



BUREAU OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

1251 SOUTH 28th STREET
HARRISBURG, PA. 17111
(717) 780-6360
1-800-328-0058

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUSTIN DOUGLAS, CHAIRMAN
MIKE PRIES, VICE CHAIRMAN
GEORGE P. HARTWICK III, SECRETARY

CHIEF CLERK/CHIEF OF STAFF
VINCENT L. PAESE

DIRECTOR
CHRISTOPHER T. SPACKMAN

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF REGISTRATION
KELLY L. HOSTETTER

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS
CHELSEA M. TRUE

Dear Candidate:

The Bureau of Registration and Elections makes every effort to provide for the orderly and efficient filing of nomination petitions. In that regard, listed below and attached to this letter is pertinent information regarding the circulation and filing of your petitions.

1. The **FIRST DAY** for candidates to circulate and file petitions is **FEBRUARY 17, 2026**.
2. The **LAST DAY** for candidates to circulate and file petitions is **MARCH 10, 2026**.
3. The location for filing nomination petitions is:
Dauphin County Bureau of Registration and Elections
1251 South 28th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17111
Monday – Friday: 8AM – 4:30PM
4. Completed petition packages consist of: a petition or petitions with the required minimum number of signatures and a signed statement of circulator and a Candidate Affidavit (either notarized or with unsworn declaration).
5. If you desire copies of your nomination petitions for your own records, it is suggested that you make such copies **BEFORE** you file the petitions with the Dauphin County Bureau of Registration and Elections. Once the nomination petitions are filed, they become Dauphin County property and are then subject to a copying fee of \$0.25 (twenty-five cents) per copied page.
6. Once the petition filing period opens, a list of candidates filed will be posted, and updated as needed, on the County's website (www.dauphincounty.gov > Registration and Elections).

NOTE: INCOMPLETE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE REJECTED!
If you have any questions, please contact this office at (717) 780-6360.

THE NOMINATION PETITIONS **MUST** BE PRINTED/COPIED AS **DUPLEX** (DOUBLE-SIDED, FRONT-TO-BACK, HEAD-TO-HEAD) ON **PLAIN WHITE 8½" X 11" (LETTER SIZE)** PAPER. THIS REQUIREMENT **CANNOT** BE SATISFIED BY PRINTING EACH SIDE OF THE NOMINATION PETITION ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF 8½" x 11" PAPER AND AFFIXING THE SHEETS TOGETHER WITH A STAPLE, PAPER CLIP, OR ADHESIVE.

FAILURE TO REPRODUCE THE NOMINATION PETITION FORMS CORRECTLY WILL RESULT IN THE REJECTION OF THOSE FORMS!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE UNSURE WHETHER YOU HAVE CORRECTLY REPRODUCED ANY OF THE FORMS, PLEASE CONTACT THE DAUPHIN COUNTY BUREAU OF REGISTRATIONS AND ELECTIONS OFFICE AT 717-780-6360.

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED FOR THE NOMINATION PETITIONS PRIOR TO CIRCULATION.

Note: Per Act 2020-15 of 2020, If the Commonwealth requires use of a sworn declaration (affidavit), an unsworn declaration can be used in its place. If you are unable to have the affidavits for Candidate, Walver of Campaign Finance Reporting or Ballot Name Change notarized, you may complete and sign these unsworn declarations to attach to each completed document and submit with your petition materials.

Instructions for Completing the Front of the Nomination Petition

Numbered blank lines at the top of each nomination petition must be completed **BEFORE** signatures are obtained; the numbered instructions correspond with the numbered blank lines:

① ELECTORAL DISTRICT

Write the name of the "Electoral District" in which the candidate is running. The Electoral District should be written to include municipality and/or election district as the case may be; for example: Susquehanna Township 9th Ward; Harrisburg City 1st Ward 2nd Precinct; Dauphin Borough; or Williams Township.

② POLITICAL PARTY

Enter the candidate's political party ("Democratic" or "Republican").

③ NAME OF CANDIDATE

Type or print the name of the candidate **EXACTLY** as the candidate would like it to appear on the ballot. Candidates who wish to use nicknames, other than a derivative of their legal given name, must obtain, complete and file an *Affidavit for Ballot Name Change* at the Dauphin County Bureau of Registration and Elections. (**Note:** The name change is based on how the candidate is known to the public, not on how they would like to be known.)

④ PROFESSION, BUSINESS, OR OCCUPATION

For “Profession, Business, or Occupation,” write your current job title, such as “Attorney,” “Clerk,” “Accountant,” “Business Manager,” “Secretary,” or “Steel Worker.” Simply putting initials such as VP, CEO, COO, CFO is not sufficient. (Note: “Retired” is an acceptable entry on this line.)

⑤ ADDRESS WHERE REGISTERED AND ENROLLED

Enter the house number (apartment number, if applicable), street name and ZIP Code of the address where the candidate is registered and enrolled to vote – not the mailing address. You can verify your voter registration info at vote.pa.gov.

⑥ TITLE OF OFFICE

For “Title of Office” include the office for which you are seeking election. *For 2026, those offices are one of the following: County Democratic Committeeman, County Democratic Committeewoman, County Republican Committeeman, County Republican Committeewoman.*

(Reference: Dauphin County Democratic Committee Party By-Laws, Rule III, Section A, Paragraph 1; and Dauphin County Republican Committee Party By-Laws, Section II, Paragraphs A and B.)

⑦ TERM OF OFFICE

For “Term of Office” insert “4 Years,” as stipulated by both party by-laws (see above reference note).

Instructions for Circulating the Nomination Petition

Minimum Number of Signatures:

The minimum number of valid signatures required for each petition is 10, per state law.

Requirements for Gathering Valid Signatures:

To be considered a valid signature, the signature must meet the following requirements.

1. Each signer may sign petitions for as many candidates for each office as he or she is permitted to vote for, and no more.
2. Each signer of a petition must be a registered and enrolled elector of the party referred to in the petition. In other words, Republican electors must sign Republican Petitions and Democratic electors must sign Democratic Petitions.
3. In addition to **PERSONALLY** signing and printing their names, each signer must insert the information concerning their address **where registered and enrolled** (not their mailing address) and date of signing. Please note that this address may or may not be the same as one’s postal address and that **the Petition requires the signer to list their City, Borough or Township**. Walking Lists that include voter’s registration address and party can be obtained from the Bureau of Registration and Elections. The date of signing may be

expressed in words or numbers; such as February 17, 2026; Feb. 17, 2026; 17 Feb 2026; or 2/17/26.

4. **DO NOT ALLOW ANY SIGNER TO USE DITTO MARKS ANYWHERE ON THE PETITION.** Each signer must insert all required information in each column themselves.
5. **AN INDIVIDUAL MAY ONLY SIGN FOR THEMSELVES. NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO SIGN THE PETITION FOR ANYONE ELSE.** For example, one spouse may not sign for the other spouse; parents may not sign for children and children may not sign for parents. Candidates may sign their own petitions.

Note: If a petition is challenged and signatures are declared invalid by a court, a candidate may be struck from the primary ballot if the remaining number of valid signatures on the petition fall under the minimum number of required valid signatures. It is best to use a walking list when gathering signatures; one free copy for the district in which a candidate is running may be obtained from the Bureau of Registration and Elections.

Statement of Circulator

For **ALL PETITIONS**, the *Statement of Circulator* found at the bottom of the back page of the Petition must be signed **by the person who circulated** the petition. In this section, the circulator will complete the information in lines 1 through 5. The *Statement of Circulator* must be completed **AFTER**, and only **after**, the necessary signatures are gathered. For the address section of the *Statement of Circulator* please note that it asks for the circulator's City, Borough or Township (not their postal city). For example, if it is Susquehanna Township, insert that municipality, not "Harrisburg." All circulators must be registered voters of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and enrolled members of the party for which they are circulating

Instructions for Completing the Additional Required Documents

Affidavit for Ballot Name Change

Candidates who wish to use nicknames, other than a derivative of their legal given name, must obtain, complete and file an *Affidavit for Ballot Name Change*. (**Note:** The name change is based on how the candidate is known to the public, not on how they would like to be known.)

Filing the Nomination Petition

Sheet Numbers: Fill in the sheet numbers in the bottom right corner. Number consecutively.

Copies: If you desire **copies** of your nomination petitions, please make them **BEFORE** you file with this office. Once filed, they become the property of Dauphin County and are subject to a copying fee, which is \$0.25 (cents) per page.

Where to File Completed Petition Packages: Submit completed petitions packages and all other necessary materials that must be filed to:

Dauphin County Bureau of Registration and Elections
1251 South 28th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17111

All Petitions MUST BE RECEIVED in this office NO LATER THAN 4:30 p.m., March 10, 2026. POSTMARKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED FOR TIMELY FILING.

NOTE: INCOMPLETE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE REJECTED.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Dauphin County
Bureau of Registrations and Elections 717-780-6360.

Casting of Lots for Ballot Position

If more than one (1) candidate in the primary is seeking the same public office, then each candidate may draw in person or have a proxy draw in their place to determine the ballot position. Should the candidate designate a proxy, authorization must be made in writing and notarized. If neither the candidate nor the proxy appear for the drawing, then a member or appointed member of the Board of Elections will draw. The casting of lots will take place **beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2026** in the Main Lobby of the Dauphin County Courthouse, 101 Market Street, Harrisburg PA. (Note: Since the Governor is a registered Democrat, the Democratic Party will draw first.) Once the petition filing period opens, a list of candidates filed will be posted, and updated as needed, on the County's website (www.dauphincounty.gov > Registration & Elections.)

2026 PENNSYLVANIA ELECTIONS IMPORTANT DATES

Note: All dates in this calendar are subject to change without notice.

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
Casting of Lots to determine ballot position for primary.....	March 18
Last day for withdrawal by candidates who filed nomination petitions	March 25
Last day to REGISTER to vote in the primary	May 4
Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot (application must be received by 5:00PM)	May 12
Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots (must be received by 8:00 P.M.)	May 19
GENERAL PRIMARY	May 19
Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots (submitted for delivery no later than 11:59 P.M. on May 18)	May 26
Last day to REGISTER to vote in the November election	October 19
Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot (application must be received by 5:00PM)	October 27
Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots (must be received by 8:00 P.M.)	November 3
GENERAL ELECTION	November 3
Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots (submitted for delivery no later than 11:59 P.M. on November 2)	November 10