

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



DEPARTMENT OF STATE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

ELECTION CALENDAR*

First day to circulate and file nomination petitions.....	February 17
Last day to circulate and file nomination petitions.....	March 10
Last day to file objections to nomination petitions.....	March 17
Day for casting of lots for Primary ballot positions.....	March 18
Last day for candidates filing nomination petitions to withdraw.....	March 25
Last day to REGISTER to vote before the Primary.....	May 4
PRIMARY ELECTION.....	May 19
NOVEMBER ELECTION.....	November 3

* All dates are subject to change without notice

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CIRCULATING NOMINATION PETITIONS-2026

NOTICE: You may duplicate these nomination petition pages **prior to circulation** if the duplicates are **exact** copies of the originals (**8 1/2 x 11" paper, 2-sided, head to head**). You may complete all blank spaces at the top of Side 1 of the nomination petition page (see 1i and 1ii below) prior to duplication to eliminate clerical error.

1. Prior to Circulation

- i. All blank spaces which appear at the top of Side 1 of each nomination petition page must be completed before signatures are obtained.

- ii. Check to make sure the candidate's name on the nomination petition page appears **exactly** as the candidate wants it to be displayed on the ballot. A nickname is allowed only if it is a derivative of the legal name.

2. Signers

- i. Different nomination petition pages must be used for signers residing in different counties.
- ii. Each signer may sign nomination petitions only for as many candidates for each office as they are permitted to vote.
- iii. Each signer of a nomination petition must be a registered and enrolled elector of the political district and of the party referred to in the nomination petition. (Democratic electors must sign Democratic nomination petitions; Republican electors must sign Republican nomination petitions.)
- iv. 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 "Address where Registered and Enrolled" 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. numbers, 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. February 17, 2026 or 2/17/26.

3. Statement of Circulator

- i. The "Statement of Circulator" on each nomination petition page must be filled-in and signed **after** each nomination petition page is circulated. Any person who circulates this nomination petition must be a member of the party referred to in the petition, unless said petition relates to the nomination of a candidate for Judge of a Court of Common Pleas or the Philadelphia Municipal Court or the office of magisterial district judge.
- ii. As a result of litigation in connection with circulators who reside outside of Pennsylvania ("out-of-state circulator"), *see Benezet Consulting LLC v. Secretary*, 26 F.4th 580 (3d Cir. 2022), the Secretary of the Commonwealth is **not enforcing the in-state residency requirement for circulators contained in Section 909 of the Pennsylvania Election Code, 25 P.S. § 2869, for any out-of-state circulator who completes the Supplemental Statement of Out-of-State Circulator**. However, notwithstanding the decision of the Secretary of the Commonwealth in this regard, it remains possible that individual qualified electors may file objections to nomination petitions citing a violation of the in-state residency requirement. If such objections to a nomination petition are filed, determination of whether to enforce the in-state residency requirement imposed by Section 909 would be up to the court.

One Supplemental Statement of Out-of-State Circulator for each out-of-state circulator shall be appended to the last page of the candidate's initial set of nomination petitions. The Supplemental Statement does not replace or supersede the requirement that the circulator complete and sign the Statement of Circulator on each nomination petition. All circulators, including out-of-state circulators, must **STILL** complete and sign the Statement of Circulator. However, an out-of-state circulator shall strike-out the portion of the statement that refers to their being a qualified elector of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Out-of-state circulators must be a member of the political party of the candidate for whom they are

collecting signatures. Candidates and out-of-state circulators should refer to the Supplemental Statement form for further instructions. The Supplemental Statement form will be posted to the Bureau of Elections' running for office page on the Department's website.

4. Candidate's Affidavit and Ethics Statement

- i. All candidates must sign and submit one CANDIDATE'S AFFIDAVIT per set of nomination petitions. The CANDIDATE'S AFFIDAVIT is generated as part of the PDF petition packet.
- ii. Candidates for the following offices must submit with their nomination petitions, a copy of the Statement of Financial Interests. The original must be filed in the office of the State Ethics Commission by the deadline to file nomination petitions.
 - * Governor
 - * Lt. Governor
 - * Senator in the General Assembly
 - * Representative in the General Assembly

5. Filing Fees

- i. No nomination petition will be accepted for filing in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth unless it is accompanied by the proper filing fee paid by **certified check or money order** payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- ii. Filing fees will not be refunded for any reason (including candidate withdrawal).

6. Filing Your Petitions

- i. Please remove all staples from the nomination petition. All nomination petition pages **must be bound together** when filed. Please use binder clips.
- ii. Each nomination petition page should be numbered on Side 1 and Side 2.
Example: Page 1, Front Side 1/Back Side 1; Page 2, Front Side 2/Back Side 2; Page 3, Front Side 3/Back Side 3 and so on.

Nomination petitions for the offices listed below must be filed with the Bureau of Elections, Commonwealth Keystone Building, 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120 **no later than 5:00 P.M. on the last day to circulate and file nomination petitions.**

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS AND FILING FEES

OFFICE	SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS	FILING FEES
GOVERNOR	2000 (including at least 100 from each of at least 10 Counties)	\$200.00
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	1000 (including at least 100 from each of at least 5 Counties)	\$200.00
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	1000	\$150.00
SENATOR IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY	500	\$100.00
REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY	300	\$100.00
MEMBER OF DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE	100	\$25.00
MEMBER OF REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE	100	\$25.00

NOTE: ALL DATES AND INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE