

Explanation of Petitioning Process

Unfortunately the desire to be a candidate is not enough to get you a place on the ballot. Prior to a primary (or general if no primary is needed), there is a lot of work that goes into getting placed on the ballot. The first thing a candidate must do is gather signatures on a petition.

A petition is a legal document whose parameters are set by the NYS election law and the Board of Elections. There are 2 types of petitions- Designating and Nominating.

A **designating petition** is only used for a specific affiliation to either: Republican, Democratic, Independence, Conservative, or Working Families party, while a **nominating petition** is used for a candidate who would like to run on any other party line.

Designating petitions

- ✓ All signatures are from members of the party for which you are running (ie, Democrats or Republicans)
- ✓ All signatures are from district in which you are running
- ✓ Time line to gather signatures is generally end of June through mid-July

Nominating Petitions

- ✓ Anyone can sign, regardless of party affiliation (as long as they haven't signed another petition for the same position during this election cycle)
- ✓ All signatures are from the district in which you are running
- ✓ Time line is gather signatures is generally mid-July through the end of August

The number of signatures you need on your petition depends on what position you are running for.

At the end of each petitioning cycle, there are a few days in which petitions can be filed. **Petitions can and must be filed in this few day window only.** These dates are specified each year in the NYS election calendar.