

RUNNING FOR OFFICE

RUNNING FOR COUNTYWIDE OR MUNICIPAL OFFICE

GETTING ON THE BALLOT: NOMINATION PETITIONS

All candidates who want to appear on the Republican or Democratic ballot in the Primary must file a Nomination Petition along with a Statement of Financial Interests with the County Board of Elections prior to the deadline for the Election Year in which the office appears on the ballot.

These Nomination Petitions are documents signed by registered voters, who are enrolled members of the party of which you are seeking nomination, petitioning the county board of elections to print your name on the primary ballot as a candidate for the office you are seeking. In addition to being actively registered members of the party, the signers must reside in the electoral district of the office sought.

The Statement of Financial Interests is a form that must be filed along with the petition, which requires the filer to set forth information regarding the filer's sources of income. A copy of the completed Statement of Financial Interests must also be filed with the governing authority of the office you are seeking by the petition filing deadline. For more information you can log onto the State Ethics Commission's website at www.ethics.state.pa.us, or you can call the State Ethics Commission at 1-800-932-0936.

Candidates who file nomination petitions and successfully win the party's nomination at the Primary will automatically have their name appear on the November Ballot for the office they are seeking.

GETTING ON THE BALLOT: NOMINATION PAPERS

An individual may also decide to run as an independent, bypassing the Primary and competing directly in November for the office they are seeking. A candidate may not run as an independent if they are a registered member of a political party. To qualify, a candidate must withdraw from their registered political party at least thirty (30) days prior to the Primary Election and remain unaffiliated through the November Election. Additionally, the candidate may not participate in the Primary in any way, including filing nomination petitions or running a write-in campaign. Withdrawal or rejection of your nomination petition does not excuse you from this rule.

Candidates filing nomination papers must obtain signatures from qualified registered voters of the district in an amount equal to at least 2% of the largest entire vote cast for an elected candidate at the last election within the district. The number of signatures required may not be less than the number of signatures required for party candidates for the same office.

GETTING ON THE BALLOT: WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN

The final possibility is for an individual to conduct a "write-in" campaign in the Primary or November election, or both. In this option, the candidate's name does not appear printed on the official ballot, but voters physically write the candidate's name on the ballot when casting their vote for that office.

If a write-in candidate successfully wins the office in the Primary, they will then have to complete and return acceptance forms prior to the established deadline in order for their name to appear on the November ballot. If the write-in winner fails to return this paperwork acknowledging their nomination, the candidate's name will not appear on the November ballot.

DETERMINING BALLOT POSITION

Primary Election: A drawing for ballot position will be held to determine the order in which the names will appear. The lowest number will appear first.

General Elections: The party of the Governor will be listed first. If the office requires a vote for more than one candidate, names will be listed according to the number of votes received in the Primary, with the highest vote getter listed first.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING

Campaign finance reports/statements must be filed by all candidates for public office (except Poll Worker positions) setting forth information regarding contributions received and expenditures made for the purpose of influencing the outcome of any election.

Candidates who do not intend to have financial activity related to their seeking office should complete the "Waiver of Expense Account Reporting Affidavit" found on the back of their Nomination Petitions. This is the only opportunity to waive your filing obligations.

A candidate may also authorize a committee to accept contributions and make expenditures on the candidate's behalf. The committee must have a chairperson and a treasurer, who may not be the same person. Each candidate and each authorized political committee must file reports of receipts and expenditures, if the amount received or expended or liabilities incurred exceed \$250. Otherwise, the candidate or the treasurer of the authorized committee may file the statement in lieu of the reports.

Candidates are required to file a campaign finance report/statement that is separate from the report/statement filed by their authorized political committee.