

MAYOR OR PRESIDENT, ALDERPERSON OR TRUSTEE, CLERK, TREASURER

Mayor-Aldersperson and President-Trustee Form – Municipal

NOTE: In municipalities with a population over 5,000, candidates of established political parties file petitions to be placed on the consolidated primary election ballot.

Municipalities: Municipalities of 5,000 or less population may determine by ordinance, no later than November 15, 2026, that political parties shall nominate candidates for municipal offices by primary election in accordance with Article 7 of the Election Code. (10 ILCS 5/7-1(b))

Cities: Cities of 10,000 or fewer inhabitants may, by ordinance, allow for the appointment of a city treasurer by the mayor, subject to the advice and consent of the city council. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-15-5)

Villages of fewer than 5,000 inhabitants may, by resolution, choose to have the clerk appointed by the village president with the concurrence of the village board. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-25-90(a))

This procedure for the election of officers includes municipalities that have adopted the managerial form and retained or later adopted the mayor-alderperson or president-trustee form of electing their officers. (65 ILCS 5/5-1-2)

NOMINATION PAPERS

Petitions: Established Party ([SBE Form P-10](#), for primary); New Party ([SBE Form P-8](#) or [SBE Form P-8A](#), for consolidated election); Independent ([SBE Form P-3](#), for consolidated election); Nonpartisan ([SBE Form P-5](#), for primary, as applicable)

Certificate of Officers: New Party officers authorized to fill vacancies in nomination ([SBE Form P-8C](#))

Statement of Candidacy: Established Party ([SBE Form P-1](#), for primary, [SBE Form P-1K](#), for caucus); New Party ([SBE Form P-1D](#)); Independent ([SBE Form P-1B](#)); Nonpartisan ([SBE Form P-1A](#))

Loyalty Oath (optional): All candidates ([SBE Form P-1C](#))

Statement of Economic Interests: Filed with the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government with which the person is associated is located. (5 ILCS 420/4A-106) See page 22 regarding filing the receipt.

Fair Campaign Practices Act (voluntary): Filed with the State Board of Elections.

QUALIFICATIONS

Qualified elector of the municipality and one-year residency in the municipality preceding the election. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(a))

Alderspersons must reside in the ward at least one year prior to their election. Trustees elected from districts must reside in their municipality at least one year prior to their election. For trustees elected by district, in villages with a population of over 5,000, each of the districts shall be represented by one trustee who shall have been a resident of the district for at least six months immediately before their election in the first election after redistricting. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(c), 3.1-25-75(a)(b))

A person is not eligible to take the oath of office for a municipal office if that person is, at the time required for taking the oath of office, in arrears in the payment of a tax or other indebtedness due to the municipality or has been convicted in any court located in the United States of any infamous crime, bribery, perjury, or other felony. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(b))

If a person is a resident of a municipality immediately prior to the active duty military service of that person or that person's spouse, resides anywhere outside of the municipality during that active duty military service, and immediately upon completion of that active duty military service is again a resident of the municipality, then the time during which the person resides outside the municipality during the active duty military service is deemed to be time during which the person is a resident of the municipality for purposes of determining the residency requirement. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-5(d))

A person convicted of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime, for an offense committed on or after November 17, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-562) and committed while the person was serving as a public official in this State, is ineligible to hold any local public office unless the person's conviction is reversed, the person is again restored to such rights by the terms of a pardon for the offense, the person has received a restoration of rights by the Governor, or the person's rights are otherwise restored by law. (730 ILCS 5/5-5-5)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Established Party: For president, mayor, trustee, or clerk, at least 0.5% (.005) of the qualified primary electors of the candidate's party at the last regular election in the city, incorporated town, town, or village. (10 ILCS 5/7-10(e))

For alderperson, at least .5% (.005) of the qualified primary electors of the candidate's party at the last regular election within the ward, but in no event shall the number of required signatures be less than 25.

In the first primary election following redistricting of wards or trustee districts of a municipality or the initial establishment of wards or districts, a candidate's petition for nomination must contain the number of signatures equal to at least 0.5% of the total number of votes cast for the candidate of that political party who received the highest number of votes in the entire municipality at the last regular election at which an officer was regularly scheduled to be elected from the entire municipality, divided by the number of wards or districts. In no event shall the number of signatures be less than 25. (10 ILCS 5/7-10(e))

New Party: For the consolidated election, not less than 5% of the total number of persons who voted in the last regular election in the district or political subdivision in which the district or political subdivision voted as a unit for the election of officers to serve its respective territorial area. (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

For the first election following redistricting of municipal wards or districts, or for the first election following the initial establishment of such districts or wards in a municipality, a petition to form a new political party in a municipal ward or district shall be signed by qualified voters of the district or ward equal to not less than 5% of the total number of votes cast at the preceding municipal election, as the case may be, for the municipal office voted on throughout the municipality for which the greatest total number of votes were cast for all candidates, divided by the number of districts or wards, but in any event not less than 25 qualified voters of the district or ward. In the case of a petition to form a new political party within a political subdivision in which officers are to be elected from districts and at-large, such a petition shall consist of separate components for each district from which an officer is to be elected. (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

Independent: For the consolidated election, not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the number of persons who voted at the last regular election in the district or political subdivision in which the district or political subdivision voted as a unit for the election of officers to serve its respective territorial area. (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

Example: If 1,000 voters cast ballots at the last regular election in the district or political subdivision, the formula of 5% - 8% would result in a signature requirement of 50 – 80. A difference of 50 between the minimum and maximum is required. (10 ILCS 5/10-3) Therefore, the signature requirement would be 50 – 100.

For the first election following redistricting of municipal wards or districts, or for the first election following the initial establishment of such districts or wards in a municipality, nomination papers for an independent candidate for alderperson or trustee of the municipality shall be signed by qualified voters of the district or ward equal to not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the total number of votes cast at the preceding general municipal election, as the case may be, for the municipal office voted on throughout the municipality for which the greatest total number of votes were cast for all candidates divided by the number of districts or wards, but in any event not less than 25 qualified voters of the district or ward. (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

Nonpartisan (City): For the consolidated primary election, not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the number of persons who voted at the last regular election in the district or political subdivision in which such district or political subdivision voted as a unit for the election of officers to serve its respective territorial area. (10 ILCS 5/10-3, 10-3.1)

Nonpartisan (Village): 1% of the total vote cast at the last preceding election in the village for president. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-25-30)

FILING DATES

For established political party candidates and nonpartisan candidates filing for a primary: October 19-26, 2026 (not more than 127 nor less than 120 days prior to the consolidated primary). (10 ILCS 5/7-12(3), 10-6(4))

For new party candidates and independent candidates: November 16-23, 2026 (not more than 141 nor less than 134 days prior to the consolidated election). (10 ILCS 5/10-6(2))

Caucus certificates for nomination for established party candidates: December 14-21, 2026 (not more than 113 nor less than 106 days prior to the consolidated election). (10 ILCS 5/10-1(a))

WHERE TO FILE

With the appropriate city or village clerk, or in those cities having a Board of Election Commissioners, with the clerk of that Board.

TERM

4 years. The term may be reduced to 2 years by public question. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-65) Any municipality of less than 500,000 population that originally voted to shorten terms may submit a public question to lengthen terms. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-75(a))

TERM BEGINS

The terms of elected municipal officers shall commence at the first regular or special meeting of the corporate authorities after receipt of the official election results from the county clerk of the regular municipal election at which the officers were elected, except as otherwise provided by ordinance fixing the date for inauguration of newly elected officers of a municipality. The ordinance shall not, however, fix the time for inauguration of newly elected officers later than the first regular or special meeting of the corporate authorities in the month of June following the election. (65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-15)

"Corporate authorities" means (a) the mayor and alderpersons or similar body when the reference is to cities, (b) the president and trustees or similar body when the reference is to villages or incorporated towns, and (c) the council when the reference is to municipalities under the commission form of municipal government. (65 ILCS 5/1-1-2(2))

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

Reports must be filed either on paper or electronically with the State Board of Elections, 2329 S. MacArthur Blvd., Springfield, IL 62704 or 69 W. Washington St., Pedway LL-08, Chicago, IL 60602.