

What is required to file your nomination papers to run for office?

Mark Shelden, Champaign County Clerk

From **October 29 through November 5, 2007**, candidates of the established political parties must file their nomination papers for the 2008 Primary Election in the office of the County Clerk. Petitions may be circulated starting **August 7, 2007**. The offices to be elected are **Circuit Clerk, Auditor, State's Attorney, Recorder of Deeds, Coroner, and County Board Members** in all nine County Board Districts. The countywide established political parties are the Republican, Democratic, and Green parties. Candidates for those parties can file for any offices up for election. New political parties will file in June of next year. The filing dates for Independent candidates is yet to be determined. Changes in laws affecting those filing requirements are being contemplated by the state legislature and packets of information for them will be available once they have completed their business in regard to election laws.

We hope this helps inform you of the requirements of filing. However, you should understand that the rules regarding the filing of nomination papers are subject to court challenge. While the statutes and documents from the County Clerk and the State Board of Elections can give guidance, final determinations regarding the validity of nomination papers may end up in the court system.

Nomination papers must include at least two documents. The first is a statement of candidacy. The second is a set of petitions which contain the required number of valid signatures to be placed on the ballot.

A third document which must be filed is the Statement of Economic Interests. However, candidates for precinct committeeman do not need to file a Statement of Economic Interests. You may file your Statement of Economic Interests anytime prior to the filing period or during the filing period. However, you must file your Statement of Economic Interest by November 5, 2007. Because the Statement of Economic Interests for county offices is filed in the office of the County Clerk, it is not necessary to file a receipt for that statement with your nomination papers for County office.

A fourth document is the Loyalty Oath. The Loyalty Oath is optional because it was held to be unconstitutional in the 1972 case Communist Party of Illinois v. Ogilvie.

Important points to remember when filing your nomination papers.

1. Your nomination papers must be bound with either staples or a prong fastener. Do not use paper clips to bind your papers. Your papers must be in the following order.
 Statement of Candidacy
 Loyalty Oath (If desired)
 Petitions
2. This chart shows the minimum number of valid signatures required to be on the ballot. There is no maximum number of signatures for the established political parties.

District	Term	Number to be Elected	Republican Signatures Required	Democratic Signatures Required	Green Signatures Required
County Board District 1	Full	2	30	20	5
County Board District 2	Full	1	27	20	4
County Board District 3	Full	1	37	28	6
County Board District 4	Full	1	32	24	6
County Board District 5	Full	2	14	14	3
County Board District 6	Full	1	19	19	6
County Board District 6	Unexpired	1	19	19	6
County Board District 7	Full	2	14	15	5
County Board District 8	Full	1	13	14	6
County Board District 9	Full	1	21	22	7
County Wide			202	173	45
Precinct Committeemen			10	10	10

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3. Your petitions must be notarized and the pages must be sequentially numbered.
4. Your name will appear on the ballot in the same way that it appears on your petitions.
5. You must include the office for which you are running, the district (if any) you are running in, and the term of office if there is an unexpired term to be elected for the district you are running in. If there is an unexpired term up for election, your petition and statement of candidacy must both state whether you are running for a full term or unexpired term.
6. The top portion of your petitions including the candidate name, office, and district must be completed prior to circulating a petition. A petition circulated without that information is invalid.
7. Your statement of candidacy must have the same name, office, and district as your petitions.
8. If you are running as a candidate for one of the established political parties, then you are a candidate for nomination in the February 5, 2008 Primary. If you are running for Precinct Committeeman you are running for election in the February 5, 2008 Primary.
9. We publish a voter guide on the web and one that is mailed out prior to the General Election. The attached sheet may be turned into our office after the filing of your papers for inclusion in our on-line voter guide for the February 5 primary election. Candidates will be given another chance to provide information prior to the November 4, 2008 election. Because of recent state ethics laws, we recommend that you not provide an e-mail address or mailing address that is to a government office. A separate sheet also includes information about the phonetic pronunciation of your name for use with the Automark Voter Assistance Terminal which is used for voting by the blind and others. Please provide the phonetic pronunciation on the sheet with the information for the voter guide. The deadline to return the information sheet is December 3, 2007.
10. For established party candidates there is no maximum number of signatures allowed. For that reason it is highly recommended that candidates file with a good deal more signatures than are actually required. Signatures can be invalidated for a number of reasons including the voter no longer resides at the address where they are registered, the voter doesn't live in the district, the voter's address is incomplete, or the person is not a registered voter.
11. Errors in nomination papers do not necessarily result in removal from the ballot. A candidate who files nomination papers which are invalid, will remain on the ballot unless someone files an objection to those petitions and that objection is upheld.
12. More than one candidate can be listed on a petition but all the candidates must be running in the same jurisdictional area. For example, candidates for Circuit Clerk and Auditor could be listed on the same petition. However, a candidate for Sheriff could not be listed with a candidate for County Board.
13. Documents which are to be notarized should not be signed until the signer is in the presence of the notary.

Prepared by: Mark Shelden, Champaign County Clerk
1776 E Washington
Urbana, IL 61802
www.champaigncountyclerk.com

217-384-3724

mail@champaigncountyclerk.com

Additional information can be found in the 2008 Candidates Guide available on the State Board of Elections website, www.elections.state.il.us.