candidates of the same established political party as they want, but they cannot sign petitions for different established parties in the same election.

How should the voter sign their name when they sign the petition?

The voter should sign the petition with the same name that they are registered to vote with; however, signing with a nickname will not invalidate the signature, provided the voter can be identified and it can be shown that the voter is lawfully registered to vote and qualified to sign the petition.

Are pencil signatures allowed?

Yes, but it is advisable to use a pen with dark ink.

Are abbreviations allowed on petitions?

Standard abbreviations may be used in writing the voter’s address, including the street number.

Can ditto marks be used on the petitions?

Though ditto marks are not specifically prohibited, it is suggested they be avoided. The use of ditto marks could be objected to and the outcome of an objection cannot be predicted. A circulator can, however, fill in any missing information, except a voter’s signature.

CIRCULATING PETITIONS

May a candidate circulate their own petitions?

Yes.

When can the circulator start collecting signatures?

No more than 90 days prior to the last day for filing petitions. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

If a candidate finds something wrong with their petitions after they are filed, can a new set of petitions be circulated and filed before the end of the filing period?

Yes, but the candidate must cancel the original set of petitions in writing. If the candidate fails to cancel the original set of petitions, then only the original petitions shall be considered filed and all subsequent petitions shall be void. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(11), 10-6.2)

May a circulator circulate petitions for an independent candidate and an established party candidate in the same election?

No. (10 ILCS 5/10-4)

May a circulator sign as a voter on the petition they are circulating?

Yes, as long as the circulator is a registered voter in the applicable political subdivision or district.

May a circulator circulate petitions for an established party candidate and a new party candidate in the same election?

No. (10 ILCS 5/10-4)

Is the circulator required to be a registered voter?

No, but they must be a United States citizen and be 18 years of age, or 18 years of age by the immediately following general or consolidated election. (10 ILCS 5/3-6) They must also include their current address on the circulator's affidavit. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

Can a petition sheet be circulated by more than one individual?

No. Only the person who signs the page as circulator can circulate that sheet. By signing as a circulator, the circulator is attesting that all signers signed in their presence. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

Who can remove a signature from a nominating petition?

Only the circulator or the candidate on whose behalf the petition was circulated may strike a signature; however, an individual can submit a written request to the proper filing office to have their name removed from the petition before the petition is filed. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-3)

FILING PETITIONS

May a candidate file in person or by mail?

Yes, however, if the candidate wishes to be in the lottery for the first ballot position it is advisable to file in person as only candidates whose petitions are received in the first mail delivery on the first day of filing are eligible for the lottery. Candidates should mail by United States Postal Service when mailing to the Illinois State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6), 8-9(2), 10-6.2)

May a petition contain the names of two or more candidates of the same established party?

Yes. An established party may file a slate of candidates for offices to be filled within the State, county, or district (e.g. judicial). However, each candidate of the slate must individually file a Statement of Candidacy and a receipt for filing a Statement of Economic Interests. (10 ILCS 5/7-10)

If you are first in line or your petition is in the first mail delivery of the day, will you be first on the ballot?

Not necessarily. If there are two or more candidates in line prior to the opening of the office filing from the same party and for the same office, they would be considered as filing simultaneously along with any petition in the first mail delivery, and will be involved in a lottery to determine ballot position. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6), 8-9(2), 10-6.2)

Note: Candidates who file petitions during the last hour of filing (between 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM) on the last day to file petitions are also eligible for a lottery to determine the final ballot position. (Illinois Administrative Code, Title 26, Section 201.40)

Must the notary of the petition be an Illinois notary and may the notary also be a signatory of the petition?

Under the provisions of the Uniform Recognition of Acknowledgements Act (765 ILCS 30/2): "Notarial acts may be performed outside this State for use in this State with the same effect as if performed by a notary public of this State by the following persons authorized pursuant to the laws and regulations of other governments in addition to any other person authorized by the laws and regulations of this State..." "(1) a notary public authorized to perform notarial acts in the place in which the act is performed..."

It has not been definitively determined whether a notary may also be a signatory to a petition. Some electoral boards and circuit courts have upheld petitions where the notary was also a signer of the petition, but the issue has not yet been decided by the Supreme Court or any appellate court in Illinois. A cautious candidate might wish to avoid using a petition signer as the notary so as to avoid the risk of having to defend against an objection on this issue.

For additional information contact the Index Department of the Secretary of State's office, 111 E. Monroe, Springfield, IL 62756-0001, (217) 782-7017.

Is a lottery conducted for party placement on the ballot?

For the General Election a lottery is conducted by each election authority for all established parties to determine the proper order of party placement on the ballot. This lottery is held within 30 days following the proclamation of the results of the Primary Election. New parties are involved in a lottery when there is a simultaneous filing with the State Board of Elections or the county clerk. The State Board of Elections conducts the lottery for new parties that file in the Springfield office and the election authorities must use such order. No party lottery is done for the Primary Election because each party has its own ballot, separate from any other established party. (10 ILCS 5/7-60)

In filing a petition to fill a vacancy in the office of circuit judge, must the petition contain the vacancy for which the candidate is filing?

Yes. For example, “To fill the vacancy of the Honorable John Jones.” The vacancy is for the preceding elected judge, not the interim appointee.

Are judges running for retention required to file petitions?

No. Judges running for retention are required to file a Declaration of Candidacy for Retention with the Secretary of State on or before Sunday, May 5, 2024, preceding the expiration of their term of office. (Illinois Constitution, Article VI, Section 12(d))

Does a candidate have to file their own nomination papers?

No. The candidate or an agent of the candidate can file the candidate’s petitions.

May a candidate file for more than one office?

Yes, however, the candidate must withdraw from all but one office within five business days following the last day of petition filing if the offices are incompatible. The withdrawal notice must be in writing and notarized. If the candidate does not withdraw, their name will not be certified for any office. Judicial candidates at the circuit court level are limited to filing a single petition for one circuit court vacancy and/or a single petition for one subcircuit vacancy in any filing period. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(9))

When may petitions be mailed?

There are no statutory requirements regarding a time element for mailing petitions; however, all petitions must be received during the filing period. All petitions received in the office prior to the opening of the office on the first day of the filing period or after the close of the office on the last day of the filing period will be returned to the sender. (10 ILCS 5/7-12.6, 8-9, 10-6.2)

May a petition that has been filed be changed?

No. A petition once filed may not be added to or altered; however, the receipt(s) for filing Statements of Economic Interests may be filed at any time during the filing period. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 7-12)

When a candidate withdraws their nominating petitions, are the petitions returned to the candidate?

No. The original documents are not returned, but remain in the office where they were filed. They must remain in the office for a period of at least six months. (10 ILCS 5/10-7)

When are petitions open to the public?

Upon their filing with the proper office. As a practical matter, there will be some delay in availability while the State Board of Elections or the election authority processes each petition. All certificates of nomination and nomination papers when presented or filed shall be open (under proper regulation) to public inspection and the State Board of Elections, election authorities, and local election officials having charge of nomination papers shall preserve the same in their respective offices not less than six months. (10 ILCS 5/10-7)

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