

Candidate Petition Guide

For independent and nonpartisan candidates.

Complete the Statement of Candidacy before circulating:

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

I, **Step 1** _____, the undersigned, hereby declare under penalty of
(Name of Candidate)
election falsification that my voting residence address is **Step 2** _____,
(Street and Number, if any, or Rural Route Number)
Step 3 _____, Ohio **Step 4** _____; and I am a qualified elector.
(City or Village) (Zip Code)

I further declare that I desire to be a candidate for election to the office of **Step 5** _____
Step 6 for the: (check one and fill in the appropriate date) full term commencing _____, or
 unexpired term ending _____, from the **Step 7** _____ District of
(District Number)
Ohio, at the general election to be held the **Step 8** _____ day of _____.

I further declare that I am an elector qualified to vote for the office I seek.

Dated this _____ day of **Step 9** _____.

Step 10 _____
(Signature of Candidate)

Instructions:

- Step 1:** Print your name.
- Step 2:** Print your street address.
- Step 3:** Print your city or village name.
- Step 4:** Print your zip code.
- Step 5:** Print the name of the office you are seeking.
- Step 6:** Check either the full term box, or the unexpired term box if running for a vacant seat. You must then enter the term ending date (the date before the full term begins).
- Step 7:** Print the number of the district (if applicable).
- Step 8:** Print the general election date.
- Step 9:** Print today's date.
- Step 10:** Sign your name.

Next, complete the Nominating Petition section before circulating your petition.

I, **Step 11** _____, hereby designate the persons named below as a committee to
(Name of Candidate)
 represent me:

NAME	RESIDENCE
Step 12	

NOMINATING PETITION

We, the undersigned, qualified electors of the State of Ohio, whose voting residence is in the county, city, village, or township set opposite our names, hereby nominate **Step 13** _____ as a candidate for election to the office of **Step 14** _____ in the City or Village of **Step 15** _____, for the: (check one) full term, or unexpired term **Step 16** ending _____, to be voted for at the next general election, and certify said person
(Fill in the appropriate date)
 is, in our opinion, well qualified to perform the duties of the office or position to which the person desires to be elected.

- Instructions:**
- Step 11:** Print your name.
 - Step 12:** The committee of five is optional for independent and nonpartisan candidates. This committee would nominate a replacement candidate if you withdrew or became incapacitated.
 - Step 13:** Print your name.
 - Step 14:** Print the name of the office you are seeking.
 - Step 15:** Enter the district, city, village, or township in which you are seeking office.
 - Step 16:** Check either the full term or unexpired term box. If running for an unexpired term, enter the term ending date.

Tip: Complete one part-petition and make enough copies of that original copy to collect no more than two times the minimum number of signatures required to file. You need to file at least one part-petition with an original signature on the Statement of Candidacy. The rest of your part-petitions may be photocopies.

You are now ready to circulate your petition. Remember the following guidelines:

- Only qualified electors may sign a petition. Electors must reside in the district for which the office/issue being sought governs for signature to be considered. ([R.C. 3501.38 \(A\)](#))
- **FOR RACES IN DISTRICTS THAT INCLUDE MORE THAN HURON COUNTY-** Each part petition that is filed shall contain signatures of electors from only one county. In case petitions containing signatures of electors of more than one county are filed, the county from

which the majority of signatures came, and only signatures from such county shall be considered. Signatures from any other county shall be invalid.

- Each signature must be an original signature of an elector or the elector's duly appointed attorney in fact acting pursuant to [R.C. 3501.382](#), written in ink. "Signature" means that person's written, cursive-style legal mark written in that person's own hand. ([R.C. 3501.38\(B\)\(D\)](#))
- Each signer's residential address and the date of signing must be placed on the petition after the elector's signature. ([R.C. 3501.38\(C\)](#)) -No P.O. boxes are permitted. ([R.C. 3501.38\(C\)](#))
- A candidate may circulate his or her own petition, but cannot sign his or her own petition as an elector.
- A circulator may not sign the same petition paper that he or she is circulating. However, an otherwise eligible circulator may sign a petition paper being circulated for the same office/issue by a different circulator.
- After circulating the petition, the circulator must complete the circulator statement indicating the number of signatures witnessed and contained on petition, circulators name, address, and signature. ([R.C. 3501.38\(E\)\(1\)](#))
- Except as otherwise provided in section R.C. 3501.382, if a circulator knowingly permits an unqualified person to sign a petition paper or permits a person to write a name other than the person's own on a petition paper, the petition paper is INVALID. ([R.C. 3501.38\(F\)](#))
- Be sure to get more signatures than the minimum requirement.
 - Recommendation Only: Twice the minimum amount required.
 - No petition shall contain more than three times the minimum number of required signatures.
- The original petition with the candidate's original signature must be filed at the same time as all part-petitions are filed. ([R.C. 3501.38\(K\)](#))
- A petition may not be amended after being filed with the Board of Elections. No alterations, corrections, or additions may be made to a petition. ([R.C. 3501.38\(I\)\(1\)](#))