

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

Mark Shelden, Champaign County Clerk

From **June 16 through June 23, 2008**, new political parties and Independent candidates must file their nomination papers for the 2008 General Election in the office of the County Clerk. Petitions may be circulated starting **March 25, 2008**. The offices to be elected are **Circuit Clerk, Auditor, State's Attorney, Recorder of Deeds, Coroner, and County Board Members** in all nine County Board Districts. Candidates affiliated with the established political parties (Democratic, Green, and Republican) filed petitions last year.

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.

Independent candidates file individually. New political parties must file as a slate. A countywide slate must include candidates for all offices to be elected in the County, including each County Board District. A slate for a County Board District must include candidates for each vacancy within the County Board District.

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 valid signatures to be placed on the ballot. These papers are available in our office for Independent candidates. New political party candidates can consult with Mark Shelden.

A third document which must be filed is the Champaign County 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 Interests by June 23, 2008. 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. Do not use the State of Illinois Statement of Economic Interests.

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 and maximum number of valid signatures required to be on the ballot.

District	Term	Number to be Elected	Minimum New Political Party and Independent Signatures Required	Maximum Independent Signatures Required	Ballots Cast in November 2006
County Board District 1	Full	2	343	549	6,853
County Board District 2	Full	1	271	433	5,411
County Board District 3	Full	1	432	692	8,638
County Board District 4	Full	1	429	686	8,567
County Board District 5	Full	2	194	310	3,871
County Board District 6	Full	1	269	430	5,370
County Board District 6	Unexpired	1	269	430	5,370
County Board District 7	Full	2	208	333	4,159
County Board District 8	Full	1	194	311	3,878
County Board District 9	Full	1	312	498	6,221
County Wide			2,661	4,257	53,208

(Continued)

3. Your petitions must be notarized and the petition pages must be sequentially numbered. Do not number the statement of candidacy or loyalty oath. All the pages of the petitions should be uniform and of the same size. To ensure uniformity, it is recommended that you fill out one petition and make copies of that instead of filling out each petition sheet separately.
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 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, term, 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, term, and district as your petitions.
8. We publish a voter guide on our website and one is mailed out prior to the General Election. The attached Candidate Information Sheet may be turned into our office after the filing of your papers to provide accurate information for the November 4, 2008 Election Voter Guide. Because of recent state ethics laws, we recommend that you not provide an e-mail address or mailing address that is to a government office. A separate sheet also includes information about the phonetic pronunciation of your name for use with the Automark Voter Assistance Terminal which is used for voting by the blind and others. Please provide the phonetic pronunciation on the sheet with the information for the voter guide. The deadline to return the information sheet is September 2, 2008, otherwise the information for the voter guide will be taken from your Statement of Candidacy.
9. 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. Please make sure that all people who sign your petitions are registered voters.
10. 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.
11. 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 Circuit Clerk and Auditor could be listed on the same petition. However, a candidate for Sheriff could not be listed with a candidate for County Board.
12. Documents which are to be notarized should not be signed until the signer is in the presence of the notary.
13. It is recommended that you make a copy of your petitions before filing them. The originals are filed with our office.

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Additional information can be found in the 2008 Candidates Guide available on the State Board of Elections website, www.elections.state.il.us.