

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

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From **December 12 through December 19, 2005**, 11 months before the November 7, 2006 general election, candidates of the established political parties must file their nomination papers in the office of the County Clerk. Petitions may be circulated starting **September 20, 2005**. The offices to be elected are **County Clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff, and County Board Member** in all nine County Board Districts. The countywide established political parties are the Republican and Democrat parties. Candidates for those parties can file for any offices up for election. The Green party is established only in County Board Districts 7, 8 and 9 and only County Board candidates in those districts can run under the Green Party. 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 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 December 19, 2005. 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	Number to be Elected	Republican Signatures Required	Democratic Signatures Required	Green Signatures Required	Independent Minimum Signatures Required	Independent Maximum Signatures Allowed
County Board District 1	1	42	24	-	490	784
County Board District 2	2	33	20	-	393	628
County Board District 3	2	47	34	-	581	930
County Board District 4	2	50	32	-	594	950
County Board District 5	1	24	24	-	342	548
County Board District 6	2	30	29	-	416	665
County Board District 7	1	27	31	8	420	672
County Board District 8	2	28	35	7	438	701
County Board District 9	2	33	35	6	467	746
County Wide		311	260	-	4,208	6,733
Precinct Committeemen		10	10	10		

(Continued)

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 March 21, 2006 Primary. If you are running as an independent candidate, then you are a candidate for election in the November 7, 2006 General Election. If you are running for Precinct Committeeman you are running for election in the March 21, 2006 Primary.
9. We publish a voter guide on the web and one that is mailed out prior to the general election. When your nomination papers are filed you can give our office information such as your e-mail address, your campaign website and other information for publication. You may also provide this information at a later date, subject to publication deadlines. Because of recent state ethics laws, we recommend that you not provide an e-mail address that is to a government office.
10. For independent candidates, there is a maximum number of petition signatures allowed. For established and new political party candidates there is no maximum. 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 County Clerk and Treasurer could be listed on the same petition. However, a candidate for Sheriff could not be listed with a candidate for County Board.
13. We are utilizing new election equipment which uses audio technology. Candidates will be asked for a phonetic spelling of their name at the time of filing. [A guide to this is available here.](#)

The filing period for New Political Parties is June 19 - June 26, 2006. Those petitions may begin to be circulated on March 28, 2006. These petitions are not yet available on the website. Signature requirements for new political parties are the same as the minimum signature requirements for independent candidates. There is no maximum signature allowance for new political party candidates.

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Additional information can be found in the 2006 Candidates Guide available on the State Board of Elections website.