State of Illinois

2027 CANDIDATE'S GUIDE

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AMENDMENTS

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PREFACE

THE 2027 CANDIDATE'S GUIDE

This Candidate's Guide has been prepared to provide information for candidates seeking office at the local level in 2027. Information is provided regarding nomination procedures and the objection process. Answers to more frequently asked questions about nominating petitions and procedures can be found on page 65. For Chicago Police District Council Members, please seek information directly from the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners.

All citations contained herein 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 nomination 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 deadlines and important dates can be found in the SBE Election and Campaign Finance Calendar for 2027. 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 (county clerk or board of election commissioners), your local election official (municipal clerk, township clerk, road district clerk, park district secretary, etc.), 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 produces additional guides that can be helpful when preparing to run for office. The Election and Campaign Finance Calendar lists more specific deadlines and important dates to follow, and the County Officials Book has relevant contact information for elected county officials. You can find information regarding campaign finance disclosure and tutorials on the financial filing process on our website under "Campaign Disclosure."

CONTACT INFORMATION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Glossary 1
Offices to be Nominated 4
Offices to be Elected 5
Candidate Filing Periods 7
Types of Candidates 8
Established Political Party Candidates – Nomination by Primary 8
Established Political Party Candidates – Nomination by Caucus 8
New Political Party Candidates 10
Independent Candidates 11
Nonpartisan Candidates 12
Write-In Candidates 13
Candidate Checklist 15
Filing for Office 16
General Filing Information 16
Nomination Paperwork & Formatting 19
Statement of Candidacy 19
Signing and Circulating Petitions 21
Statement of Economic Interests Receipt 22
Campaign Contributions 23
Objections to Nominating Papers 25
Lottery 27
Offices to be Nominated/Elected:
Commission Form – Municipal 29
Mayor-Alderperson and President-Trustee Form – Municipal 31
Council-Manager Form – Municipal 35
City of Chicago 38
Park District 40
Public Library District 42
Library Trustee (Municipal – Township) 44
Regional Board of School Trustees (Education Service Region) 46
Board of Education Member 48
School Director and Township Land Commissioner 50
Board of Education Member-City of Peoria Only (Article 33, School Code) 52
Community College District 54
Fire Protection District 56
Public Water District 58
Fox Waterway Agency (Lake and McHenry Counties) 60
Fox Metro Water Reclamation District 61
Forest Preserve District 62
Springfield Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority 64
Frequently Asked Questions 65

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 final day to complete any act provided by required or allowed by a statute other than the Election Code falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, then the date shall be extended to the next business day. For the purposes of this Section, “State holiday” means New Year's Day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, Lincoln's Birthday, President's Day, Casimir Pulaski's Birthday, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Freedom Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. (5 ILCS 70/1.11, 10 ILCS 5/1-6(b))

CALL

A notice to members of the electoral board, the objector, and the candidate (or proponent of the public question) of the time and place that the electoral board will convene to begin the hearing on the objection.
(10 ILCS 5/10-10)

CORPORATE AUTHORITIES

"Corporate authorities" means (a) the mayor and alderpersons or similar body when the reference is to cities, (b) the president and trustees or similar body when the reference is to villages or incorporated towns, and (c) the council when the reference is to municipalities under the commission form of municipal government. (65 ILCS 5/1-1-2(2))

DISTRICT

Any area that 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, 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 the Board of Election Commissioners. (10 ILCS 5/1-3(8))

ELECTION JURISDICTION

a) An entire county, in the case of a county in which no city board of election commissioners is located or that is under the jurisdiction of a county board of election commissioners;
b) The territorial jurisdiction of a city board of election commissioners; and
c) 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 that 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 8.

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 way of a candidate petition filed under the provisions of Article 10 of the Election Code running for political office under this new party appellation. (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

For more information on new political parties, see page 10.

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, 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

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 this publication, unless stated otherwise, voter is used in the context of determining one's eligibility to sign a nominating petition or petition proposing a public question. In this context, "voter" shall mean a person who is registered to vote at the address shown opposite their signature on the petition or was registered at such address when they signed the petition. The terms "voter," "registered voter," "qualified voter," "legal voter," "elector," "qualified elector," "primary elector" and "qualified primary elector" all carry this same meaning. (10 ILCS 5/3-1.2)

FORMS OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

PRESIDENT-TRUSTEE VILLAGE FORM – 65 ILCS 5/3.1

Under the president-trustee village form of government, there are six trustees, generally elected from the village at-large. Villages with a population of less than 5,000 may, by public question, reduce the number of trustees from six to four. Villages with a population of more than 25,000 may have each trustee elected by district instead of by the village at-large. The village president and clerk are elected at-large, and the treasurer is appointed. The terms of the village president, trustees, and clerk is four years, unless reduced to two years by public question.

MAYOR-ALDERMANIC CITY FORM – 65 ILCS 5/3.1

The mayor-aldermanic city form of government is made up of two alderpersons per ward elected for four-year terms. Terms are staggered so that half of the alderpersons are elected every two years. The population of the city determines the number of alderpersons. The mayor, clerk, and treasurer are elected to four-year terms.

COMMISSION FORM – 65 ILCS 5/4

The commission form of government is limited to municipalities with a population of less than 200,000. This form allows voters to elect a mayor and four commissioners who serve as the council. At the first regular meeting after an election, the council designates each member to administrative departments. By public question, the electors may provide for the election of commissioners to specific departments.

MANAGERIAL FORM – 65 ILCS 5/5

The managerial form of government is available to municipalities with a population of less than 500,000. The municipality may keep its governmental structure as a mayor-aldermanic city form, president- trustee village form, or commission form while adopting, by public question, the features the managerial form.

STRONG MAYOR FORM – 65 ILCS 5/6

The strong mayor form of government has an elected mayor, clerk, treasurer, and alderpersons. Alderpersons are elected from wards. The elected officials serve four-year terms. The mayor can, without the necessity of advice and consent of the city council, appoint and remove municipality officers and members of commissions, board and agencies provided for in Articles 3 and 4 of the Illinois Municipal Code, except those covered by civil service.

CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY

Last Tuesday in February
February 23, 2027
(10 ILCS 5/2A-1.1(b))

ESTABLISHED POLITICAL PARTIES—OFFICERS TO BE NOMINATED AT THE PRIMARY

MUNICIPAL – over 5,000 population and/or Special Charter (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c))	
Mayor or President	Treasurer
Clerk	Alderpersons or Trustees
Municipalities under 5,000 population may determine by ordinance (no later than November 15, 2026) that political parties shall nominate candidates for municipal offices by primary. (10 ILCS 5/7-1(b))	
Villages that have nominated and elected candidates for president and trustees in partisan elections prior to January 1, 1992, may continue to hold partisan elections without submitting a public question on the matter. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-25-20)	

NONPARTISAN—OFFICERS TO BE NOMINATED AT THE PRIMARY

MUNICIPAL – Council-Manager form (council members at-large and from districts) (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(1) and (d); 65 ILCS 5/3.1-15-5; 65 ILCS 20/21-12)	
Mayor or President	Treasurer (Council-Manager form only)
Clerk	Council Members, Alderpersons, or Trustees
Including officers with unexpired terms occurring in the City of Chicago	

NOTE: A village may conduct a nonpartisan primary by public question. (Municipalities incorporated after May 13, 1993, are nonpartisan, unless they adopt the partisan format). (65 ILCS 5/3.1-25-60)

NONPARTISAN—OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED AT THE PRIMARY

MUNICIPAL – City of Chicago (if no candidate gets more than 50%, a runoff election is required.)	
Mayor	Treasurer
Clerk	Alderpersons

CONSOLIDATED ELECTION

First Tuesday in April
April 6, 2027
(10 ILCS 5/2A-1.1(b))

ESTABLISHED POLITICAL PARTIES, INDEPENDENT, AND NEW POLITICAL PARTY – OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED

MUNICIPAL – Including Special Charter (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c))	
Mayor or President	Treasurer
Clerk	Alderpersons or Trustees

NONPARTISAN – OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED

MUNICIPAL – Council-Manager form (Council Members at-large and from districts), Commission form (10 ILCS 5/2A-27, 29)	
Mayor or President	Treasurer (Council-Manager only)
Clerk	Council Members, Commissioners, Trustees, or Alderpersons
MUNICIPAL – City of Chicago (runoff elections, if required) (65 ILCS 20/21-26)	
MUNICIPAL – Alderperson runoff elections, if required due to unexpired term created by a vacancy (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-51(b), 65 ILCS 20/21-22, 21-25)	
PARK DISTRICT – Commissioners, Trustees (10 ILCS 5/2A-38)	PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT – Trustees (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(5))
TOWNSHIP AND MUNICIPAL LIBRARY – Trustees (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(2), 2A-1.2(c)(7))	REGIONAL BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES – Trustees (10 ILCS 5/2A-50)
SCHOOL DISTRICT – Board Members (including City of Peoria) under Article 33; however, those districts are exempt from the non-primary provision of Section 2A-1.2(c)(12)), School Directors (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(9) and (12))	SCHOOL DISTRICT - Special Charter – Inspectors, Board Members (10 ILCS 5/2A-49)
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT – Trustees (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(13))	TOWNSHIP LAND COMMISSIONERS (in counties under 220,000 population) (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(17), 105 ILCS 5/15-24)
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT – Trustees (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(14))	PUBLIC WATER DISTRICT – Trustees (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(17), 70 ILCS 3705/4.2)

FOX WATERWAY AGENCY – Director (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(10)), (615 ILCS 90/5): 1 Director to be elected from Lake County; 2 full term Directors; 1 (2-year unexpired) Director to be elected from McHenry County	FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT—Trustees (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(17), 70 ILCS 2405/3)
FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT – Commissioners (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(11)	SPRINGFIELD METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION AND AUDITORIUM AUTHORITY – Commissioners (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(15))
OTHER SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICTS	

CANDIDATE FILING PERIODS (AND CAUCUS DATE INFORMATION)

ESTABLISHED PARTY AND NONPARTISAN MUNICIPAL OFFICE CANDIDATES

October 19-26, 2026
(Filed not more than 127 nor less than 120 days prior to the date of the primary election)
(10 ILCS 5/7-12(3), 10-6(4))

Filing period for candidates seeking nomination at the **FEBRUARY 23, 2027, Consolidated Primary**, see page 4.

Petitions may NOT be circulated prior to July 28, 2026.
(No more than 90 days preceding the last day for the filing of the petition)
(10 ILCS 5/7-10, 10-4)

INDEPENDENT, NEW PARTY, COMMISSION-MUNICIPAL, AND NON-MUNICIPAL NONPARTISAN OFFICE CANDIDATES

November 16-23, 2026
(Not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election)
(10 ILCS 5/10-6(2))

Filing period for candidates seeking election at the **APRIL 6, 2027, Consolidated Election,** see page 5.

Petitions may NOT be circulated prior to August 25, 2026.
(No more than 90 days preceding the last day for the filing of the petition)
(10 ILCS 5/10-4)

CAUCUS DATE INFORMATION

In **MUNICIPALITIES** under 5,000 population, established political parties hold their caucuses on December 7, 2026, and file their certificates of nomination with the municipal clerk during the filing period, December 14-21, 2026.
(Not more than 113 nor less than 106 days prior to the consolidated election)
(10 ILCS 5/10-1(a))

NOTE: Municipalities of 5,000 or less may determine by ordinance (by November 15, 2026) that established political parties shall nominate candidates for municipal offices by primary election. (10 ILCS 5/7-1(b))

TYPES OF CANDIDATES

ESTABLISHED POLITICAL PARTY CANDIDATES IN MUNICIPALITIES AND TOWNSHIPS – NOMINATION BY PRIMARY ELECTION

WHAT DEFINES AN ESTABLISHED POLITICAL PARTY IN MUNICIPALITIES AND TOWNSHIPS?

A political party which at the last election in any municipality or township in the State, polled more than 5% of the entire vote cast within such municipality or township, as the case may be, and has voted as a unit for the election of officers to serve the respective territorial area, is an "established political party" as to such municipality or township.
(10 ILCS 5/7-2, 10-2)

MUNICIPALITIES OVER 5,000 POPULATION

In the 2027 elections, municipalities over 5,000 in population and not governed by the commission or council-manager form of government or municipalities that have not adopted a nonpartisan primary system, fall under the provisions of Article 7 (Established Political Parties) of the Election Code. Municipalities incorporated after May 13, 1993, are nonpartisan unless they adopt the partisan format. (10 ILCS 5/7-1 *(et seq.),* 65 ILCS 5/3.1-25-60)

UNCONTESTED OFFICES

No primary shall be held for an established political party where the nomination of such party for every office to be voted upon by the electors is uncontested. The nomination of an established political party candidate for election to an office shall be deemed to be uncontested where not more than the number of persons to be nominated have timely filed valid nomination papers seeking the nomination of such party for election to such office. If a person who has not timely filed valid nomination papers and who intends to become a write-in candidate for a political party's nomination for any office for which the nomination is uncontested files a written statement or notice of that intent with the county clerk and local election official with whom nomination papers for such office are filed, a primary ballot shall be prepared and a primary shall be held for that office. Such statement or notice shall be filed on or before December 17, 2026, which is 68 days prior to the consolidated primary. (10 ILCS 5/7-5(b)(d), 7-12(10)(a)(c))

FILING PARTISAN IN THE CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY & GETTING DEFEATED FOR NOMINATION

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

ESTABLISHED POLITICAL PARTY CANDIDATES IN MUNICIPALITIES – NOMINATION BY CAUCUS

ELIGIBLE MUNICIPALITIES

Established political parties shall nominate candidates by caucus in municipalities with a population of 5,000 or less (10 ILCS 5/7-1(a), 10-1(d)). This provision does not apply to commission or council-manager forms of government or to any municipality that has adopted a nonpartisan primary system, as candidates in these municipalities are elected on a nonpartisan basis. (10 ILCS 5/7-1(b), 10-1(d)) See page 2 for definition of "Established Political Parties."

CAUCUS DATE FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Municipalities of 5,000 or less population may determine by ordinance no later than November 15, 2026, that established political parties shall nominate candidates for municipal offices by a primary election in accordance with Article 7 of the Election Code. (10 ILCS 5/10-1(d)) The municipal caucuses shall be conducted on December 7, 2026. The

municipal caucuses shall be conducted on the first Monday in December of even-numbered years, except that, when that Monday is a holiday or the eve of a holiday, the caucuses shall be held on the next business day following the holiday. (10 ILCS 5/10-1(a))

VOTER PARTICIPATION IN CAUCUS

Only those registered voters who reside within the territory for which the nomination is made shall be permitted to vote or take part in the caucus proceedings (SBE Form H-1A). No voter shall vote or take part in the proceedings of more than one caucus or meeting to make a nomination for the same municipality. (10 ILCS 5/10-1(e))

CAUCUS PROCEEDINGS

The caucus may make **ONE** nomination for each office to be filled at the consolidated election. (10 ILCS 5/10-1(a))

A Certificate of Nomination by Caucus (SBE Form H-2) shall be prepared to include:

a. the names and addresses of the candidates, along with the offices for which they are nominated; and

b. the established party name.

The presiding officer and secretary of the caucus shall list their addresses and sign the Certificate of Nomination. The certificate shall be sworn by them to be true to the best of their knowledge and belief and must be notarized. (10 ILCS 5/10-1(a))

NOMINATION PAPERWORK

Candidates nominated by caucus must individually provide the following documents, which are filed with the caucus Certificate of Nomination:

a. Statement of Candidacy (SBE Form P-1K);

b. Receipt for the filing of the candidate's Statement of Economic Interests. The receipt may be filed at a later date than the rest of the required paperwork, but must be filed prior to the filing deadline.

Candidates **may** also file a Loyalty Oath, which is optional (SBE Form P-1C)

(See "Filing for Office" beginning on page 16 for more detailed information).

The Certificate of Nomination, along with the required individual candidate documentation, shall be filed with the appropriate municipal clerk during the regular filing period (December 14-21, 2026). (10 ILCS 5/10-1(a), 10-5)

Any vacancy in nomination by caucus of an established political party for a municipal office shall be filled in accordance with 10 ILCS 5/7-61.

PARTICIPATING IN A CAUCUS & GETTING DEFEATED AT THE CAUCUS

A candidate who participated in a caucus and who is defeated at the caucus for nomination is ineligible to be listed as a candidate of another political party, an independent candidate, or to file a Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate at the consolidated election. (10 ILCS 5/7-61, 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 a specific district or a political subdivision. If the new party receives more than 5% of the total votes cast at the consolidated election, it then becomes an established political party as to any district or political subdivision thereof. (10 ILCS 5/7-2, 10-2)

NEW POLITICAL PARTY NAME

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

FULL SLATE REQUIREMENT FOR NEW POLITICAL PARTY CANDIDATES

A political group wishing to form a new political party within a municipality must file petitions with a full slate of candidates for such political subdivision. The following court case has held that the full-slate requirement for new political parties is unconstitutional: *Libertarian Party of Illinois v. ISBE, et al., 872 F.3d 518 (7th Cir. 2017)*. Upon such filing, a new political party is created. That new political party remains a new political party for the election for which it filed a full slate of candidates. If the new political party receives more than 5% of the votes cast at that election, it becomes an established political party. If it does not, it ceases to exist. (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 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, 10-7, 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

Petitions for new political party candidates **must** include the following:

a. Statement of Candidacy for each candidate;

b. Receipt for filing a Statement of Economic Interests for each candidate. The receipt may be filed at a later date than the rest of the required paperwork, but must be filed prior to the filing deadline; (10 ILCS 5/10-5)

c. Certificate (SBE Form P-8C) stating the names and addresses of the party officers authorized to fill vacancies in nomination. Failing to file such a certificate will not invalidate the petition, but if it is not filed, the new party will not be able to fill vacancies in nomination. (*Peoples Independent Party v. Petroff*, 191 Ill.App.3d 706, 548 N.E.2d 145 (5th Dist. 1989). (10 ILCS 5/10-5, 10-7)

Petitions **may** also include the Loyalty Oath, which is optional. (SBE Form P-1C)

(See "Filing for Office" beginning on page 16 for more detailed information)

CANDIDATES SEEKING ELECTION FROM DISTRICTS OR WARDS & AT-LARGE

When a petition to form a new political party is filed within a municipality in which officers are to be elected from wards or districts and at-large, such petition shall consist of separate components for each ward or district from which an officer is to be elected (e.g. District A, District B, Ward 1, Ward 2, or at-large) (see SBE Form P-8A, SBE Form P-8B). Each component shall be circulated only within a ward or district of the political subdivision and signed only by qualified electors who are residents of the ward or district. Each sheet of such a 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 ward or district.

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

FILING PARTISAN IN THE CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY & GETTING DEFEATED FOR NOMINATION

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

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

WHAT DEFINES AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE?

Independent candidates are those individuals who are not candidates of any political party, new or established, but who are candidates in an election and appear 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)

NOMINATION PAPERWORK

Independent candidates should follow the information contained in “Filing for Office” beginning on page 16 in preparing their nomination papers for filing.

Nomination papers must be filed in the office of the appropriate local election official or board of election commissioners during the filing period, November 16-23, 2026.

Whenever the name of an independent candidate for an office is withdrawn or an independent candidate’s petition is declared invalid by an electoral board or upon judicial review, no vacancy in nomination for that office shall exist. A vacancy in nomination contemplates a political party organization to fill it, but an independent candidate is not supported by a party structure. Therefore, vacancies for independent candidates cannot be filled. (10 ILCS 5/10-7)

FILING PARTISAN IN THE CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY & GETTING DEFEATED FOR NOMINATION

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

NONPARTISAN OFFICES

Statutes governing certain units of government require candidates to file for office on a nonpartisan basis. The ballot listing such candidates shall be printed without any party or "Independent" designation at its head. These offices, to be elected at the April 6, 2027, Consolidated Election, include:

NONPARTISAN CANDIDATES	
Candidates for municipal office in municipalities operating under council-manager (council members at-large) form of government. * (10 ILCS 5/2A-27)	**Candidates for Library Trustee (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(5))**
Candidates for Park District Commissioner or Park Trustee (10 ILCS 5/2A-38)	Candidates for School Board Member of the City of Peoria under Article 33 of the School Code. (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(9), (c)(12))
Candidates for Regional Board of School Trustees (10 ILCS 5/2A-50)	**Candidates for School District Board Members, School Directors, and Township Land Commissioners (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(9), (c)(12), (c)(17), 105 ILCS 5/15-24)**
Candidates for Community College District Trustees (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(13))	Candidates for Fire Protection District Trustees (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(14))
Candidates for Fox Waterway Agency Director (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(10), 615 ILCS 90/5)	**Candidates for Forest Preserve District Commissioners (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(11))**
Candidates for Fox Metro Water Reclamation District Trustees (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(17), 70 ILCS 2405/3)	Candidates for Public Water District Trustees (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(17), 70 ILCS 3705/4.2)
Candidates for Springfield Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(c)(15))	

* (A village may adopt a system of nonpartisan primary and general elections for the election of village officers as provided in 65 ILCS 5/3.1-25-20 through 3.1-25-60, and in certain home-rule municipalities who have devised governmental systems unique to them). These candidates file for the February 23, 2027, Consolidated Primary. No primary is held for any uncontested office. Candidates for municipal office under the commission form of government file for the April 6, 2027, Consolidated Election. Municipalities incorporated after May 13, 1993, are nonpartisan unless they adopt the partisan format.

Nonpartisan candidates should follow the information contained in "Filing for Office" beginning on page 16 in preparing nomination papers for filing.

THE CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY ELECTION

Nonpartisan candidates for office who are defeated at the consolidated primary may not file a Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate in the consolidated election. (10 ILCS 5/17-16.1, 18-9.1)

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 (SBE Form P-1F) 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.

The Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate form can be obtained from the election authority's office.
(10 ILCS 5/7-59(b), 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 7 days prior to the election.
(10 ILCS 5/7-59(b), 17-16.1, 18-9.1)

WRITE-IN CANDIDATE QUALIFYING FOR THE CONSOLIDATED ELECTION

For write-in candidates running in the consolidated primary, to qualify as a candidate for the consolidated election, a write-in candidate must receive a minimum number of votes equal to or greater than the number of signatures required on a nominating petition for that office if the number of candidates whose names appear on the consolidated primary ballot is less than the number of persons the party is entitled to nominate or elect to that office at the consolidated primary.

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 received exceeds the number of votes received by at least one of the candidates whose name was printed on the consolidated primary ballot for that 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)

For nonpartisan municipal primaries, if the name of only one candidate for a particular office appeared on the primary ballot, the name of the person having the largest number of write-in votes shall not be placed upon the ballot at the general municipal election unless the number of votes received in the primary election by that person was at least 10% of the number of votes received by the candidate for the same office whose name appeared on the primary ballot.
(65 ILCS 5/3.1-25-40(b))

WINNING WRITE-IN CANDIDATES OF THE CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY OR CONSOLIDATED ELECTION

Within five days following the completion of the canvass of results for the consolidated primary, or prior to taking office after the consolidated election, write-in candidates who are declared nominated or elected must file a Statement of Candidacy and a receipt for the filing of the Statement of Economic Interests. Candidates **may** file a Loyalty Oath, which is optional. (10 ILCS 5/7-60.1) The winning write-in candidates should be notified of these requirements by the election authority.

Upon the filing of the necessary documents following the consolidated election, the election authority shall issue a certificate of election to the write-in winners, upon their application. (10 ILCS 5/22-18)

UNCONTESTED PRIMARY

If the nomination for any office in the consolidated primary is uncontested, an individual seeking to be a write-in candidate must file a Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate on or before the date of certification, December 17, 2026, which is 68 days prior to the consolidated primary. The nomination of an established political party candidate for election to an office shall be deemed to be uncontested where not more than the number of persons to be nominated have timely filed valid nomination papers seeking the nomination of such party for election to such office. If a person who has not timely filed valid nomination papers and who intends to become a write-in candidate for a political party's nomination for any office for which the nomination is uncontested files a written statement or notice of that intent with the county clerk and local election official with whom nomination papers for such office are filed, a primary ballot shall be prepared and a primary shall be held for that office. The Declaration must be filed with the local election official where the candidate is seeking to appear on the ballot. (10 ILCS 5/7-5(d), 7-12(10)(c), 7-13.1)

CANDIDATE CHECKLIST

- Meet **residency**, **age,** and **other qualifications** for the specific office

- File paperwork with the **SBE** **Campaign Disclosure division**

- 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 receipt**

- 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 a **Certificate of Deletions** with petitions, numbered consecutively starting with the number "1" (if applicable)

- Fill out a **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 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.

NOTE: Candidates should contact the election authority or the local election official who is responsible for receiving the filing of the petition for nomination and/or election to office for further information as to the specific number of signatures required on a nominating petition for a specific office (or for the data needed to calculate that number).

CANDIDATE SCREENING AND SLATING BY COMMUNITY GROUPS

In some communities around the State, groups have formed for the purpose of recruiting, screening, and selecting informal "slates" of candidates for a number of local government offices. These groups will often have the word "caucus" in their name or may appear to be an official nomination process. With respect to the nomination process for candidates to gain ballot access, the operations and procedures of these groups are unofficial and are not recognized under the Election Code. Candidates who wish to run for these offices do not have to seek the approval or endorsement of these local "caucuses," and all candidates are still required to file the proper nomination documents as detailed in this Guide.

Candidates who present themselves to an informal candidate screening committee to be included on the informal slate but are not selected may timely file to be listed as a candidate of a political party, an independent candidate, or a nonpartisan candidate, depending on the unit of government in question. Alternatively, a candidate may file a Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate at the election.

In contrast, as elsewhere noted in this Guide, a candidate who participates at an official caucus expressly authorized by the Election Code but who is defeated at the caucus is then ineligible to be listed on the ballot as an independent or new party candidate or to file a Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate at the election for which the nominating caucus was held. Individuals who organize these unofficial caucuses, as well as any local government officials or administrators who volunteer to participate, should be aware of the following regulations and provisions that may be applicable to the activities of their group:

- Prohibitions under the Election Code on the use of public funds to influence voters. (10 ILCS 5/9-25.1)
- Requirements under the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act as applied to local governmental entities. (5 ILCS 430/70-5)
- Prohibitions under the Local Governmental Employee Political Rights Act against political activity while at work or on duty. (50 ILCS 135/10)
- Obligations under the Election Code to register as a political committee and file financial disclosures if the committee raises or spends more than $5,000 in any 12-month period in support of or opposition to any candidate or public question, or for electioneering communications.
  (10 ILCS 5/9-1.8, 9-3, 9-10)
- Local ordinances or policies which may have additional restrictions or regulations.

Information on these regulations is also included throughout this Guide.

FORMAT OF NOMINATION PAPERWORK

Election laws prescribe the general format of nomination paperwork to be submitted when seeking nomination for each 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. Local election officials are advised to contact their election authority (county clerk or board of election commissioners) regarding the availability of forms. The forms can be downloaded by clicking on the link or they may be obtained from the proper election authority. Forms may also be purchased 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 7.

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 a.m. or the normal opening hour of such office, whatever the case may be, on the first day of the filing period and no later than 5:00 p.m. or the close of business, whichever is later, on the last day of that filing period. *Welch vs. Education Officers Electoral Bd. for Proviso High School Dist. 209*, 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 State Board of Elections will **NOT ACCEPT** any petition for filing after 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the filing period. This applies to any individuals waiting in line as of the 5:00 p.m. deadline who have not yet filed their petition.
(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 29.

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 25 for more detailed information on objections.

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 in units of government where it is required that all candidates file on a nonpartisan basis. See page 12 for more detailed information on which offices are nonpartisan.

CANDIDATES MUST FILE:

- Statement of Candidacy
- **Receipt** from filing a Statement of Economic Interests
- Nominating petition sheets (containing a sufficient number of original signatures) or Certificate of Nomination by Party Caucus
- Certificate of officers authorized to fill vacancies (for new political parties) (10 ILCS 5/10-5, 10-11)

Candidates **may** file a Loyalty Oath, which is optional.

*Contact the appropriate filing office for specific signature requirements.

PETITIONS SENT BY MAIL

Nomination papers may be filed with the proper filing office 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 a.m. or as of the normal opening hour of such day. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6); 26 Il. 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 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 and after the last day of filing cannot be accepted and will be returned to the candidate.** (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6), 10-6.2)

BALLOT POSITION 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 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. 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 and shall be open to the public. For further information on the lottery process, see page 27.

(10 ILCS 5/7-12(6), 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 office that the prior set of petitions may be canceled.

If the candidate notifies the proper filing office, the last set of petitions filed shall be the only petitions to be considered valid. If the candidate fails to notify the proper filing office, only the first set of petitions filed shall be valid and all subsequent petitions shall be void. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(11), 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 (SBE Form P-25) 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 for either primary ballot for any office. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(9), 10-7)

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 State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/29B-5 *et seq*.)

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

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.

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, 7-10.1, 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 filings (Loyalty Oath, Code of Fair Campaign Practices), 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, 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 p.m. 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, the 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 sheets**; however, other election authorities may follow a different policy in regard to petition filing. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 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 sheets (other election authorities may follow a different policy with regards to petitions filed with their offices). A candidate's

failure to match the name on the petition to the 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 filing 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 a separate Statement of Candidacy, receipt for filing a Statement of Economic Interests, and an optional Loyalty Oath. (10 ILCS 5/7-10)

USING A NICKNAME OR OTHER TITLES ON FORMS

The candidate's given name, 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 the candidate's 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), 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 names, 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 previous name of the candidate was 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**: that 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 or partner's surname, 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), 10-5.1, 16-3(e)-(f))

SIGNING AND CIRCULATING PETITIONS

PETITION CIRCULATOR REQUIREMENTS

A petition circulator must be:

- 18 years of age or will be 18 by the date of the upcoming consolidated 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 the presence of the circulator. 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, 10-4)

Petition sheets **must not** be circulated more than 90 days preceding the last day for the filing of the petitions. The circulator's statement on a candidate's petition 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 that last day for filing of the petitions. See page 7 for dates when candidates may start circulating petition sheets.
(10 ILCS 5/7-10, 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, 10-4)

CIRCULATOR'S STATEMENT

A petition circulator must complete the circulator's statement at the bottom of each petition sheet certifying the circulator's address, age, citizenship information, and that the signatures on that sheet were signed in the presence of the circulator. The circulator must certify that the signatures are genuine and, to the best of the circulator's knowledge, that the persons signing were duly registered voters of the political subdivision for which the candidate(s) 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, 10-4)

A petition circulator 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.
(10 ILCS 5/7-10, 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 members, or other persons in the household. A signer must also be a registered voter

CIRCULATING RESTRICTIONS:

- A circulator may not circulate petitions for **more than one** established 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 the consolidated primary **and** one new political party or independent candidate for the following consolidated or 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 and independent candidates. The number of seats to be elected is the number of petitions that a voter can sign.

in the political subdivision in which the candidate is seeking nomination or election. (10 ILCS 5/3-1.2, 7-10, 10-2, 10-3, 10-4) Petition signers shall indicate on such petition their residence addresses (written or printed) including the street address or rural route number, as well as the 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, 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 stricken from the petition by the circulator or the candidate prior to filing the petition. **All** of the following requirements are necessary to effect 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 certificate of deletions (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, 10-3)

COMPUTING SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

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

- In **political subdivisions:** take the total votes cast for the candidate for such political party that 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 2027 election cycle, the calculations could be based on results from the 2021, 2023, or 2025 election cycle, as applicable.
- In **wards or districts of political subdivisions:** take the total votes cast for the candidate for such political party who received the highest number of votes in such 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 2027 election cycle, the calculations could be based on the 2021, 2023, or 2025 election cycle, as applicable.

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 Office of the Secretary of State. Candidates filing with their election authority or local election official 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, located at 111 East Monroe, Springfield, IL 62756. For candidates filing with an 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 your election authority or the Secretary of State's Index Division at (217) 782-7017 or (312) 814-8218.
(5 ILCS 420/4A-101.5, 4A-106)

FILING THE **RECEIPT**

All candidates must file a **receipt** indicating that they have filed a Statement of Economic Interests as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 7-12(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 (i.e. county officers). (10 ILCS 5/7-12(8))

Candidates are advised to file their receipts at the same time they file their nominating petitions. While the receipt does not need to accompany the nomination petitions at the time of filing, it must be filed not later than 5:00 p.m. for the State Board of Elections, or at the close of business for other offices, on the last day to file nominating 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 a notice of obligation to comply with the Illinois Campaign Financing Act at the time they file nomination papers. If a candidate files 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; 60 ILCS 1/45-35)

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 or public question, or for electioneering communications, 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—even if the committee has not raised money or made any contributions within a filing period.
(10 ILCS 5/9-5, 9-10, 9-11)

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 public question 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 or public question. Electioneering communication does not include communications by organizations designated by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, exclusively between labor unions and their members, or exclusively between organizations designated by Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code and their members. (10 ILCS 5/9-1.14(a))

Any entity other than a natural person that 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 disclosure reports with the SBE. 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 SBE. 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 5/9-3, 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 public question 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 VOTES WITH PUBLIC FUNDS

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

FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT

Candidates and committees are urged to abide by the provisions for campaigning outlined in the Fair Campaign Practices Act. 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. Filling out and filing the "Code of Fair Campaign Practices" is voluntary. (10 ILCS 5/29B-5, 29B-10)

The State Board of Elections shall accept, at all times prior to an election, all completed copies of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices that are properly subscribed to by a candidate or the chair of a political committee in support of or opposition to a public question and shall retain them for public inspection until 30 days after the election.
(10 ILCS 5/29B-20)

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 the Division of Campaign Disclosure at (217) 782-4141.

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.

Objections should be filed with the same entity with which candidates filed the nomination papers. Objections must, minimally, include the name(s) and address(es) of the objector(s). (10 ILCS 5/10-8)

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 2027. (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 (see electoral boards for political subdivision offices on pages 25 and 26) or its 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 the 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)

The following electoral boards are designated to hear and pass upon objections to nomination petitions of candidates for political subdivision offices:

1) **County Officers Electoral Board: County Clerk (Chair), Circuit Court Clerk, State's Attorney, or their designees. In Peoria County, the county election commissioners will constitute the County Officers Electoral Board. (10 ILCS 5/10-9(2), 10-9(2.5))**
   For all counties: jurisdiction includes county offices and judicial offices of a district, subcircuit, or circuit coterminous with or less than a county, school district offices, and special district offices. For school districts located in two or more counties, the county officers electoral board of the county in which the principal office of the school district is located shall hear and pass upon objections to nominations of candidates for school district office in that school district.
   For Cook County only: jurisdiction includes hearing objections to petitions of candidates for congressional or legislative office, if the district is wholly within Cook County, unless the district is wholly

or partially within the jurisdiction of a municipal board of election commissioners. Precinct committee member. (10 ILCS 5/7-13, 10-9)

2) **Municipal Officers Electoral Board: Mayor or president of board of trustees (Chair), the municipal clerk, and one eligible member of the city council or board of trustees who has served the greatest number of years as a member of the council or board. (10 ILCS 5/10-9(3))**
For officers of municipalities (e.g. cities, villages, and incorporated towns).

3) **Education Officers Electoral Board: Presiding officer of the community college district board (Chair), the secretary of the community college district board, and the eligible elected community college board member having the longest term of continuous service as a board member. (10 ILCS 5/10-9(5))**
For community college districts.

4) **Municipal Boards of Election Commissioners: Where a city, a community college district, or a special purpose district (e.g., fire protection district, etc.) is located entirely within the jurisdiction of a municipal board of election commissioners, that board shall constitute the electoral board for that political subdivision. (10 ILCS 5/10-9(6))**

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 Municipal Officers Electoral Board, and the Education Officers Electoral Board may meet at the location (other than their county courthouse) where the governing body of the municipality, school, or community college district, respectively, holds its regularly scheduled meetings, if that location is available, provided that voter records may be removed from the offices of an election authority only at the discretion and under the supervision of the election authority. 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)

Note: The county officer's electoral board hears objections to the nominations of candidates for school district offices. (10 ILCS 5/10-9)

FILING FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW

Within five days after the decision of the electoral board, the candidate or objector aggrieved by the decision 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. The petition for review must name as respondents the electoral board, its members, and each prevailing candidate or objector in the initial proceeding before the board. The party seeking judicial review must serve a copy of the petition upon each of the respondents named in the petition for judicial review. 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 decision 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 to the election authority to whom the ballot is certified and the appropriate county clerk, and such officers or board shall abide by and comply with the ruling so made to all intents and purposes.
(10 ILCS 5/10-10, 10-10.1)

LOTTERY

FILINGS REQUIRING A LOTTERY

Simultaneous filings of candidate nominating petitions for the same office occur for those candidates **in line at** 8:00 a.m. (or whenever the opening hour of the business may be; for example, if the office opens at 9:00 a.m., all candidates in line as of 9:00 a.m. 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 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., or the last hour of regular business operations of the filing officer.

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), 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 the State Board of Elections' administrative rules codified as Title 26, Chapter 1, Section 201.40 and 202.40 of the Illinois Administrative Code, 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 commencing 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 a.m. 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 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. 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 p.m.

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)

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS

Commission Form – Municipal

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Nonpartisan, non-municipal, or municipal-commission form (SBE Form P-4)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located. (5 ILCS 420/4A-101.5, 4A-106.5) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Qualified elector of the municipality and one-year residency in the municipality preceding the election.
(65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(a))

A person is not eligible to take the oath of office for a municipal office if that person is, at the time required for taking the oath of office, in arrears in the payment of a tax or other indebtedness due to the municipality or has been convicted in any court located in the United States of any infamous crime, bribery, perjury, or other felony. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(b))

If a person is a resident of a municipality immediately prior to the active duty military service of that person or that person's spouse, resides anywhere outside of the municipality during that active duty military service, and immediately upon completion of that active duty military service is again a resident of the municipality, then the time during which the person resides outside the municipality during the active duty military service is deemed to be time during which the person is a resident of the municipality for purposes of determining the residency requirement. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(d))

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Equal to at least 1% of the total vote cast for mayor at the last preceding election for mayor in the municipality.
(65 ILCS 5/4-3-8)

FILING DATES

November 16-23, 2026 (not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election).
(10 ILCS 5/10-6(2))

WHERE TO FILE

With the Municipal Clerk, or in those municipalities that have a municipal Board of Election Commissioners, with the clerk of that Board.

TERM

4 years and until their successors are elected and qualified. (65 ILCS 5/4-3-4)

TERM BEGINS

The terms of elected municipal officers shall commence at the first regular or special meeting of the corporate authorities after receipt of the official election results from the county clerk of the regular municipal election at which the officers were elected, except as otherwise provided by ordinance fixing the date for inauguration of newly elected officers of a municipality. The ordinance shall not, however, fix the time for inauguration of newly elected officers later than the first regular or special meeting of the corporate authorities in the month of June following the election. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-15)

"Corporate authorities" means (a) the mayor and alderpersons or similar body when the reference is to cities, (b) the president and trustees or similar body when the reference is to villages or incorporated towns, and (c) the council when the reference is to municipalities under the commission form of municipal government. (65 ILCS 5/1-1-2(2))

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

MAYOR OR PRESIDENT, ALDERPERSON OR TRUSTEE, CLERK, TREASURER

Mayor-Alderperson and President-Trustee Form – Municipal

NOTE: In municipalities with a population over 5,000, candidates of established political parties file petitions to be placed on the consolidated primary election ballot.

Municipalities: Municipalities of 5,000 or less population may determine by ordinance, no later than November 15, 2026, that political parties shall nominate candidates for municipal offices by primary election in accordance with Article 7 of the Election Code. (10 ILCS 5/7-1(b))

Cities: Cities of 10,000 or fewer inhabitants may, by ordinance, allow for the appointment of a city treasurer by the mayor, subject to the advice and consent of the city council.
(65 ILCS 5/3.1-15-5)

Villages of fewer than 5,000 inhabitants may, by resolution, choose to have the clerk appointed by the village president with the concurrence of the village board. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-25-90(a))

This procedure for the election of officers includes municipalities that have adopted the managerial form and retained or later adopted the mayor-alderperson or president-trustee form of electing their officers. (65 ILCS 5/5-1-2)

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Established Party (SBE Form P-10, for primary); New Party (SBE Form P-8 or SBE Form P-8A, for consolidated election); Independent (SBE Form P-3, for consolidated election); Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-5, for primary, as applicable)

Certificate of Officers: New Party officers authorized to fill vacancies in nomination (SBE Form P-8C)

Statement of Candidacy: Established Party (SBE Form P-1, for primary, SBE Form P-1K, for caucus); New Party (SBE Form P-1D); Independent (SBE Form P-1B); Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located. (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Qualified elector of the municipality and one-year residency in the municipality preceding the election.
(65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(a))

Alderpersons must reside in the ward at least one year prior to their election. Trustees elected from districts must reside in their municipality at least one year prior to their election. For trustees elected by district, in villages with a population of over 5,000, each of the districts shall be represented by one trustee who shall have been a resident of the district for at least six months immediately before their election in the first election after redistricting.
(65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(c), 3.1-25-75(a)(b))

A person is not eligible to take the oath of office for a municipal office if that person is, at the time required for taking the oath of office, in arrears in the payment of a tax or other indebtedness due to the municipality or has been convicted in any court located in the United States of any infamous crime, bribery, perjury, or other felony. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(b))

If a person is a resident of a municipality immediately prior to the active duty military service of that person or that person's spouse, resides anywhere outside of the municipality during that active duty military service, and immediately upon completion of that active duty military service is again a resident of the municipality, then the time during which the person resides outside the municipality during the active duty military service is deemed to be time during which the person is a resident of the municipality for purposes of determining the residency requirement. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(d))

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Established Party: For president, mayor, trustee, or clerk, at least 0.5% (.005) of the qualified primary electors of the candidate's party at the last regular election in the city, incorporated town, town, or village. (10 ILCS 5/7-10(e))

For alderperson, at least .5% (.005) of the qualified primary electors of the candidate's party at the last regular election within the ward, but in no event shall the number of required signatures be less than 25.

In the first primary election following redistricting of wards or trustee districts of a municipality or the initial establishment of wards or districts, a candidate's petition for nomination must contain the number of signatures equal to at least 0.5% of the total number of votes cast for the candidate of that political party who received the highest number of votes in the entire municipality at the last regular election at which an officer was regularly scheduled to be elected from the entire municipality, divided by the number of wards or districts. In no event shall the number of signatures be less than 25. (10 ILCS 5/7-10(e))

New Party: For the consolidated election, not less than 5% of the total number of persons who voted in the last regular election in the district or political subdivision in which the district or political subdivision voted as a unit for the election of officers to serve its respective territorial area. (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

For the first election following redistricting of municipal wards or districts, or for the first election following the initial establishment of such districts or wards in a municipality, a petition to form a new political party in a municipal ward or district shall be signed by qualified voters of the district or ward equal to not less than 5% of the total number of votes cast at the preceding municipal election, as the case may be, for the municipal office voted on throughout the municipality for which the greatest total number of votes were cast for all candidates, divided by the number of districts or wards, but in any event not less than 25 qualified voters of the district or ward. In the case of a petition to form a new political party within a political subdivision in which officers are to be elected from districts and at-large, such a petition shall consist of separate components for each district from which an officer is to be elected. (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

Independent: For the consolidated election, not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the number of persons who voted at the last regular election in the district or political subdivision in which the district or political subdivision voted as a unit for the election of officers to serve its respective territorial area. (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

<u>Example</u>: If 1,000 voters cast ballots at the last regular election in the district or political subdivision, the formula of 5% - 8% would result in a signature requirement of 50 – 80. A difference of 50 between the minimum and maximum is required. (10 ILCS 5/10-3) Therefore, the signature requirement would be 50 – 100.

For the first election following redistricting of municipal wards or districts, or for the first election following the initial establishment of such districts or wards in a municipality, nomination papers for an independent candidate for alderperson or trustee of the municipality shall be signed by qualified voters of the district or ward equal to not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the total number of votes cast at the preceding general municipal election, as the case may be, for the municipal office voted on throughout the municipality for which the greatest total number of votes were cast for all candidates divided by the number of districts or wards, but in any event not less than 25 qualified voters of the district or ward. (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

Nonpartisan (City): For the consolidated primary election, not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the number of persons who voted at the last regular election in the district or political subdivision in which such district or political subdivision voted as a unit for the election of officers to serve its respective territorial area. (10 ILCS 5/10-3, 10-3.1)

Nonpartisan (Village): 1% of the total vote cast at the last preceding election in the village for president.
(65 ILCS 5/3.1-25-30)

FILING DATES

For established political party candidates and nonpartisan candidates filing for a primary: October 19-26, 2026
(not more than 127 nor less than 120 days prior to the consolidated primary). (10 ILCS 5/7-12(3), 10-6(4))

For new party candidates and independent candidates: November 16-23, 2026
(not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election). (10 ILCS 5/10-6(2))

Caucus certificates for nomination for established party candidates: December 14-21, 2026
(not more than 113 nor less than 106 days prior to the consolidated election). (10 ILCS 5/10-1(a))

WHERE TO FILE

With the appropriate city or village clerk, or in those cities having a Board of Election Commissioners, with the clerk of that Board.

TERM

4 years. The term may be reduced to 2 years by public question. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-65) Any municipality of less than 500,000 population that originally voted to shorten terms may submit a public question to lengthen terms.
(65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-75(a))

TERM BEGINS

The terms of elected municipal officers shall commence at the first regular or special meeting of the corporate authorities after receipt of the official election results from the county clerk of the regular municipal election at which the officers were elected, except as otherwise provided by ordinance fixing the date for inauguration of newly elected officers of a municipality. The ordinance shall not, however, fix the time for inauguration of newly elected officers later than the first regular or special meeting of the corporate authorities in the month of June following the election.
(65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-15)

"Corporate authorities" means (a) the mayor and alderpersons or similar body when the reference is to cities, (b) the president and trustees or similar body when the reference is to villages or incorporated towns, and (c) the council when the reference is to municipalities under the commission form of municipal government. (65 ILCS 5/1-1-2(2))

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBERS AT-LARGE (AND FROM DISTRICTS IN SOME CITIES), CLERK, TREASURER

Council-Manager Form of Government – Municipal

NOTE: Upon adoption of the managerial form of government, the procedures for electing municipal officers will remain the same as prior to the adoption of 65 ILCS 5/Art. 5. A public question may be approved by the voters to establish a different type of municipal organization in conjunction with the managerial form.

The council-manager form is the only form of municipal government covered (for election of officers) by Article 5 of the Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/Art. 5). Other cities and villages which have adopted Article 5 and have retained or later adopted the mayor-alderperson form or the president-trustee village form will follow the provisions under Article 3.1 of the Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/Art. 3.1) for the election of officers. Cities and villages that have adopted or retained a commission form would follow provisions under Article 4 of the Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/Art. 4) for the election of officers.

Refer to the appropriate section of this guide for either mayor-alderperson, president-trustee, or commission form if the municipality is also a managerial form.

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-5)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located. (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Qualified elector of the municipality and one-year residency in the municipality preceding the election.
(65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(a))

A person is not eligible to take the oath of office for a municipal office if that person is, at the time required for taking the oath of office, in arrears in the payment of a tax or other indebtedness due to the municipality or has been convicted in any court located in the United States of any infamous crime, bribery, perjury, or other felony. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(b))

If a person is a resident of a municipality immediately prior to the active duty military service of that person or that person's spouse, resides anywhere outside of the municipality during that active duty military service, and immediately upon completion of that active duty military service is again a resident of the municipality, then the time during which the person resides outside the municipality during the active duty military service is deemed to be time during which the person is a resident of the municipality for purposes of determining the residency requirement. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(d))

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is

again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Cities and villages that retained or later adopted Article 3.1 of the Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/Art. 3.1), see Mayor-Alderperson and President-Trustee form for signature requirements.

If a city has adopted the nonpartisan form of government as authorized by Article VII of the Constitution, the signature requirements are those in 10 ILCS 5/10-3 of the Election Code (Independent signature requirements) as authorized by the second paragraph of 10 ILCS 5/10-3.1; not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the number of persons who voted at the last regular election in the district or political subdivision in which the district or political subdivision voted as a unit for the election of officers to serve its respective territorial area. (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

Signature requirements are governed by the form of government prior to the adoption of Council-Manager.

Council-Manager (formerly Commission): 1% of the total vote cast at the last preceding election in the municipality for mayor. (65 ILCS 5/4-3-8, 5-2-12)

Council-Manager (formerly nonpartisan President/Trustee): 1% of the total vote cast at the last preceding election in the village for president. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-25-20, 3.1-25-30)

Council-Manager (formerly a city/village whose candidates ran as independents): not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the number of persons who voted at the last regular election in the district or political subdivision in which the district or political subdivision voted as a unit for the election of officers to serve its respective territorial area. (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

FILING DATES

October 19-26, 2026 (not more than 127 nor less than 120 days prior to the consolidated primary).
(10 ILCS 5/10-6(4))

WHERE TO FILE

With the municipal clerk, or in those cities having a Board of Election Commissioners, with the clerk of that Board.

TERM

4 years. The term may be reduced to 2 years by public question. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-65) Any municipality of less than 500,000 population who originally voted to shorten terms may submit a public question to lengthen terms.
(65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-75(a))

TERM BEGINS

The terms of elected municipal officers shall commence at the first regular or special meeting of the corporate authorities after receipt of the official election results from the county clerk of the regular municipal election at which the officers were elected, except as otherwise provided by ordinance fixing the date for inauguration of newly elected officers of a municipality. The ordinance shall not, however, fix the time for inauguration of newly elected officers later than the first regular or special meeting of the corporate authorities in the month of June following the election.
(65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-15)

"Corporate authorities" means (a) the mayor and alderpersons or similar body when the reference is to cities, (b) the president and trustees or similar body when the reference is to villages or incorporated towns, and (c) the council when the reference is to municipalities under the commission form of municipal government. (65 ILCS 5/1-1-2(2))

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

MUNICIPAL – CITY OF CHICAGO

Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer and Alderperson

Vacancies Only

NOTE: Please contact the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners for further information as to whether any vacancies in office exist that need to be filled by election in 2027.

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-5)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the Cook County Clerk. (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Qualified elector of the municipality and one-year residency in the municipality preceding the election. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(a))

For alderperson, one-year residency in the ward preceding the election. (65 ILCS 20/21-14(a))

A person is not eligible to take the oath of office for a municipal office if that person is, at the time required for taking the oath of office, in arrears in the payment of a tax or other indebtedness due to the municipality or has been convicted in any court located in the United States of any infamous crime, bribery, perjury, or other felony. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(b))

If a person is a resident of a municipality immediately prior to the active duty military service of that person or that person's spouse, resides anywhere outside of the municipality during that active duty military service, and immediately upon completion of that active duty military service is again a resident of the municipality, then the time during which the person resides outside the municipality during the active duty military service is deemed to be time during which the person is a resident of the municipality for purposes of determining the residency requirement. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(d))

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

All nominations in the city shall be by petition. Each petition for nomination of mayor, city clerk, and city treasurer must be signed by at least 12,500 legal voters of the city (65 ILCS 20/21-28(b)). Each petition for alderperson must be signed by at least 473 legal voters of the ward (65 ILCS 20/21-28(a)).

FILING DATES

October 19-26, 2026 (not more than 127 nor less than 120 days prior to the consolidated primary).
(10 ILCS 5/10-6(4))

WHERE TO FILE

With the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, 69 W. Washington, 6th Floor, Chicago, IL 60602.

TERM

4 years. No person shall be elected to the office of city treasurer for two terms in succession unless the city, by ordinance, establishes different succession terms.
(65 ILCS 20/21-5(b), 21-12, 21-22(a))

TERM BEGINS

Mayor, clerk, treasurer, and alderperson terms begin at noon on the third Monday in May following the election. Terms begin on May 17, 2027. (65 ILCS 20/21-5(b), 21-12, 21-22(a))

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

PARK COMMISSIONER, TRUSTEE

Park District

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-4)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located. (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Park Commissioner: must be a qualified elector of the park district with one-year residency in the park district preceding the election. (70 ILCS 1205/2-11)

A person is not eligible to serve as park commissioner if that person is in arrears in the payment of a tax or other indebtedness due to the park district or has been convicted in any court located in the United States of any infamous crime, bribery, perjury, or other felony. (70 ILCS 1205/2-11)

Pleasure Driveway and Park District Trustees: shall be legal voters of and reside within the park district.
(70 ILCS 1205/2-15)

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Signature requirements for general park district commissioners and Pleasure Driveway and park district trustees: Petition must be signed by not less than 2% of the number of ballots cast at the last election for trustee or commissioner in the district, but in no case by less than 25. (70 ILCS 1205/2-11, 2-17)

FILING DATES

November 16-23, 2026 (not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election).
(10 ILCS 5/10-6(2))

WHERE TO FILE

With the Park District Secretary. (70 ILCS 1205/2-11)

TERM

5 Commissioners: 6-year term. (70 ILCS 1205/2-12)

7 Commissioners: 6-year term, by resolution or public question. (70 ILCS 1205/2-10a)

5-7 Commissioners: 4-year term, by resolution or public question. (70 ILCS 1205/2-12a)

Pleasure Driveway and Park District

President and 6 trustees: 4-year term. (70 ILCS 1205/2-15)

Township Park District

3 Commissioners: 6-year term. (70 ILCS 1205/2-19)

TERM BEGINS

Commissioners and Pleasure Driveway and Park District Trustees shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified. (70 ILCS 1205/2-12, 2-15)

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD – TRUSTEE

Public Library District

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-4)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located. (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Qualified elector of the library district with one-year residency in the library district at the time nomination papers are filed. (75 ILCS 16/30-20(d))

A person is not eligible to serve as a library trustee who, at the time of filing nomination papers, is in arrears in the payment of a tax or other indebtedness due to the library district or has been convicted in any court located in the United States of any infamous crime, bribery, perjury, or other felony. (75 ILCS 16/30-20(e))

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

A number of qualified voters residing in the district equivalent to at least 2% of the votes cast at the last election for library trustees, or 50, whichever is less. (75 ILCS 16/30-20(a))

FILING DATES

November 16-23, 2026 (not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election).
(10 ILCS 5/10-6(2))

WHERE TO FILE

With the Library District Secretary. (75 ILCS 16/30-20(a))

TERM

7 Trustees: 6-year terms. The library board may, by resolution, change to 4-year terms. (75 ILCS 16/30-10)

TERM BEGINS

The third Monday of the month (May 17, 2027) following the regular election of trustees.
(75 ILCS 16/30-10, 30-40(e))

Within 74 days after their election or appointment, the incumbents and new trustees shall take their oaths of office and meet to organize the board. (75 ILCS 16/30-40(a))

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

LOCAL LIBRARY BOARD – TRUSTEE

Municipal – Township

NOTE: In villages under the commission form of government, the Library Board of Trustees is appointed by the village council. (75 ILCS 5/4-2)

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-4)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located. (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Resident of the incorporated town, village, or township involved. (75 ILCS 5/4-3.3)

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Petition must be signed by at least 25 legal voters residing in the incorporated town, village (except a village under the commission form of government), or township. (75 ILCS 5/4-3.3)

FILING DATES

November 16-23, 2026 (not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election).
(10 ILCS 5/10-6(2))

WHERE TO FILE

Local municipal or township clerk. (75 ILCS 5/4-3.3)

TERM

7 Trustees: 6 years for incorporated towns, villages, and library boards. (Library Board may change to 4-year terms by resolution). (75 ILCS 5/4-3.1)

7 Trustees: 4 years for Township Public Libraries. (75 ILCS 5/4-3.2)

TERM BEGINS

Trustees hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. (75 ILCS 5/4-3.1) Within 60 days after their election, the trustees shall take the oath of office and meet to organize the board. (75 ILCS 5/4-6)

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

REGIONAL BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES (REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION)

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Single county Regional School Trustee (SBE Form P-21A); Multi-county Regional School Trustee (SBE Form P-21)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located. (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

No person shall be eligible for the office of member of the regional board of school trustees who is not a voter of the educational service region and qualified to vote in the election for members of the regional board of school trustees, or who is a member of a school board, or who is a school board employee, or who holds any county office. (105 ILCS 5/6-3)

The regional board of school trustees, in both single county and multi-county educational service regions, shall consist of seven members. In single county regions, not more than one trustee may be a resident of any one congressional township; however, in case there are fewer than seven congressional townships in the region, then not more than two of such trustees may be residents of the same congressional township. In two-county regions, at least two trustees shall be residents of each county. In regions of three or more counties, at least one trustee shall be a resident of each county. If more than seven counties constitute the educational service region, the regional board of school trustees consists of one resident of each county. (105 ILCS 5/6-2)

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Petitions must be signed by at least 50 qualified voters from the educational service region. In addition, the petition shall specify the county and township (or road district) of the candidate's residence. (105 ILCS 5/6-10)

FILING DATES

November 16-23, 2026 (not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election).
(10 ILCS 5/10-6)

WHERE TO FILE

Single-county region candidates file with the county clerk.

Multi-county region candidates file with the State Board of Elections, 2329 S. MacArthur Blvd., Springfield, IL 62704. (105 ILCS 5/6-10)

TERM

7 members: 6-year terms. (105 ILCS 5/6-17)

TERM BEGINS

Third Monday in May following the election (May 17, 2027). (105 ILCS 5/6-17)

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

Boards of Education

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: At-Large (SBE Form P-7); Districts 1-7 (SBE Form P-7A)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located. (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Any person who, on the date of election, is a citizen of the United States, of the age of 18 years or over, a resident of the State and the territory of the district for one year preceding the election, and a registered voter is eligible. A member shall not be a school trustee or a child sex offender as defined in Section 11-9.3 of the Criminal Code of 2012.
(105 ILCS 5/10-10)

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Petitions must be signed by at least 50 qualified voters or 10% of the voters, whichever is less, residing within the district. (105 ILCS 5/9-10)

FILING DATES

November 16-23, 2026 (not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election).
(10 ILCS 5/10-6)

WHERE TO FILE

With the county clerk or the county board of election commissioners, as the case may be, of the county in which the principal office of the school district is located. (105 ILCS 5/9-10)

TERM

4 years (may be changed to 6 years by public question). (105 ILCS 5/9-5)

TERM BEGINS

Within 40 days after the election. (105 ILCS 5/10-16)

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

SCHOOL DIRECTOR* AND TOWNSHIP LAND COMMISSIONER**

*In districts having a population fewer than 1,000.

**In counties of fewer than 220,000 inhabitants containing townships with common school lands, there shall be three land commissioners elected in the same manner as provided for election of school directors. (105 ILCS 5/15-24)

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Board of Education Petition (SBE Form P-7)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located. (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Any person who, on the date of election, is a citizen of the United States, is of the age of 18 years or over, is a resident of the State and of the territory of the district for at least one year immediately preceding the election, is a registered voter, is not a school trustee or a school treasurer, and is not a child sex offender as defined in Section 11-9.3 of the Criminal Code of 2012 shall be eligible to the office of school director or land commissioner. (105 ILCS 5/10-3)

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Petition must be signed by at least 25 qualified voters or 5% of the voters, whichever is less, residing within the district. (105 ILCS 5/9-10)

FILING DATES

November 16-23, 2026 (not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election).
(10 ILCS 5/10-6)

WHERE TO FILE

School Director candidates file with the county clerk or the county board of election commissioners, as the case may be, of the county in which the principal office of the school district is located. (105 ILCS 5/9-10)
Township Land Commissioner candidates file with the Township Land Commissioner's Secretary. (105 ILCS 5/9-2(d))

TERM

4 years. (105 ILCS 5/10-4)

TERM BEGINS

School Directors and Land Commissioners shall meet and organize within 40 days after the election by appointing one of their number president and another as clerk. (105 ILCS 5/10-5, 10-16)

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

BOARD MEMBER – BOARD OF EDUCATION

City of Peoria Only under 105 ILCS 5/33

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: (SBE Form P-7A)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the Peoria County Election Commission. (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Shall be a citizen of the United States, shall have been a resident of the district for at least one year immediately preceding the election, and shall not be a child sex offender as defined in Section 11-9.3 of the Criminal Code of 2012. (105 ILCS 5/33-2)

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

At least 200 qualified voters of the district. (105 ILCS 5/33-2)

FILING DATES

November 16-23, 2026 (not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election).
(10 ILCS 5/10-6)

WHERE TO FILE

With the Peoria County Election Commission, 4422 Brandywine Drive, Suite 1, Peoria, IL 61614.

TERM

5 years (may be changed to 4-year terms by public question). (105 ILCS 5/33-1, 33-1a)

TERM BEGINS

All terms shall commence on July 1 following the election (July 1, 2027). (105 ILCS 5/33-1a)

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT TRUSTEE*

* Southwestern Illinois Community College District Trustees (522) and Lincoln Land Community College District Trustees (526) run from separate sub-districts; all others run at-large.

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Community College Petition (SBE Form P-6); Southwestern Illinois Community College District (SBE Form P-6A); Lincoln Land Community College (SBE Form P-6A)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located. (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.
Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Each member must on the date of the election be a citizen of the United States, of the age of 18 years or over, and a resident of the State and the territory that on the date of the election is included in the community college district for at least one year immediately preceding the election. (110 ILCS 805/3-7(c))

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

At least 50 qualified voters or 10% of the voters, whichever is less, residing within the district. (110 ILCS 805/3-7.10)

FILING DATES

November 16-23, 2026 (not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election).
(10 ILCS 5/10-6)

WHERE TO FILE

With the Secretary of the Board of the Community College District or designated representative. **If the Secretary is an incumbent board member seeking re-election, a disinterested person must witness the filing of the Secretary's petition**. (110 ILCS 805/3-7.10)

TERM

6 years. (110 ILCS 805/3-7(b))
Lincoln Land Community College (526) and Southwestern Illinois Community College (522): The trustees are divided into two groups (as equally as possible for LLCC (526)), with terms of 4 and 6 years or 6 and 4 years. (110 ILCS 805/3-7a, 3-7c)

TERM BEGINS

Following the canvass and within 28 days of the election. (110 ILCS 805/3-8)

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TRUSTEE

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Fire Protection District (SBE Form P-4-2)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located. (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Resident of the fire protection district. (70 ILCS 705/4a)

NOTE: In the case of a multi-county district, the number of trustees for each county shall be proportional to the number of district residents from that county in relation to the district's total population. Not more than one trustee can be from a municipality unless that municipality has more than 50% of the population in the district. (70 ILCS 705/4(a)(4))

No person is eligible to serve on the board of any fire protection district if that person has been convicted of a felony under the laws of this State or comparable laws of any other state or the United States or is in arrears in the payment of a tax or other indebtedness due to a fire protection district. (70 ILCS 705/10.1)

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

At least 25 voters or 5% of the voters, whichever is less, residing within the district. (70 ILCS 705/4a)

FILING DATES

November 16-23, 2026 (not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election).
(10 ILCS 5/10-6(2))

WHERE TO FILE

With the Secretary of the Fire Protection District Board. (70 ILCS 705/4a)

TERM

6 years. (70 ILCS 705/4a)

TERM BEGINS

Third Monday in May following the election (May 17, 2027). (70 ILCS 705/4a)

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

PUBLIC WATER DISTRICT TRUSTEE

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-4)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located. (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Resident of the district. (70 ILCS 3705/4.2(c))

Note: In the case of a multi-county district, the number of trustees for each county shall be proportional to the number of district residents from that county in relation to the district's total population. (70 ILCS 3705/4(4))

No trustee or employee of such district shall be directly or indirectly interested in any contract, work, or business of the district or the sale of any article, the expense, price, or consideration of which is paid by such district, nor in the purchase of any real estate or property for or belonging to the district. (70 ILCS 3705/4)

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Nomination of a candidate for Trustee shall be signed by at least 0.5% of the total number of registered voters of the political subdivision for which the nomination is made or a minimum of 25, whichever is greater. (10 ILCS 5/10-3.1)

FILING DATES

November 16-23, 2026 (not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election).
(10 ILCS 5/10-6(2))

WHERE TO FILE

With the Secretary of the Water District.

TERM

4-year terms (staggered). (70 ILCS 3705/4.2(d)(1))

TERM BEGINS

First Monday in May 2027 (May 3, 2027) or until successors have been elected and qualified.
(70 ILCS 3705/4.2(d)(4))

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

FOX WATERWAY AGENCY DIRECTOR

1 Director to be elected from Lake County, 2 Full Term Directors, 1 (2-year Unexpired) Director to be elected from McHenry County

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Fox Waterway Agency (SBE Form P-4-1)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the Lake County Clerk (the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located). (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Must be a resident of a member county (Lake or McHenry) and the territory of the agency and at least 18 years of age. (615 ILCS 90/5)

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

At least 200 qualified voters of the applicable county who reside within the territory of the agency.
(615 ILCS 90-5)

FILING DATES

November 16-23, 2026 (not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election).
(615 ILCS 90/5)

WHERE TO FILE

With the State Board of Elections, 2329 S. MacArthur Blvd., Springfield, IL 62704.

TERM

4 years and until their successors are elected and qualified. (615 ILCS 90/5)

TERM BEGINS

Third Monday in May following the election (May 17, 2027). (615 ILCS 90/5)

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT TRUSTEE

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Fox Metro Water Reclamation District (SBE Form P-4-3)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the Kendall County Clerk (the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located). (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Must be a resident of a member county and the territory of the agency. (70 ILCS 2405/3)

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

At least 100 signatures of registered voters residing within the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District. (70 ILCS 2405/3)

FILING DATES

November 16-23, 2026 (not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election).
(10 ILCS 5/7-12)

WHERE TO FILE

With the State Board of Elections, 2329 S. MacArthur Blvd., Springfield, IL 62704. (10 ILCS 5/7-12)

TERM

4 years and until their successors are elected and qualified. (70 ILCS 2405/3)

TERM BEGINS

First Tuesday after the first Monday in the month following the month of election (May 4, 2027). (70 ILCS 2405/3)

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

(In counties with a population of more than 30,000 but less than 90,000)

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-4)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located. (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Must be a resident of the forest preserve district. (70 ILCS 805/3.5(a))

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Nomination of a candidate for Trustee shall be signed by at least 0.5% of the total number of registered voters of the political subdivision for which the nomination is made or a minimum of 25, whichever is greater. (10 ILCS 5/10-3.1)

FILING DATES

November 16-23, 2026 (not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election).
(10 ILCS 5/10-6(2))

WHERE TO FILE

With the Secretary of the District.

TERM

5 Commissioners: 4-year terms. (70 ILCS 805/3.5(a)(b))

TERM BEGINS

On the third Monday of the month (May 17, 2027) following the election. (70 ILCS 805/3.5(a))

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

SPRINGFIELD METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION AND AUDITORIUM AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBER

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-4)

Statement of Candidacy: Nonpartisan (SBE Form P-1A)

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

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the Sangamon County Clerk (the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located). (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Registered voter and qualified to vote within the metropolitan area. (70 ILCS 200/255-70)

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Nomination of a candidate for member of the Board shall be made by a petition filed with the county clerk, signed by at least 50 voters qualified to vote at the election. (70 ILCS 200/255-75)

FILING DATES

November 16-23, 2026 (not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election).
(10 ILCS 5/10-6(2))

WHERE TO FILE

With the Sangamon County Clerk, 200 S. 9th Street, Rooms 101 & 105, Springfield, IL 62701. (70 ILCS 200/255-75)

TERM

4-year terms. (70 ILCS 200/255-65, as modified by U.S District Court consent decree entered July 11, 1988)

TERM BEGINS

Within 15 days of election, April 21, 2027. (70 ILCS 200/255-90)

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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

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 the person is registered to vote with; however, signing with a nickname will not invalidate the signature if 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.

May 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 a primary election 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).

May 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 primary election and following that election, sign a petition of an independent or new political party candidate prior to a consolidated or 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)

May a voter sign a petition for someone else?

No. A registered voter must personally sign the petition. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 10-4)

May 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 may not sign petitions for different established parties in the same election. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 10-3)

May a voter sign petitions for more than one candidate for the same office?

Yes, a signer can sign petitions for more than one candidate for the same office, as long as the candidates are of the same established political party. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 10-3)

CIRCULATING PETITIONS

May candidates 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, 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 set of 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 political party candidate in the same election?

No. (10 ILCS 5/10-4)

May a circulator circulate petitions for more than one candidate for the same office?

Yes, if the candidates are of the same established political party. Circulators may not circulate petitions for candidates of more than one political party, or for an independent candidate in addition to one political party.

May a circulator circulate petitions for more than one political party?

No. (10 ILCS 5/10-4)

Is the circulator required to be a registered voter?

No, but they must:

- be a United States citizen;
- be at least 18 years of age by the immediately following general or consolidated election; and (10 ILCS 5/3-6)
- include their current address on the circulator's affidavit. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 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.

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

No. Only the person who signs the page as a 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, 10-4)

May a candidate's relative circulate their petition?

Yes, relatives of a candidate can circulate their petitions, as long as they are qualified and complete the circulator's affidavit.

Who can remove a signature from a 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 authority before the petition is filed, to have their name removed from the petition. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 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 Department of the Secretary of State's office, 111 E. Monroe, Springfield, IL 62756-0001, (217) 782-7017.

Must the notary put the date of their commission expiration on the document?

Yes, the notary stamp indicates the date the commission expires.

Must the notary live in the same county as the candidate?

No, but the notary must be authorized to administer oaths in the place where the notarial act is performed.

How can I get a copy of the registered voters in my political subdivision?

The State Board of Elections manages a database of voter registration information provided by the Illinois election jurisdictions. For more information, contact your election authority or the Division of Voter Registration Services at (217) 782-4141.

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 because only candidates whose petitions are **received** in the first mail delivery on the first day of filing are eligible for the 8am filer lottery for ballot position. Candidates should use the United States Postal Service when mailing to the Illinois State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6), 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 political party petition may contain the names of candidates for several offices to be filled at the upcoming election. The nominating papers must contain a separate Statement of Candidacy signed by each candidate and a receipt for the filing of a Statement of Economic Interests by each candidate. The Loyalty Oath is optional, but if the candidates choose to file a Loyalty Oath, a separate signed by each candidate should be included. (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. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(9), 10-7) Withdrawal notices should be provided to the entity with which the candidate filed their nomination papers 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.

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), 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(8))

When a candidate withdraws their nomination papers, are the papers 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 5/7-12(12), 10-7)

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 entered in a lottery to determine ballot position. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6), 10-6.2)

NOTE: Candidates who file petitions during the last hour of filing (between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.) on the last day to file petitions will be entered into a lottery to determine the final ballot position. (Illinois Administrative Rules, Title 26, Section 201.40)

May a candidate file as an independent for a school office?

No. All candidates for school offices run on a "nonpartisan" basis. "Independents" run in partisan elections but choose not to associate with a political party, so the word "independent" identifies them on the ballot label.

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, election authority, or local election official 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 5/7-12(12), 10-7)

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