

Nominating Petitions

Before candidates can run for any office, they must file nominating petitions with the Board of Elections. The minimum number of signatures range from ten for candidates for municipal office to 2,000 for some statewide candidates.

By gathering signatures on a candidate's petition, you make it possible for that candidate to appear on the ballot and provide a personal link between the candidate and every voter you contact in this effort.



To sign a Republican candidate's petitions,

- Must be a registered voter living in the same district you are circulating the petition.
- Must be registered as the same party as the candidate. Exceptions— Judge and School Board candidates can cross file.
- Sign their name and address as it is recorded at the Elections Bureau.
- Ditto marks cannot be used.
- List the date on which they signed the petition.

When all the signatures have been gathered, the circulator must sign the "circulator's affidavit," and have it notarized. The circulator must be a registered voter in the district the candidate is running, and in the county or district in which the petition is being circulated. Except in the case of office for which a candidate can seek both party's nomination (Common Pleas Court, district justice, and school board), the circulator must be a member of the same political party as the candidate.

It is very important that great care be taken with each step of the petition process. Every year, candidates are removed from the ballot because of careless errors with their petitions. Don't let this happen. If you have any questions, please ask.

For all offices, there is a three-week period during which signatures can be collected. This period ends on the filing deadline, which is ten weeks before the primary election.

The Signer –

- Each signer may sign nomination petitions only for as many candidates for each office as they are permitted to vote.
- Each signer of a nomination petition must be a registered and enrolled elector of the party and district referred to in the nomination petition. (Democratic electors must sign Democratic nomination petitions; Republican electors must sign Republican nomination petitions.)
- Each signer must personally sign his or her name in the "Signature of Elector" column and print his or her name in the "Printed Name of Elector" column. Each signer must also insert in the "Place of Residence" column the information concerning residence listing his or her address exactly as it appears on his or her registration affidavit. In the case of an elector having a rural route number or R.D. number, the township should be listed. The elector must also insert the date of signing in the "Date of Signing" column, which may be expressed in words or numbers; e.g. January 22, 2010 or 1/22/2010. Female signers must use their given name; e.g. Mary Jones not Mrs. John Jones.

What if a person is registered to vote, because his/her 18th birthday is before the Election, but they are not 18 during petition signing? Their record will show as "UNDER 18". This will disappear when he/she has his/her birthday and can vote in the Primary Election. To sign petitions, he/she would be affirming that he/she is a qualified registered elector of the township/borough. To be a qualified registered voter, an individual must be 18. So, no that person could not sign a petition.