

Frequently Asked Questions about Candidate Filing and Objections March 19, 2024 Primary Election

Who files petitions at the Cook County Clerk's Office?

Candidates seeking the following county offices will file nominating papers with the Clerk's office: Clerk of the Circuit Court, State's Attorney, County Commissioner (1st District) County Board of Review Commissioner (3rd District), and Commissioners of the Water Reclamation District and Ward Committeepersons for the City of Chicago. The candidates for Ward Committeeperson are elected at the primary; everyone else is nominated by their respective parties.

Federal, State and Judicial candidates file with the Illinois State Board of Elections in Springfield, Illinois.

What time does candidate filing begin on Monday, November 27 at the Cook County Clerk's Office?

Candidate filing will begin at 9 a.m. on Monday, November 27 at the Cook County Clerk's Office located at 69 West Washington (lower level).

What happens if several people file simultaneously for the same office?

Candidates running for the same office, standing in line at 9 a.m. on Monday, November 27 to file nomination papers will be time-stamped for 9 a.m. and included in the lottery for first ballot position and following positions in the order in which their names will appear on the ballot. Additionally, candidates for the same office who file nomination petitions between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. on the last day of filing – December 4 – will be included in the ballot lottery for last ballot position. Anyone who filed after 9 a.m. on November 27 and before 3:59 p.m. on December 4 will be on the ballot in the order they turned in their nomination paperwork.

When is the deadline for filing nomination papers?

The deadline is 5 p.m. on Monday, December 4 at the Clerk's Office, 69 W. Washington St., Fifth Floor, Chicago.

Can my filings be rejected by the Cook County Clerk?

Pursuant to election law, the Cook County Clerk will review nomination papers for apparent conformity with the requirements of the election law, including whether the nomination papers include properly executed original documents. Candidates whose nomination papers are not in apparent conformity with the law will not be certified.

Where are objections to petitions filed?

If the petition was filed with the Clerk's Office, the objection should also be filed with the Clerk's Office, 69 W. Washington, Fifth Floor, Chicago.

Voters wishing to file an objection must file an original and two copies – objection petitions that do not include an original and two copies will not be accepted by the Clerk's Office.

When is the last day to file an objection to a petition?

The last day to file an objection with the Clerk's Office is 5 p.m. on Monday, December 11, for all offices.

Who oversees objections?

The Cook County Officers Electoral Board hears objections to all petitions filed with the Clerk's Office. The Electoral Board is composed of the designee of Cook County Clerk, Karen A. Yarbrough, who sits as Chair of the Board; Cook County State's Attorney, Kim Foxx, or her designee; and Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court, Iris Martinez, or her designee.

In addition to ruling on objections to county candidates, the panel also hears objections to candidates for state senator, state representative whose districts lie wholly within suburban Cook County and judicial offices which overlap the suburbs and the City of Chicago.

What is the objection appeal process?

Once the Board has issued a decision, a losing party may appeal the decision to the Cook County Circuit Court. The Court holds expedited hearings for these cases. A losing party may also appeal that decision to the Illinois Appellate Court.

How can campaigns check whether petition signers are registered to vote?

Terminals are available at our Elections Operations Center, 1330 S. 54th Ave, Cicero, IL. Please contact our Office at 312-603-0900 or email at clerk.ethics@cookcountyil.gov to request the use of the computer terminals.

Another way to check a person's registration status is through the Clerk's website <https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov/service/your-voter-information> . Using the Voter Information tool, campaigns can verify registration status for voters in suburban Cook County.

Additionally, the Clerk's Office can provide a list of registered voters' names and addresses for suburban Cook County residents. This can be done by precinct or district and is available on CD. Under Illinois law, such lists are available only to registered campaigns or committees and must be requested in writing.