

RUNNING FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR

What we'll cover:

- The election cycle calendar
- Petitions, Filing Fees, Cross-filing
- Statement of Financial Interest
- Campaign Finance Reports

2019 Election calendar

Pay attention to dates for:

- filing petitions and reports
- voter registration
- absentee ballots

How to file nomination petitions

- In late January 2019 we expect to have online petitions available on the Chester County Voter Services website <http://www.chesco.org/elections> or you may pick them up in our office
- Voter Services does not mail petitions
- Complete the top section of each petition before circulating
- Collect signatures ONLY between Feb 19, 2019 to March 12, 2019

Who can sign your petition?

Every signer must be:

- registered voter
- resident of the candidate's political district
- same political party as the candidate (or the same as the petition if cross-filing)

Each signer may sign petitions only for as many candidates for each office as they are permitted to vote for

Example: If 4 Republicans are running for 2 School Director seats, a registered Republican voter can sign 2 petitions.

Tips for petitions

- Avoid nicknames.
- Do not allow signers to use ditto marks or white out – get a complete address for EACH signer.
- CAUTION: When completing the address section of the petition, the signer must list the township or borough they reside in

How to avoid petition pitfalls

- Obtain more than the required number of signatures
- Make sure all signers are registered voters in your party (or on the correct petition if cross-filing)
- File ALL required forms and make sure they are notarized.

Signature and filing fee requirements

Minimum 10 valid signatures for School Director

Protect your candidacy: get more signatures than required!

No filing fee required

Cross-filing

Who can cross-file?

Magisterial District Judges and School Directors

How do I cross-file?

Circulate and file two separate petitions - one for each political party.

Can I circulate both petitions?

Magisterial District Judges: YES

School Directors: NO, only the petition for your political party. **Someone from the other party must collect signatures on the other party's petition.**

Cross-filing (continued)

How many signatures do I need?

You need the minimum required signatures on each party's petition.

Example: School Director requires a minimum of 10 signatures on Republican petition and 10 signatures on Democratic petition = 20 signatures.

Independents and 3rd party candidates

- Cannot run in the primary
- File nomination papers instead of petition (forms available after March 13, 2019)
- Signatures valid from March 13 – August 1
- Number of signatures needed
 - 2% of the largest entire vote count in the last municipal election for any officer in that election district
 - Check with Voter Services
- All other requirements apply

Statement Of Financial Interest – what is it?

- Administered by the State Ethics Commission
- Used to disclose any potential conflicts of interest
- Filed annually by all candidates, elected officials and appointed officials
- Statements of Financial Interest are public information
- Personal financial information is usually not required

How to file a Statement of Financial Interest

- File the form where you are seeking office (e.g. township office, borough hall, school administration office) on or before the last day for filing a petition.
- A copy of the form must also be appended to the nomination petition, or your name will not be put on the ballot.
- Be sure to complete all blocks and sign the form.
- Questions regarding the Financial statement please refer to the State Ethics Commission **1-800-932-0936**

Campaign finance reporting

Are you required to file?

- If you intend to raise funds or have a political committee to raise funds
- **And** you plan to raise over \$250 in a reporting period

4 reporting periods for candidates/committees

- May, June, October and December

Penalties for overdue reports

- Range from \$20 for first day to maximum \$250

Filing a waiver from reporting

You may file a waiver if:

- you do not intend to form a political committee
- you do not plan to receive contributions over \$250 during a reporting period
- you do not plan to spend over \$250 during a reporting period

Complete the "Waiver of Expense Account Reporting Affidavit" on the petition and have it notarized

A tip about waivers

If you sign the 'Waiver of Expense" and find that you have spent or received more than \$250 for any of the reporting periods, then you are responsible for filing a Campaign Expense Report for that period.

If you don't sign the waiver, you must report.

TIP: sign the waiver and report if necessary.