

General Rules for Filing an Independent Petition

Each sheet of the petition must correctly set forth:

- The party name and an approved graphic for that party the candidate is running in.
The BOE has a list of approved graphic symbols which can be obtained with the petition packet.
- The date of the election (general). **November 2, 2021**
- The name of the Candidate and the office or position sought.
- The candidates residence, and if different, their mailing address.
- Information about the signer: date of signing, voter's residence address and town.
- Information relating to the person who witnesses the signatures.
- All signatures shall be signed in ink.
- No white out is allowed on any petition
A petition may include a committee on vacancies. Failure to provide such a committee will not invalidate the petition.

The voter need only sign the appropriate line on the petition sheet. All other information may be filled in by someone else. Corrections may be made to any information on the signature line. Corrections or alterations in the date or the signature must be initialed by the person making the correction.

Only voters eligible to vote in the election may sign a petition and cannot sign a petition for more candidates than there are openings for an office. (If they had signed a designating petition for another candidate for the same position, they would not be eligible to sign this petition).

Witnesses to a petition must be a registered voter eligible to vote in New York State or a notary public. The information required for the witness statement is mandatory. Omissions, errors, or unexplained alterations/corrections, may invalidate the entire page. *When a witness signs the statement of witness they are making an oath that subjects them to the penalties for perjury if any of the information preceding their signature is false.*

CAUTION: Serving as a witness to a petition does not preclude a witness from witnessing any other petitions, even others for the same office – assuming the witness is otherwise eligible. **A person becomes ineligible** to witness a petition “for another candidate for the same office” once he or she signs a petition for a candidate.

(Over)

(Election Law §§ 6- 132 [2]; 6-140). This rule was clarified by amendments to the Election Law enacted in 2017 (Laws of 2017 c 106).

Certificate of Acceptance: Each Independent Nominating Petition must include a Certificate of Acceptance filled out completely by the candidate and signed and notarized. Failure to do so will invalidate the petition.

Cover sheets are required if there are 10 or more pages in a petition. Cover sheets must contain the following information:

- Name, residence address and mailing address if different of the candidate.
- The public office or party position sought.
- The name of the party or independent body making the nomination.
- A statement that the petition contains a number of signatures equal to or in excess of the number required by statute.
- The volume number or identification number of the volume.
- The total number of volumes in each petition or the identification number of each volume of the petition.

The following information is optional:

- The name, residence address and mailing address if different, telephone number and facsimile number of the person designated to receive notice of deficiencies in binding or cover sheet requirements.

The pages of a petition must be sequentially numbered at the foot of each page and securely fastened before filing.

Independent Petitions may not be passed prior to **April 13, 2021.**

Filing dates for independent petitions start **May 18, 2021** between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, but must be filed no later than 5:00 PM **May 25, 2021.**

This information is not intended to be inclusive instructions or legal advice. Please consult the State of New York Election Law for additional information.