



OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RECORDER
DEKALB COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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PETITION CIRCULATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. May a blank nomination petition be reproduced?

Yes. They may also be reproduced with the candidate's information furnished on the form. They may not be reproduced once signatures have been placed or the form has been notarized.

2. Does the candidate's information need to be included on the top of the petition sheet while circulating the petitions?

Yes, the voter needs to know whose petition they are signing. This also helps verify that they are signing a petition for a candidate from the party of their choice (during a General Primary Election). It also insures that a voter does not sign a petition for more than one party.

3. Should the candidate's information on the petition sheets match the information on the Statement of Candidacy?

Yes, all information should be consistent throughout the petition packet when filing. Any inconsistencies may result in an objection being filed.

4. May a candidate sign their own petition?

Yes

5. 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 district.

6. When can the circulator start collecting signatures?

No more than 90 days (9/3/2019) prior to the last day for filing petitions (12/03/2019).

7. Is the circulator required to be a registered voter?

No, but they must be a United States citizen, 18 years of age (17 years of age in a General Primary) and provide their current address in the circulator's affidavit of the petition.

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

No. Only the person who signs the page as the circulator can circulate that sheet.

9. Does the circulator need to witness the voter signing the petition?

Yes, by signing as a circulator they are attesting that all signers signed in their presence.

10. Who can remove a signature from a nominating petition?

Only the circulator or the candidate may strike a signature.



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11. When may a signature be stricken from a petition?

Prior to petition filing. However, the following must be adhered to: the individual striking the signature must initial the petition next to the signature, sign a certification form (such as form P-2A) listing the page number and line number of each signature struck and file the form with the petition packet.

12. Can 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 the primary of more than one party.

13. 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.

14. Can 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 cannot sign petitions for different parties in the same election.

15. How should the voter sign their name?

The voter should sign the petition with the same name that they are registered to vote with; however, signing with a nickname will not invalidate the signature as long as it can be shown that the voter is lawfully registered to vote and qualified to sign the petition.

16. Can a voter sign a petition for someone else?

No, a signer must sign their own signature on the petition. They may not sign for another family member or another person in the household.

17. Are pencil signatures allowed?

Yes, but it is advisable to use a pen with dark ink.

18. Are abbreviations allowed on petitions?

Yes, standard abbreviations may be used in writing the voter's address, including street number.

19. 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.

20. Can a circulator fill in any missing voter information?

Yes, they may fill in any missing information, except the voter's signature.