

CANDIDATE PETITION CIRCULATION GUIDE

This guide applies to partisan candidates filing to run in a primary election, independent candidates filing to run in a general election and candidates filing for nonpartisan offices. Independent candidates must be unaffiliated with any political party.

FORMS

Individuals may obtain nomination petition forms from their local election office, the office of Secretary of State or online at sos.ks.gov. The partisan candidate petition form is FORM PP, the independent petition form is FORM IP and the nonpartisan petition for local office is FORM CP. Separate forms exist for president, governor and district attorney.

CIRCULATORS

Candidates and petition circulators may carry a petition through the election district if they meet the constitutional qualification to be an elector. However, they are not required by law to be registered voters in the election district. Each circulator must: 1.) witness every signature on every page; 2.) collect signatures from a single county on each page; 3.) sign, and have notarized, an affidavit that is attached to or printed on the back of the petition form.

Candidates and circulators of petitions may not sign the front of a petition form they are circulating because they may not witness their own signature. One affidavit may apply to all pages submitted by one circulator if their pages are all together in one document and the affidavit is attached. An incorrect affidavit will invalidate all pages to which it applies.

SIGNERS

Signers must be registered voters and residents of the election district. For partisan candidate petitions, signers must also be affiliated with the same political party as the candidate. Any registered voter may sign an independent candidate petition, regardless of their party affiliation. All signers of a particular page of a petition must reside in the county. Petition signers must include their printed name, signature, address, city, zip code and date of signature. Individuals may not sign the same petition more than once. Individuals are prohibited, by law, to sign a petition for another person for the same office.

INSTRUCTIONS

Candidates must complete the top section of the petition with the candidate's name, office sought, address and other required information. Candidates may make photocopies of the form, as needed. Candidates and petition circulators should follow the rules for petition circulators and observe filing deadlines.

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

The number of signatures required on a candidate nomination petition is a percentage of registered voters, a percentage of voters affiliated with the political party or a percentage of votes cast for the office of Secretary of State. To get the exact signature requirement specifications, candidate and/or circulators should contact their local election office or the Office of Secretary of State.

Not all signatures on a petition will be found valid. It is recommended candidates collect more than the number required.

FILING

The petition filing deadline for partisan candidates is June 1 at noon, in the year of the election. If that date falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline falls to noon the next business day. For independent candidates, the filing deadline is noon on the day before the state primary election (first Tuesday in August). The deadline for petitions for local office is on June 1 at noon in the year of the election. If that date falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline falls to noon on the following business day.

Petitions must be filed within 180 days after the first signature was collected. If more than one circulator carries petitions for a candidate, all must be submitted as a group, at the same time, to the appropriate filing office. If a petition fails to meet the filing requirements, later filings are not permitted and the circulation must start from the beginning.

Petitions for national and state office are filed in the Office of Secretary of State. Petitions for county, city, school board and other local office should be filed with the local election office.

QUESTIONS

Contact the Office of Secretary of State at **1-800-262-8683**, visit sos.ks.gov or your local election office for more information on candidate qualifications, filing locations and deadlines.