

Onondaga County Board of Elections

Petitions and Certificates of Nomination

Petitions and certificates of nomination are used to designate/nominate candidates.

Designating petitions are used for:

- Congress
- State Senate
- State Assembly
- County Offices
- City Offices
- Party Positions
- Villages run by the Board of Elections
- Some Town Offices (varies by party/by town – see list below)
 1. Democrat petitions – Lysander, Manlius, Salina and Spafford
 2. Republican petitions - ALL towns EXCEPT Otisco & Spafford
 3. Conservative petitions – Camillus, Cicero, Clay, Dewitt, Elbridge, Geddes, Lysander, Manlius, Pompey, Salina and Van Buren
 4. Working Families petitions – ALL towns

ANY TOWN NOT COVERED ABOVE NOMINATES CANDIDATES BY CAUCUS

Caucuses may not be held before the first day to sign a designating petition. The chairman of the party calling the caucus must publish in a local newspaper within the town at least one (1) week and not more than two (2) weeks prior to the caucus or by posting in ten (10) public places in the town at least ten (10) days prior. In addition the chairman must file a notice with the town clerk and the County Board of Elections at least ten (10) days prior to the caucus. These notices of caucus are posted in the counter area for the public to see them as well as on our website.

Independent Nominating Petitions are used by candidates seeking an independent line and are for all offices including town offices.

The number of signatures needed to qualify on any type of petition is determined by New York State Election Law.

A designating petition for the designation of candidates for an office to be filled must be signed by 5% of the active enrolled voters of the political party in the political unit unless the statutory numbers are less. See New York State Election Law §6-136.

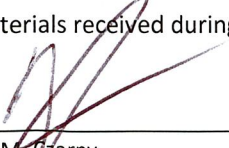
An independent nominating petition for the nomination of candidates for an office to be filled by the voters of a political unit must be signed by voters numbering 5% of the total number of votes cast for governor at the last gubernatorial election in such unit, excluding blank and void votes unless the statutory numbers are less. See New York State Election Law §6-142.

Petitions and certificates are filed with the Board of Elections during time frames established by election law. (Check political calendar for each year)


PLEASE NOTE: Any petition, certificate of nomination, acceptance, declination, authorization, disqualification, certificates of substitution, objections, and specifications shall be deemed timely filed and accepted for filing if sent by mail or overnight delivery service, in an envelope postmarked or showing receipt by the overnight delivery service prior to midnight of the last day of filing, and received no later than two business days after the last day to file such certificates, petitions, objections or specifications shall be a fatal defect per NYS Election Law 1-106

When petitions are turned in, they will be time stamped immediately and a copy of the cover sheet with the time stamp showing will be given to the person delivering or if delivered by mail, a copy returned via first class mail to the candidate or agent on file. The petitions will be logged in and a list will be posted on the Onondaga County Board of Elections website and Facebook page each night. As soon as practicable petitions for public office will be reviewed by a bi-partisan team to determine the number of submitted signatures by counting the number of signatures indicated in the witness statement on each page as part or prima facie review. Any petition with less than the required signature amounts will be rejected as invalid. Party offices can be reviewed at the request of either commissioner.

All materials received during this process are secured in a room located within the Board of Elections with a double key bipartisan lock.



Dustin M. Czarny
Commissioner (D)
Onondaga County Board of Elections



Kevin P. Ryan
Commissioner (R)
Onondaga County Board of Elections

REVISED: January 29, 2026