



County of Passaic Office of the County Clerk

Administration Building
401 Grand Street • Room 130
Paterson, New Jersey 07505

Danielle Ireland-Imhof
County Clerk

Tel: (973) 225-3690
Fax: (973) 754-1920

Elections Division
Tel: (973) 881-4127
Fax: (973) 742-5744

Important Notice to Candidates: Changes to Petition Signature Requirements

Dear Candidate:

On February 3, 2025, P.L. 2025, c.20, was signed into law, which modifies the number of petition signatures required for candidates to be placed on election ballots. Please review the updated signature requirements below before filing your petition.

For Filing Your Petition with the Passaic County Clerk's Office, Elections Division:

OFFICE	MINIMUM NUMBER OF SIGNATURES NEEDED FOR 2026-2027
COUNTY (County Commissioners, Sheriff, County Clerk, Surrogate)	Democrat – 300 & Republican – 193
SCHOOL BOARD (School Board Candidates Running in the November General Election)	25
INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES (Running in the November General Election)	County Offices 250
	Municipal Offices-Contact County Clerk's Office, Elections Division.

Important:

- Your petition must meet or exceed the new minimum number of valid signatures.
- Petitions submitted with fewer than the minimum required signatures will be rejected.
- The deadline to submit petitions for running in the 2026 Primary Election remains 4:00 p.m. on March 23, 2026, per N.J.S.A. 19:23-14.
- The deadline to submit petitions for school board candidates running in the November General Election remains the last Monday in July at 4:00 p.m., per N.J.S.A. 19:60-7.
- Seek guidance or assistance from the office you need to file your petition with:
 - For school board candidates running in the April School Election, file with the Secretary of the Board of Education in your municipality.
 - For municipal offices running in May Municipal Elections or partisan municipal offices, file with the Municipal Clerk in your municipality.
 - For County Offices, municipal candidates running as independents in the November General Election, and School Board Candidates running in the November General Election, file with the County Clerk's Office, Elections Division.
 - State Offices, file with the New Jersey Secretary of State www.nj.gov/state/elections/candidate-information.shtml
- County Clerk staff cannot notarize petitions. Please have the appropriate notarizations done prior to filing your petitions.
- Electronic signatures are NOT permitted.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CANDIDATES:

On February 3, 2025, P.L. 2025, c.20, was signed into law, which modifies the number of petition signatures required for candidates to be placed on election ballots. Please review the updated signature requirements before filing your petition.

COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION ON THIS PAGE PRIOR TO CIRCULATION

Office of _____

**NOMINATION BY PETITION FOR GENERAL ELECTION
FOR INDEPENDENT – COUNTY AND LOCAL CANDIDATE(S)**

**PETITION MUST BE FILED WITH THE COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE ON OR
BEFORE PRIMARY ELECTION DAY BY 4:00 P.M. (N.J.S.A. 19:13-9)**

To: **Passaic County Clerk**

Each signer of this petition certifies that the following statements are true:

- 1) I reside in the State of New Jersey in the County of Passaic _____
- 2) I am a qualified voter therein; (city or town)
- 3) I endorse the person hereinafter mentioned as candidate for the nomination;
- 4) I have not signed any other petition of nomination for the primary or the general election for such office;
- 5) I request that you cause to be printed upon the official general election ballot of the said party the name of said person(s) as the candidate for such nomination;

CANDIDATE(S)

Name(s) of Candidate(s)	Residence and Post Office Address, City, Zip Code	Email Address
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

CANDIDATES’ REQUEST FOR SLOGAN (OPTIONAL)
(PLEASE GIVE TWO CHOICES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE)

The candidate herein having been endorsed for the office mentioned in this petition, does hereby request that there be printed opposite the name of candidate on the said general election ballot the following designation of party or principle: **(Designation of the party or principle must not exceed three words and must be in accord with N.J.S.A. 19:13-4. The designation shall not contain the designation name, derivative, or any party thereof as a noun or an adjective of any political party entitled to participate in the primary election.)**

(First choice – Must not exceed three (3) words)

(Second choice – Must not exceed three (3) words)

NOMINATION BY PETITION FOR GENERAL ELECTION

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read Petition carefully and fill in all blank spaces where required.
2. Petitioners must sign in their own handwriting matching the signature in the voter registry records. They must provide their correct residence or post office address in the presence of the Affiant/Circulator.
3. For local elections, the Mayor must file a separate petition from Council.
4. For a joint petition, place the names in the order the way they are to appear on the ballot.
5. No nicknames or titles may be used for candidates unless they are legally registered by that name or title.
6. The circulator is not required to be a registered voter, but shall be voter eligible, which means at least 18 years of age, a resident of this State, a citizen of the United States, and not otherwise disqualified under the New Jersey Constitution (N.J.S.A. 19:13-7).
7. The Candidate(s) must sign the Certificate of Acceptance stating that he/she/they is/are qualified for the office in the Petition. Candidate must be a registered voter and resident of Passaic County 1 year prior to the date of the next General Election. (Chapter 94 Laws of 1980). Candidate for County Sheriff must be a registered voter and resident of Passaic County 3 years prior to the date of the next General Election (N.J.S.A. 40A:9-94).
8. The Petition must be signed by legally qualified voters of the State of N.J. residing in the County of Passaic if the Petition is for County Office and/or residing in the Municipality if the petition is for Municipal Office. The Petition must be signed by at least 5% of the legally qualified voters of the entire vote cast for Members of the General Assembly at the last preceding General Election for which nominations for the General Assembly were made in the County in the case of County Officers or in the Municipality in the case of Municipal Officers.

SIGNATURE SHEET

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AFFIDAVIT OF PERSON WHO CIRCULATES THIS PETITION AND WITNESSES SIGNATURES

The witness taking the affidavit below must be the person who obtained the names on this set of signatures or several sets of signatures. The witness must take the affidavit for each set he/she solicits and sign in the presence of a person authorized to administer affidavits (e.g., notary public).

State of New Jersey :
: SS.

County of _____ :

I _____ being duly sworn (or affirm), upon my oath say; that such petition
(Print Name of Circulator/Witness)
was signed by each of the signers thereof in his/her own proper handwriting; that each of such signers is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a legal voter of the County of Passaic, and that such petition is prepared and filed in absolute good faith for the sole purpose of endorsing the person or persons herein named, in order to secure his or her nomination or selection.

Subscribed and sworn to before me at _____, NJ

This _____ day of _____, 20____

(Signature of Circulator/Witness)

(Street Address of Circulator/Witness)

(City or Town) (Zip Code)

TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES ON THIS PETITION _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES ON ALL PETITIONS _____

The names and mailing addresses of the three members named as a committee on vacancies are as follows:

Name	Number and Street	City
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

The Circulator is not required to be a registered voter, but shall be voter eligible, which means at least 18 years of age, a resident of this State, a citizen of the United States, and not otherwise disqualified under the New Jersey Constitution.

AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

State of New Jersey}
s.s.
County of Passaic}

I, _____, do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the Governments established in the United States and in this State, under the authority of the people.

Subscribed and sworn before me at:

_____, N.J., _____
Signature of Candidate

This ____ day of _____, 20____

Signature of Notary or Attorney at Law of New Jersey

Print Name of Notary or Attorney at Law of New Jersey

Commission Expiration Date of Notary

=====
(Candidates need to only sign this page once for all petitions)

CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE TO BE SIGNED BY CANDIDATE

I, or we, the undersigned, hereby certify that I or we am/are a resident of and a legal voter in the jurisdiction of the office for which the nomination is made, and that I or we have not signed an acceptance for the Primary nomination or any other petition under this chapter for such office. (R.S. 19:13-8)

X _____
(Signature of Candidates)

(Type or print of Candidate)

(Residence Address)

(City or Town) (Zip Code)

(Phone Number)

Notice

All candidates are required by law to comply with the provisions of the “New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act.” For further information please call (609) 292-8700.

AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

State of New Jersey}
s.s.
County of Passaic}

I, _____, do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the Governments established in the United States and in this State, under the authority of the people.

Subscribed and sworn before me at:

_____, N.J., _____
Signature of Candidate

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State of New Jersey

ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

THOMAS H. PROL
Chairman

RYAN PETERS
Commissioner

NORMA R. EVANS
Commissioner

JON-HENRY BARR
Commissioner

Respond to:
P.O. Box 185
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0185

(609) 292-8700

Website: www.elec.nj.gov/

AMANDA S. HAINES
Executive Director

JOSEPH W. DONOHUE
Deputy Director

THERESA J. LELINSKI
Legal Director

AUREA VAZQUEZ-ALEXANDER
Compliance Director

EDWIN R. MATTHEWS
Legal Counsel

ALL CANDIDATES AND COMMITTEES ARE REQUIRED TO FILE ELECTRONICALLY

Forms A-1, A-2, A-3, D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4, C-1, C-3, E-1 and E-3 are short forms that must be filed directly on ELEC's website.

Forms R-1, R-3 and 72/24-HR (72/24-Hour Notices) must be filed electronically using the Commission's web-based filing application.



All seminars/webinars, manuals and instructional videos are posted on ELEC's website. Filers can register for seminars/webinars and can request manuals through the website.

Reporting dates are posted for each election and/or reporting period.

The Compliance and IT Staff of the Commission are available to assist filers and can be reached at (609) 292-8700.