



Things to Know When Running for Office in Illinois

The following are a few things to keep in mind when running for office in Illinois. More information will be available in our *2024 Candidates Guide*. We always recommend obtaining legal counsel.



Reminder:

Established Party Circulation begins:
September 5, 2023

Filing period is: *November 27-
December 4, 2023*

Note: this does not include candidates for president or delegate, there is a later circulation and filing period.



Qualifications and signature requirements for each office will be available in our *2024 Candidates Guide*.



Petition Format

Election laws prescribe the general requirements for the content and format of the various forms and documents that must be filed when seeking nomination to office. The State Board of Elections has prepared suggested forms for petitions, statements of candidacy and other applicable forms.


Candidate packets and suggested forms will be available for download prior to the circulation period.


Write-ins

To be a write-in candidate, you must file a notarized “Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate” no later than 61 days prior to the election. The declaration must be filed with the proper election authority or authorities in those jurisdictions in which the candidate is seeking to be a write-in candidate. Declaration of Intent forms are not to be filed with the State Board of Elections. The “Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate” form can be obtained from the election authority’s office.

Apparent Conformity

The State Board of Elections conducts an “apparent conformity” review of all nominating petitions filed therewith. The review will take place after a petition is filed and will be limited to determining the following: (1) whether a signed Statement of Candidacy has been filed, and (2) whether the filed nominating sheets contain gross signatures equal to or exceeding 10% of the minimum number of signatures required for the office sought. All candidates whose petitions fail the apparent conformity review will be notified in writing and given the opportunity to appear before the State Board of Elections at its first meeting held to call petition objection cases before a determination is made to reject the candidate’s petition on the basis of non-conformity.

 SBE employees are not available during filing periods to notarize documents.

 Candidates are strongly advised to obtain legal counsel regarding their legal qualifications for office, the proper method for completing the petition forms with respect to the office, the minimum and maximum number of signatures required, the qualifications of signers and circulators, and other information.





Candidate's Name

The candidate's given name or names, initial or initials, nickname by which the candidate is commonly known, or a combination thereof may be used in addition to the candidate's surname. No other designation such as a title, degree, or nickname suggesting or implying possession of a title, degree or professional status, or similar information may be used in connection with the candidate's surname. Also, a candidate may not use a political slogan as part of their name on the ballot, notwithstanding that the political slogan may be part of the candidate's name.

If a candidate has changed their name, whether by a statutory or common law procedure in Illinois or any other jurisdiction within three years before the last day for filing the petition or certificate for that office, whichever is applicable, then the following must ensue:

- 1) The candidate's name on the petition or certificate must be followed by "formerly known as (list all prior names during the three year period) until name changed on (list date of each name change)";
- 2) The petition or certificate must be accompanied by the candidate's affidavit stating the candidate's previous names during the specified period; and,
- 3) The date(s) each of those name(s) were changed.



Types of Candidates

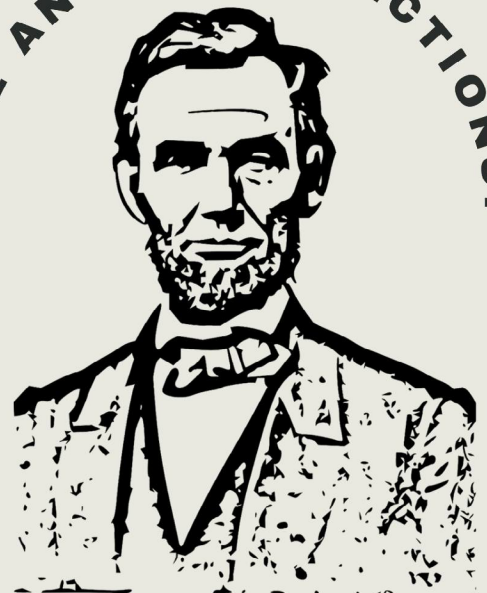
Candidates may file to seek the nomination of an established political party in the primary election, file as a candidate running under a new political party, an independent candidate with no political party affiliation, or in some cases specific offices are designated as non partisan and all candidates run for office without the designation of a political party.



Multiple Candidates

An established party or new political party may file a slate of candidates for offices to be filled within the State, county, or district (e.g. judicial). However, each candidate of the slate must individually file a Statement of Candidacy and a receipt for filing a Statement of Economic Interests.

FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS.



#LandOfLincolnVotes





Lottery

Petitions filed in person at 8:00 AM on the first filing day or at the normal opening hour of such day, and petitions filed by mail and received in the first mail delivery of the first filing day, are included in the lottery drawing to determine the first ballot position. All other petitions, besides ones filed in the last hour of the filing deadline, are placed on the ballot in the order they are filed.

Two or more petitions filed within the last hour of the filing deadline (between 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM on the last filing day) shall be deemed filed simultaneously and are included in the lottery drawing to determine the final ballot position.

For More Information....



217-782-4141



elections.il.gov



[@IllinoisSBE](https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisSBE)



[@IllinoisSBE](https://twitter.com/IllinoisSBE)



[@IllinoisSBE](https://www.instagram.com/IllinoisSBE)

