



ELECTIONS

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Frequently Asked Questions about Candidate Filing and Objections March 17, 2020 Presidential 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, Board of Review Member (1st District), and Water Reclamation District Commissioner (3 seats) and Ward Committeepersons for the City of Chicago.

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 25 at the Cook County Clerk's office?

Candidate filing will begin at 9 a.m. on Monday, November 25 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 25 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 and 5 p.m. on the last day of filing – December 2 – will be included in the ballot lottery for last ballot position. Anyone who filed after 9 a.m. on November 25 and before 3:59 p.m. on December 2 will be on the ballot in the order they turned in their nomination paperwork.

The Clerk's office will conduct a lottery at 10 a.m. on Monday, December 9, 2019 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 2, 2019 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 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 9, 2019 for all offices.

Who oversees objections?

The Cook County Officers Electoral Board hears objections to all petitions filed with the Clerk's office. Except Chicago Ward Committeepersons which are heard by the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners. The Electoral Board is composed of the designee of Cook County Clerk, Karen A. Yarbrough, 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 and state representative whose districts lie wholly within suburban Cook County and judicial offices which overlap the suburbs and 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 can 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 69 West Washington location. An additional location has been added at our Elections Operations Center, 1330 S. 54th Ave, Cicero, IL. Please contact our office at 312-603-0900 or email at <mailto:clerk.ethics@cookcountyil.gov> to request the use of the terminals for either site.

Another 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 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.