

# WARD & PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSONS

## NOMINATION PAPERS

**Petitions:** Established Party, Ward Committeeperson ([SBE Form P-10](#)), Precinct Committeeperson ([SBE Form P-27](#))

**Statement of Candidacy:** Established Party ([SBE Form P-1](#))

**Loyalty Oath (optional):** All candidates ([SBE Form P-1C](#))

**Statement of Economic Interests:** Not required for party offices.

## SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

**Established Party:** Ward Committeeperson – not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater\*) of the primary electors of the candidate’s party in the ward.

Signature requirements may be obtained from the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners (312/269-7900). (10 ILCS 5/7-10(i))

Precinct Committeeperson – a minimum of 10 primary electors of the candidate’s party in their precinct. (10 ILCS 5/7-10(i))

\*Although the express language of Section 7-10(i), which applies in this instance, requires not less than 10% nor more than 16% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the primary electors of the candidate’s party in the ward, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit held in *Gjersten v. Board of Election Commissioners for City of Chicago*, 791 F. 2d 472 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir., 1986), that a signature requirement in excess of 5% is unconstitutional and thus unenforceable. Thus, 5% of the primary electors of the candidate’s party in the ward is the minimum number of signatures required for ward committeeperson petitions.

## FILING INFORMATION

**Established Party:** Not more than 113 nor less than 106 days prior to the General Primary. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(5))

All candidates will file with the Office of the County Clerk. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(5))

**Campaign Contributions:** Reports must be filed either electronically or on paper with the State Board of Elections, 2329 S. MacArthur Blvd., Springfield, IL 62704, or 69 W. Washington St., Pedway LL-08, Chicago, IL 60602.

### QUALIFICATIONS:

(10 ILCS 5/7-8(b), 7-10, 10-5)

- United States citizen
- Registered voter
- Resident of the ward or precinct for which the candidate wishes to seek office

### FILING PERIODS:

#### **Established Party:**

November 27 – December 4, 2023

### TERM:

#### **Term of office:**

**Ward Committeeperson:** Four years

**Precinct Committeeperson:** Two years  
(10 ILCS 5/7-8(b))

**Term begins:** Date of completion of canvass and proclamation  
(10 ILCS 5/7-58)

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY**

<b>NAME:</b>	<b>OFFICE:</b>
<b>ADDRESS – ZIP CODE:</b>	A Full Term is sought, unless an unexpired term is stated here: _____ year unexpired term
	<b>DISTRICT:</b>
	<b>PARTY:</b>

If required pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/7-10.2, 8-8.1 or 10-5.1, complete the following (this information will appear on the ballot)

FORMERLY KNOWN AS \_\_\_\_\_ UNTIL NAME CHANGED ON \_\_\_\_\_  
(List all names during last 3 years) (List date of each name change)

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ ) SS.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Candidate) being first duly sworn (or affirmed), say that I reside at \_\_\_\_\_, in the City, Village, Unincorporated Area of \_\_\_\_\_ (if unincorporated, list municipality that provides postal service) Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_, in the County of \_\_\_\_\_, State of Illinois; that I am a qualified voter therein and am a qualified Primary voter of the \_\_\_\_\_ Party; that I am a candidate for Nomination/Election to the office of \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ District, to be voted upon at the primary election to be held on \_\_\_\_\_ (date of election) and that I am legally qualified (including being the holder of any license that may be an eligibility requirement for the office to which I seek the nomination) to hold such office and that I have filed (or I will file before the close of the petition filing period) a Statement of Economic Interests as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act and I hereby request that my name be printed upon the official \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Party) Primary ballot for Nomination/Election for such office.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Candidate)

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) by \_\_\_\_\_ before me, on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Name of Candidate) (insert month, day, year)

(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Public's Signature)

**PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON  
PRIMARY PETITION**

We, the undersigned, members of and affiliated with the \_\_\_\_\_ Party and qualified primary electors of the \_\_\_\_\_ Party, in \_\_\_\_\_ (township name and precinct number) in the County of \_\_\_\_\_, State of Illinois, do hereby petition that \_\_\_\_\_ who resides at \_\_\_\_\_ in the City, Village, Unincorporated Area of \_\_\_\_\_ (if unincorporated, list municipality that provides postal service) Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_, County of \_\_\_\_\_ and State of Illinois, shall be a candidate of the \_\_\_\_\_ Party for election to the office of **PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON**, for \_\_\_\_\_ (township name and precinct number), to be voted for at the primary election to be held on \_\_\_\_\_ (date of election).

If required pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/7-10.2, complete the following (this information will appear on the ballot)

FORMERLY KNOWN AS \_\_\_\_\_ UNTIL NAME CHANGED ON \_\_\_\_\_  
(List all names during last 3 years) (List date of each name change)

NAME (VOTER'S SIGNATURE)	VOTER'S PRINTED NAME (optional)	STREET ADDRESS OR RR NUMBER	CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE	COUNTY
1.			,IL	
2.			,IL	
3.			,IL	
4.			,IL	
5.			,IL	
6.			,IL	
7.			,IL	
8.			,IL	
9.			,IL	
10.			,IL	

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ ) SS.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Circulator's Name) do hereby certify that I reside at \_\_\_\_\_, in the City/Village/Unincorporated Area of \_\_\_\_\_ (if unincorporated, list municipality that provides postal service)(Zip Code) \_\_\_\_\_, County of \_\_\_\_\_, State of \_\_\_\_\_ that I am 18 years of age or older (or 17 years of age and qualified to vote in Illinois), that I am a citizen of the United States, and that the signatures on this sheet were signed in my presence, during the period of January 13, 2022 through March 14, 2022, and are genuine and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the persons so signing were at the time of signing the petition qualified voters of the \_\_\_\_\_ Party in the political division in which the candidates is seeking nomination/elective office, and that their respective residences are correctly stated, as above set forth.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Circulator's Signature)

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) by \_\_\_\_\_ before me, on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Circulator) (Insert month, day, year)

(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Public's Signature)

SHEET NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ATTACH TO PETITION

10 ILCS 5/7-10.1

Suggested  
Revised July, 2004  
SBE No. P-1C

**LOYALTY OATH**  
**(OPTIONAL)**

United States of America                    )  
  )  
State of Illinois                            )       SS.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do swear (or affirm) that I am a citizen of the United States and the State of Illinois, that I am not affiliated directly or indirectly with any communist organization or any communist front organization, or any foreign political agency, party, organization or government which advocates the overthrow of constitutional government by force or other means not permitted under the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of this State; that I do not directly or indirectly teach or advocate the overthrow of the government of the United States or of this State or any unlawful change in the form of the governments thereof by force or any unlawful means.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Candidate)

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) by \_\_\_\_\_ before me,  
(Name of Candidate)

on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(insert month, day, year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Public's Signature)

(SEAL)

# SIGNING AND CIRCULATING PETITIONS

## PETITION CIRCULATOR REQUIREMENTS

- Must be at least 18 years of age or will be 18 by the date of the upcoming General Election; and,
- A citizen of the United States (can be from outside of the district, county, or state).

The circulator must personally witness all signatures given and sign the required circulator's statement affirming that all signatures were given in their presence. No one may be considered a circulator of any petition page except the person who signs the circulator's statement. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

Petition sheets **must not** be circulated more than 90 days prior to the last day for the filing of the petitions. The circulator's statement on a candidate's petition sheet must specify either the dates on which the sheets were circulated, the first and last dates on which the sheet was circulated, or that none of the signatures on the sheet were signed more than 90 days preceding the last day for filing the petitions. See [page four](#) for dates when candidates may start circulating petition sheets. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

**Note:** Blank nomination petitions may be reproduced prior to circulation. The signatures of the signers, circulator, and the notary public must be original. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

## CIRCULATOR'S STATEMENT

A petition circulator must complete the circulator's statement at the bottom of each petition sheet certifying their address, age, citizenship information, and that the signatures on that sheet were signed in their presence. They must certify that the signatures are genuine and, to the best of their knowledge, that the persons signing were duly registered voters of the political subdivision for which the candidate or candidates shall be nominated, or elected, and that their respective registration addresses are correctly stated therein. This statement shall be sworn to and signed by a notary. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

Petition circulators shall indicate on such petition their residence address (written or printed) including the street address or rural route number, as well as the county, city, village or town, and state. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

## SIGNING A PETITION

A signer must sign their own signature on the petition, meaning they cannot sign for someone else, such as another member of the family or another person in the household. Signers must also be registered voters in the political subdivision in which the candidate is seeking nomination or election. (10 ILCS 5/3-1.2, 7-10, 8-8, 10-2, 10-3, 10-4)

Petition signers shall indicate on such petition their residence address (written or printed) including the street address or rural route number, as well as their city, village or town, county, and state. The state, county, city, village and town of

### CIRCULATING RESTRICTIONS:

- A circulator may not circulate petitions for **more than one** political party. (10 ILCS 5/10-4); *Schober v. Young*, 322 Ill. App. 3d 996, 751 N.E.2d 610 (4th Dist. 2001)
- A circulator may not circulate petitions for an independent candidate(s) **in addition to** candidates for a new political party. (10 ILCS 5/10-4)
- A circulator may not circulate petitions for **more than one new** political party. (10 ILCS 5/10-4)
- A circulator may not circulate petitions for an established party **and** an independent or new party candidate. (10 ILCS 5/10-4)

residence may be pre-printed on the petition form when all of the electors signing the petition form reside therein. Standard abbreviations may be used in writing the residence address. A petition signer must be a registered voter from the address shown opposite their signature on the petition. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-2, 10-3, 10-4)

**Note:** A petition signer may change party affiliation from one election to another. *Kusper v. Pontikes*, 414 U.S. 51 (1973); *Sperling v. County Officers Electoral Board*, 57 Ill. 2d 81, 309 N.E. 2d 589 (Ill. 1974)

## STRIKING SIGNATURES FROM A PETITION

Signatures may be struck from a petition by the circulator or the candidate prior to filing the petition. **All** of the following requirements are necessary to affect a valid striking of any signature:

- The person striking the signature must initial the petition at the place where the signature is struck;
- The person striking the signature must sign a certification (such as [SBE Form P-2A](#)) listing the page number and line number of each signature struck from the petition, which is to be filed as a part of the petition; and,
- The person striking signatures from independent candidate petitions must sign an additional certificate ([SBE Form P-2B](#)) specifying the number of certification pages listing stricken signatures, which are attached to the petition, and the page numbers indicated on such certifications. This additional certificate must be filed as part of the petition, shall be numbered, and shall be attached immediately following the last page of voters' signatures and before the certifications of stricken signatures.

(10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-3)

## COMPUTING SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

When figuring signature requirements, the number of primary electors is determined as follows:

- In a **district**: total votes cast for the candidate for such political party who received the highest number of votes, statewide, at the last General Election in the state at which electors for President of the United States were elected.
- In a **political subdivision**: total votes cast for the candidate for such political party who received the highest number of votes in such political subdivision at the last regular election at which an officer was regularly scheduled to be elected from that subdivision.
- In **wards or districts of political subdivisions**: total votes cast for the candidate for that political party who received the highest number of votes in the ward or district at the last regular election at which an officer was regularly scheduled to be elected from that ward or district.

(10 ILCS 5/7-10)

**Note:** Signature calculations can be found with each office in this guide for offices that file with the State Board of Elections. For offices that do not file with the SBE, signature requirement information has been provided, but the candidate will need to contact the individual county/election authority to determine the exact signature calculations for that office.

### SIGNING RESTRICTIONS:

- A signer **may not** sign petitions for a candidate of **more than one** political party for the same election. (10 ILCS 5/7-10)
- A signer **may** sign petitions of one established political party for a primary election **and** one new political party or independent candidate for the following General Election. (10 ILCS 5/10-3)
- A signer **may** sign petitions of as many candidates of the same political party as desired.\*

\*This differs for Nonpartisan/Independent candidates. The number of seats to be elected is the number of petitions that a voter can sign.

# CANDIDATE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Meet **residency, age, and other qualifications** for the specific office
- ☐ File paperwork with the **SBE Campaign Disclosure division** or the **Federal Election Commission** regarding finances (if needed)
- ☐ File a notarized **Statement of Candidacy** including (but not limited to):
  - Your name
  - Your address
  - Office sought
  - Party
  - Office location (for example, the district or county)
  - Date of the election
- ☐ File a **Statement of Economic Interests with the Secretary of State (or proper filing entity) and receipt of filing with the State Board of Elections (or proper filing entity)** (does not apply to federal offices or political party offices)
- ☐ File a **Loyalty Oath** (optional)
- ☐ File a **Code of Fair Campaign Practices** (if applicable)
- ☐ File notarized **petition sheets** with the required number of signatures, numbered consecutively starting with the number "1"
- ☐ Include **Certificate of Deletions** with petitions, numbered consecutively starting with the number "1" (if applicable)
- ☐ Fill out **data entry card** (for people who file with the State Board of Elections) and place on top of nominating petition packet (does not need to be attached to the nominating packet)
- ☐ **File with the appropriate** election authority (see specific office in this guide for details)

**Note:** This checklist is not binding and should not be construed as sufficient argument in response to any objection or legal argument. If you have further questions, you may contact the division of Election Operations at the State Board of Elections or your legal counsel.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## SIGNING PETITIONS

Can a registered voter sign petitions for candidates of more than one political party for the same Primary Election?

No. A “qualified primary elector” of a party may not sign petitions for or be a candidate in the primary of more than one party. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 10-4)

May a voter who voted Republican in the last Primary Election now sign a petition for a Democratic candidate?

Yes; however, no one may sign petitions for candidates of more than one political party for the same Primary Election. *Kusper v. Pontikes*, 414 U.S. 51 (1973); *Sperling v. County Officers Electoral Board*, 57 Ill.2d 81, 309 N.E.2d 589 (Ill. 1974).

Can a voter sign an established party petition, and a new party and/or independent petition?

Yes, a voter may sign an established party candidate’s petition prior to a General Primary Election and subsequent to that election, sign a petition of an Independent or new political party candidate prior to a General Election. The voter may not, however, sign a petition of more than one Independent or new political party candidate’s petition for the same office. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 10-3)

Can a voter sign more than one established party candidate’s petition?

Yes, a signer can sign petitions for as many candidates of the same established political party as they want, but they cannot sign petitions for different established parties in the same election.

How should the voter sign their name when they sign the petition?

The voter should sign the petition with the same name that they are registered to vote with; however, signing with a nickname will not invalidate the signature, provided the voter can be identified and it can be shown that the voter is lawfully registered to vote and qualified to sign the petition.

Are pencil signatures allowed?

Yes, but it is advisable to use a pen with dark ink.

Are abbreviations allowed on petitions?

Standard abbreviations may be used in writing the voter’s address, including the street number.

Can ditto marks be used on the petitions?

Though ditto marks are not specifically prohibited, it is suggested they be avoided. The use of ditto marks could be objected to and the outcome of an objection cannot be predicted. A circulator can, however, fill in any missing information, except a voter’s signature.



## CIRCULATING PETITIONS

May a candidate circulate their own petitions?

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Yes.

When can the circulator start collecting signatures?

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No more than 90 days prior to the last day for filing petitions. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

If a candidate finds something wrong with their petitions after they are filed, can a new set of petitions be circulated and filed before the end of the filing period?

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Yes, but the candidate must cancel the original set of petitions in writing. If the candidate fails to cancel the original set of petitions, then only the original petitions shall be considered filed and all subsequent petitions shall be void. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(11), 10-6.2)

May a circulator circulate petitions for an independent candidate and an established party candidate in the same election?

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No. (10 ILCS 5/10-4)

May a circulator sign as a voter on the petition they are circulating?

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Yes, as long as the circulator is a registered voter in the applicable political subdivision or district.

May a circulator circulate petitions for an established party candidate and a new party candidate in the same election?

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No. (10 ILCS 5/10-4)

Is the circulator required to be a registered voter?

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No, but they must be a United States citizen and be 18 years of age, or 18 years of age by the immediately following general or consolidated election. (10 ILCS 5/3-6) They must also include their current address on the circulator's affidavit. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

Can a petition sheet be circulated by more than one individual?

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No. Only the person who signs the page as circulator can circulate that sheet. By signing as a circulator, the circulator is attesting that all signers signed in their presence. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

Who can remove a signature from a nominating petition?

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Only the circulator or the candidate on whose behalf the petition was circulated may strike a signature; however, an individual can submit a written request to the proper filing office to have their name removed from the petition before the petition is filed. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-3)

## FILING PETITIONS

### May a candidate file in person or by mail?

Yes, however, if the candidate wishes to be in the lottery for the first ballot position it is advisable to file in person as only candidates whose petitions are received in the first mail delivery on the first day of filing are eligible for the lottery. Candidates should mail by United States Postal Service when mailing to the Illinois State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6), 8-9(2), 10-6.2)

### May a petition contain the names of two or more candidates of the same established party?

Yes. An established party may file a slate of candidates for offices to be filled within the State, county, or district (e.g. judicial). However, each candidate of the slate must individually file a Statement of Candidacy and a receipt for filing a Statement of Economic Interests. (10 ILCS 5/7-10)

### If you are first in line or your petition is in the first mail delivery of the day, will you be first on the ballot?

Not necessarily. If there are two or more candidates in line prior to the opening of the office filing from the same party and for the same office, they would be considered as filing simultaneously along with any petition in the first mail delivery, and will be involved in a lottery to determine ballot position. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6), 8-9(2), 10-6.2)

**Note:** Candidates who file petitions during the last hour of filing (between 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM) on the last day to file petitions are also eligible for a lottery to determine the final ballot position. (Illinois Administrative Code, Title 26, Section 201.40)

### Must the notary of the petition be an Illinois notary and may the notary also be a signatory of the petition?

Under the provisions of the Uniform Recognition of Acknowledgements Act (765 ILCS 30/2): "Notarial acts may be performed outside this State for use in this State with the same effect as if performed by a notary public of this State by the following persons authorized pursuant to the laws and regulations of other governments in addition to any other person authorized by the laws and regulations of this State..." "(1) a notary public authorized to perform notarial acts in the place in which the act is performed..."

It has not been definitively determined whether a notary may also be a signatory to a petition. Some electoral boards and circuit courts have upheld petitions where the notary was also a signer of the petition, but the issue has not yet been decided by the Supreme Court or any appellate court in Illinois. A cautious candidate might wish to avoid using a petition signer as the notary so as to avoid the risk of having to defend against an objection on this issue.

*For additional information contact the Index Department of the Secretary of State's office, 111 E. Monroe, Springfield, IL 62756-0001, (217) 782-7017.*

### Is a lottery conducted for party placement on the ballot?

For the General Election a lottery is conducted by each election authority for all established parties to determine the proper order of party placement on the ballot. This lottery is held within 30 days following the proclamation of the results of the Primary Election. New parties are involved in a lottery when there is a simultaneous filing with the State Board of Elections or the county clerk. The State Board of Elections conducts the lottery for new parties that file in the Springfield office and the election authorities must use such order. No party lottery is done for the Primary Election because each party has its own ballot, separate from any other established party. (10 ILCS 5/7-60)

In filing a petition to fill a vacancy in the office of circuit judge, must the petition contain the vacancy for which the candidate is filing?

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Yes. For example, “To fill the vacancy of the Honorable John Jones.” The vacancy is for the preceding elected judge, not the interim appointee.

Are judges running for retention required to file petitions?

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No. Judges running for retention are required to file a Declaration of Candidacy for Retention with the Secretary of State on or before Sunday, May 5, 2024, preceding the expiration of their term of office. (Illinois Constitution, Article VI, Section 12(d))

Does a candidate have to file their own nomination papers?

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No. The candidate or an agent of the candidate can file the candidate’s petitions.

May a candidate file for more than one office?

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Yes, however, the candidate must withdraw from all but one office within five business days following the last day of petition filing if the offices are incompatible. The withdrawal notice must be in writing and notarized. If the candidate does not withdraw, their name will not be certified for any office. Judicial candidates at the circuit court level are limited to filing a single petition for one circuit court vacancy and/or a single petition for one subcircuit vacancy in any filing period. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(9))

When may petitions be mailed?

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There are no statutory requirements regarding a time element for mailing petitions; however, all petitions must be received during the filing period. All petitions received in the office prior to the opening of the office on the first day of the filing period or after the close of the office on the last day of the filing period will be returned to the sender. (10 ILCS 5/7-12.6, 8-9, 10-6.2)

May a petition that has been filed be changed?

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No. A petition once filed may not be added to or altered; however, the receipt(s) for filing Statements of Economic Interests may be filed at any time during the filing period. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 7-12)

When a candidate withdraws their nominating petitions, are the petitions returned to the candidate?

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No. The original documents are not returned, but remain in the office where they were filed. They must remain in the office for a period of at least six months. (10 ILCS 5/10-7)

When are petitions open to the public?

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Upon their filing with the proper office. As a practical matter, there will be some delay in availability while the State Board of Elections or the election authority processes each petition. All certificates of nomination and nomination papers when presented or filed shall be open (under proper regulation) to public inspection and the State Board of Elections, election authorities, and local election officials having charge of nomination papers shall preserve the same in their respective offices not less than six months. (10 ILCS 5/10-7)

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Yes. For example, “To fill the vacancy of the Honorable John Jones.” The vacancy is for the preceding elected judge, not the interim appointee.

Are judges running for retention required to file petitions?

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No. Judges running for retention are required to file a Declaration of Candidacy for Retention with the Secretary of State on or before Sunday, May 8, 2022, preceding the expiration of their term of office. (Illinois Constitution, Article VI, Section 12(d))

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