



ELECTIONS

OFFICE OF COOK COUNTY CLERK DAVID ORR

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Frequently Asked Questions about Candidate Filing and Objections March 20, 2018 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: President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, County Clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff, Assessor, County Commissioners, County Board of Review (Districts 2 & 3); Commissioners of the Water Reclamation District and Township Committeemen. The candidates for Township Committeemen 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.

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 the order in which their names will appear on the ballot. Additionally, candidates for the same office who file nomination petitions between 4 and 5 p.m. on the last day of filing – December 4 – will be included in the ballot lottery. 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.

The Clerk's office will conduct a lottery at 11 a.m. on Monday, December 11, 2017 for any candidates who file at the same time for the same office.

When is the deadline for filing nomination papers?

The deadline is 5 p.m. on Monday, December 4, 2017 at the Clerk's office, 69 W. Washington St., Fifth Floor, Chicago.

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 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, 2017 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 Cook County Clerk, David Orr or his designee, who sits as Chairman of the Board; Cook County State's Attorney, Kim Foxx, or her designee; and Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court, Dorothy Brown, or her designee.

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

What is the objection appeal process?

Once the board has issued a decision, the losing party can appeal the decision to the Cook County Circuit Court. The court holds expedited hearings for these cases. The losing party can then take the appeal to the Illinois Appellate Court.

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

The most efficient way to check a person's registration status is through the Clerk's [election website](#). Using the Voter Information tool, campaigns can verify registration status. Additionally, the clerk's office can provide a list of registered voters' names and addresses. This can be done by precinct or district, and is available on CD. Under Illinois law, such lists are available only to campaigns.