

2026 Primary Election
County Clerk, Sheriff & Treasurer

State of Illinois

2026 CANDIDATE'S GUIDE

Issued by the
Illinois State Board of Elections
July 2, 2025



COUNTY CLERK, TREASURER, SHERIFF, ASSESSOR*

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Established Party ([SBE Form P-10](#)); Independent ([SBE Form P-3](#)); New Party ([SBE Form P-8](#)) or ([SBE Form P-8B](#))

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

Independent ([SBE Form P-1B](#)); New Party ([SBE Form P-1D](#))

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the county clerk. The receipt must be filed with petitions or by the end of the filing period.

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Established Party: At least 0.5% (.005) of the vote cast for any candidate of the party who received the highest number of votes in the county at the last general election. The highest vote getter could be any federal, state, or county candidate. (10 ILCS 5/ 7-10(c))

Independent: Not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the total number of persons who voted at the last general election in the county. (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

New Party: Not less than 5% of the number of persons who voted at the last general election in the county, except that where 5% is greater than 25,000, the minimum number of signatures required is 25,000. (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

For specific signature calculations, contact the county clerk.

FILING INFORMATION

Established Party: Not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the General Primary. (10 ILCS 5/7-12)

Independent & New Party: Not more than 169 nor less than 162 days prior to the General Election. (10 ILCS 5/10-6)

Candidates will file in the office of the county clerk. Candidates in Peoria County file with the Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 18 years of age
- United States citizen
- Registered voter in county or county board district
- **For Sheriff only:** not a convicted felon, resident of the county for one year, and has completed the Minimum Standards Basic Law Enforcement Officers Training Course as prescribed by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board or a substantially similar training program

(10 ILCS 5/7-10, 10-5; 55 ILCS 5/3-6001.5)

FILING PERIODS:

Established Party:

October 27 – November 3, 2025

Independent and New Party:

May 18 – May 26, 2026

TERM:

Term of office: Four years and until a successor is elected and qualified.

Term begins: December 1, 2026

County Clerk (55 ILCS 5/3-2001)
County Treasurer (55 ILCS 5/3-10001)
County Sheriff (55 ILCS 5/3-6002)
Assessor (counties less than 3,000,000
(35 ILCS 200/3-45)

December 7, 2026

Assessor (counties 3,000,000 or more)
(35 ILCS 200/3-50)

* A candidate for county ASSESSOR in all counties of less than 3,000,000 must possess one of the following qualifications as certified by the individual to the county clerk: A Certified Illinois Assessing Official certificate from the Illinois Property Assessment Institute or a Certified Assessment Evaluator designation from the International Association of Assessing Officers. In addition, a person must have had at least 2 years' experience in the field of property sales, assessments, finance, or appraisals and must have passed an examination conducted by the Department of Revenue. (35 ILCS 200/3-45)

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.

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES FOR PETITIONS

2026 PRIMARY ELECTION

NAME OF POSITION (REPUBLICAN)	# OF SIGNATURES	PICK UP DATE	FILE DATE	PETITION	STATE OF CAND
CLERK & RECORDER	30	AUG. 5 - NOV. 3, 2025	OCT. 27 - NOV. 3, 2025	P-10	P-1
SHERIFF	30	AUG. 5 - NOV. 3, 2025	OCT. 27 - NOV. 3, 2025	P-10	P-1
TREASURER	30	AUG. 5 - NOV. 3, 2025	OCT. 27 - NOV. 3, 2025	P-10	P-1
CB DIST #1	10	AUG. 5 - NOV. 3, 2025	OCT. 27 - NOV. 3, 2025	P-26	P-1
CB DIST #2	9	AUG. 5 - NOV. 3, 2025	OCT. 27 - NOV. 3, 2025	P-26	P-1
CB DIST #3	11	AUG. 5 - NOV. 3, 2025	OCT. 27 - NOV. 3, 2025	P-26	P-1
PRECINCT COMMITTEEMEN	10	AUG. 5 - NOV. 3, 2025	OCT. 27 - NOV. 3, 2025	P-27	P-1

NAME OF POSITION (DEMOCRATIC)	# OF SIGNATURES	PICK UP DATE	FILE DATE	PETITION	STATE OF CAND
CLERK & RECORDER	9	AUG. 5 - NOV. 3, 2025	OCT. 27 - NOV. 3, 2025	P-10	P-1
SHERIFF	9	AUG. 5 - NOV. 3, 2025	OCT. 27 - NOV. 3, 2025	P-10	P-1
TREASURER	9	AUG. 5 - NOV. 3, 2025	OCT. 27 - NOV. 3, 2025	P-10	P-1
CB DIST #1	3	AUG. 5 - NOV. 3, 2025	OCT. 27 - NOV. 3, 2025	P-26	P-1
CB DIST #2	3	AUG. 5 - NOV. 3, 2025	OCT. 27 - NOV. 3, 2025	P-26	P-1
CB DIST #3	4	AUG. 5 - NOV. 3, 2025	OCT. 27 - NOV. 3, 2025	P-26	P-1
PRECINCT COMMITTEEMEN	10	AUG. 5 - NOV. 3, 2025	OCT. 27 - NOV. 3, 2025	P-27	P-1

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). The State Board of Elections will not accept Statements of Economic Interests.

- ☐ 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)
- ☐ Waiver of Service/Appearance

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 competent legal counsel regarding their legal qualifications for office, the proper method for completing the petition forms with respect to the office sought, the minimum and maximum number of signatures required, the qualifications of signers and circulators, and other information required for the candidate to appear on a ballot in Illinois.

FORMAT OF NOMINATION PAPERWORK

Election laws prescribe the general format 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.

Filings must be made within the appropriate filing period as listed on [page 4](#).

The location of where paperwork shall be filed is included under each office in this guide.

Filings must be received no earlier than 8:00 AM, or the normal opening hour of the office indicated within this guide, on the first day of the filing period and no later than 5:00 PM, or the close of business of the same office 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) Filings received outside of this time period are not considered timely.

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).

See the individual office page for more specific details on where to file nomination papers. These begin on page 25.

PETITIONS SENT IN BY MAIL

Nomination papers may be filed with the proper filing entity by mail. Those 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. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6); 26 Ill. Adm. Code § 201.20(a), 202.20(a)). 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. Nominating petitions received through other delivery methods (such as UPS and FedEx) 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

Two or more petitions received simultaneously for candidates as of the opening hour of the filing period, and petitions received in the first mail delivery of the first filing day, are included in the lottery drawing to determine the first ballot position.

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.

All other petitions are placed on the ballot in the order they are filed.

The lottery is held within nine days following the last day to file petitions. For further information on the lottery process, [page 23](#). (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6), 8-9, 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

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
- **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.

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

Incompatible offices are those where the same person cannot serve in both simultaneously. If petitions for nomination have been filed for the same person for two or more incompatible offices, 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) Copies are available upon request.

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

OBJECTIONS

A candidate's nomination papers may be challenged by the filing of an objection. The deadline for filing objections is five business days after the last day of the filing period. Objections to all nominating papers are heard by the proper electoral board as designated in the Election Code and decisions of the electoral board are subject to judicial review. (10 ILCS 5/10-8 through 10-10.1) See [page 21](#) for more detailed information on objections.

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 truthfulness 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, receipt for filing the Statement of Economic Interests, and optional filings (Loyalty Oath, Code of Fair Campaign Practices statement), should be attached to the petition sheets -- preferably on top. These forms 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, 8-8, 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 sheet, 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

OPTIONAL FILINGS:

Loyalty Oath: The filing of the Loyalty Oath is optional. 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 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.*)

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 (i.e. slate of candidates), 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(s), initial(s), 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 any candidate name designation that is inconsistent with these provisions. (10 ILCS 5/7-17(c), 8-8.1, 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.

***NOTE:** 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 their gender identity. (10 ILCS 5/7-10.2, 7-17(b)-(c), 8-8.1, 10-5.1, 16.3(e)-(f))

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 sheet 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 4](#) 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 a spouse, family member, or other 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

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)

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.

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 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. For the 2026 Election Cycle, calculations should be based on results from the 2024 General Election.
- 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. For the 2026 election cycle, calculations should be based on results from the 2024 General Election.
- 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. For the 2026 election cycle, calculations could be based on the 2022 or 2024 election cycle.

(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 election authority to determine the exact signature calculations for that office.

LOTTERY

FILINGS REQUIRING A LOTTERY

Simultaneous filings of candidate nominating petitions for the same office occur for those candidates **in line at 8:00 AM** (or whenever the opening hour of the business may be; for example, if the office opens at 9:00 AM, all candidates in line as of 9:00 AM are in the lottery) or for petitions received after midnight of the first day for filing in the first U.S. Postal Service delivery of that day, on the first day of filing.

Simultaneous filings can also occur during the last day of filing **during the last hour** of the filing deadline between 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM.

Any lottery system to be used to break ties resulting from such simultaneous filings must be approved by the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6), 8-9(2), 10-6.2) To submit a lottery system for approval by the State Board of Elections, election authorities and local election officials can submit a narrative of how their system will be conducted. The State Board of Elections will evaluate the system to ensure it is fair, random, and impartial. Narratives can be sent by mail to the State Board of Elections' office or via email to Electionoperations@elections.il.gov

CONDUCTING THE LOTTERY

Per State Board of Elections' administrative rules, codified as 26 Ill. Adm. Code § 201.40 and 202.40, the following system has been approved:

1. The names of all candidates who filed simultaneously for the same office shall be listed alphabetically and shall be numbered consecutively starting with the number one, which shall be assigned to the candidate whose name is listed first on the alphabetical list. Candidates filing a group petition for the same office shall be treated as one in the alphabetical list. For example, if five candidates by the name of Downs, Brown, Edwards, Cook, and Adams have filed simultaneously, they will be arranged alphabetically and assigned numbers as follows: Adams, one; Brown, two; Cook, three; Downs, four; and Edwards, five. If the same candidates filed, but Cook and Adams filed a group petition and Cook's name appeared first on the petition, then the candidates would be arranged as follows: Brown, one; Cook and Adams, two; Downs, three; and Edwards, four.
2. All ties will be broken by a single drawing. A number shall be placed in a container representing each number assigned to each candidate and group of candidates pursuant to the alphabetical listing procedures set forth in Paragraph 1 above. For example, if the largest number to be used for any office is five, then numbers one, two, three, four, and five will be placed in a container. In this manner, sufficient numbers will be placed in the container to conduct a drawing for all offices at the same time.
3. After the numbers are placed in the container, they shall be drawn one at a time from the container after they have been thoroughly shaken and mixed. The candidate or group of candidates in the position on an alphabetical list corresponding to the first number drawn shall be certified ahead of the other candidates listed on the alphabetical list. The candidate or group of candidates in the position on the alphabetical list corresponding to the second number drawn will be certified second and so forth until all numbers have been drawn. For example, where no group petitions were filed, if candidates Adams, Brown, Cook, Downs, and

Edwards filed simultaneously at 8:00 AM on the first day of filing, and the number three is first drawn, then candidate Cook, who is listed in the third position on the alphabetical list, shall be certified first on the ballot. If the number one is drawn second, then candidate Adams, who is listed in the first position on the alphabetical list, shall be certified second on the ballot, and so on. For offices where group petitions were filed, using the example set forth above where candidates Cook and Adams file a group petition for the same office, and Cook's name appears first on the petition and number three is drawn first, then candidate Downs would be listed first. If the number two is drawn second, then candidates Cook and Adams would be certified second and third, respectively. If the number four is drawn third, then candidate Edwards would be certified fourth, and so on. In districts with fewer names on the alphabetical list than are in the drawing, then all numbers in excess of the number of candidates or group of candidates that appear on the particular alphabetical list shall be disregarded. Thus, if five numbers are placed in the container and only four candidates or groups of candidates are on a particular list, then the number five shall be disregarded. For example, if candidates Adams and Cook, filing separate petitions, are the only candidates listed on the alphabetical list and five numbers are chosen in the following order: 3, 5, 4, 2 and 1, then candidate Cook's name will appear in the certification prior to the name of candidate Adams.

4. If two or more nominating petitions for the same office are presented between 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM on the last day for filing, they shall be deemed to be simultaneously filed and the last ballot position will be determined by a separate lottery using the same procedures detailed above. No nominating petitions will be accepted after 5:00 PM.
5. All candidates shall be certified in the order in which petitions have been filed with the State Board of Elections, election authority or the local election official. In cases where candidates have filed simultaneously, they shall be certified (in the order determined by the lottery procedure outlined above) prior to candidates who filed for the same office who filed their petitions at a later time, except in those situations where the law requires rotation on a district-by-district basis.

(26 Ill. Adm. Code § 201.40, 202.40)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SIGNING PETITIONS

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 abbreviations allowed on petitions?

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

Are pencil signatures allowed?

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

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.

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)

Can a P.O. box be used as a signer's address?

Generally, no. Signers must list the residential address where they are registered to vote on petitions. However, there are some exceptions where voters may list a P.O. box as a residential address (e.g. Address Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Human Trafficking, or Stalking Act (750 ILCS 61/1 *et seq.*)).

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.

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 first set of petitions in writing. If the candidate fails to cancel the first set of petitions, then only the first 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:

- 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). (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)

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 Division](#) of the Secretary of State’s office, 111 E. Monroe, Springfield, IL 62756-0001, (217) 782-7017.

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 use the 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)

Do candidates have to file their own nomination papers?

No. An agent of the candidate can file the candidate’s nomination papers.

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)

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)) Withdrawal notices should be provided to the entity with which the candidate filed their nomination papers.

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)

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)

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)

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 3, 2026, preceding the expiration of their term of office. (Illinois Constitution, Article VI, Section 12(d))

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)