

RUNNING FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE IN TIOGA COUNTY 2026

Tioga County Board of Elections
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For election results and other election information, please visit:

Tioga County Board of Elections Website:

<https://www.tiogacountyny.gov/departments/board-of-elections/>

NYS Board of Elections Website: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/>

IMPORTANT DATES 2026

PRIMARY ELECTION ----- Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 6 AM – 9 PM
GENERAL ELECTION ----- Tuesday, November 3, 2026, 6 AM – 9 PM

Designating Petitions ...

- ✓ The first day to sign is **Tuesday, February 24th**
- ✓ The last day to sign is **Thursday, April 2nd**
- ✓ Dates for filing are from **March 30th – April 6th***
**Filing period extended in 2026 due to Passover holiday*
- ✓ The date on top of petition needs to be **June 23, 2026**

Opportunity to Ballot Petitions ...

- ✓ The first day to sign is **Saturday, March 21st**
- ✓ The last day to file is **April 9th**
- ✓ The date on top of petition needs to be **June 23, 2026**

Independent Petitions ...

- ✓ The first day to sign is **Tuesday, April 14th**
- ✓ Dates for filing are from **May 19th – 26th**
- ✓ The date on top of petition needs to be **November 3, 2026**

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GENERAL INFORMATION

NOTE: The information contained here is intended to provide general guidance for those who are preparing to circulate petitions, or expand their knowledge of the nomination process, and is not to be used as a substitute for consulting the Election Law for specific petition requirements.

The current political parties in New York State are:

- Democratic
- Republican
- Conservative
- Working Families

Nominating Petitions and Certificates

Nominations for elected positions are made by either a designating petition or independent petition. Caucuses are not held in Tioga County for county or town positions. Petition instructions are on pages 4 - 7 of this packet.

Designating Petitions

Designating petitions are used to nominate party members for elected town offices and higher, as well as for party positions. If more than one valid designating petition is filed for the same office and for the same party, then that would require a primary election for that office.

Opportunity to Ballot (OTB) Petitions

An OTB petition may be filed to force a primary election for an office or party position, if the nomination for such office or party position would otherwise be uncontested. This gives enrolled members of the party an opportunity to write in the name of a candidate or candidates enrolled in such party, who need not be specified, for such office or position. Signature requirements are the same as would be required for a designating petition for the same office or position.

Independent Petitions

To run for office on a line other than an official party line, one must file an independent nominating petition. A unique party name must be identified on the petition. See Election Law §2-124[2] and §6-138[3] for rules on acceptable party names. An emblem must be included on the petition, which would

represent your party name, prior to circulation. We have samples from the state printer. A Certificate of Acceptance (see below) must be filed with this petition. Any registered voter who has not already signed a designating petition for an office, and who is qualified to vote for an office, may sign an independent nominating petition for that office.

Certificate of Authorization

A Certificate of Authorization is needed for a person nominated on a designating petition that is not enrolled in the political party named on the petition. A Certificate of Authorization must be signed and acknowledged by the presiding officer of that party. This form needs to be filed not later than four days after the last day to file the designating petition, certificate of nomination or certificate of substitution to which such authorization relates. A Certificate of Authorization is available at our office or on the State Board of Elections (SBOE) website for those persons eligible to use them.

Certificates of Acceptance and Declination

A Certificate of Acceptance is needed for a candidate that is not of the party passing the petition. A Certificate of Acceptance is always needed when filing an Independent Petition. A Certificate of Acceptance must also be filed by all individuals appointed to serve on an OTB committee to receive notices.

A Certificate of Declination needs to be filed for any candidate declining a nomination.

The deadlines for filing these certificates are included in the Political Calendar, which is available at our office, on our website or on the SBOE website.

RULES FOR PETITION CARRIERS

To be eligible to circulate and witness a designating or OTB petition for a major party, you must be an enrolled voter of the party in New York State, or a Notary Public. Any registered voter in New York State may carry an independent petition.

You cannot circulate a petition for a candidate if you have already signed a petition for another candidate for the same office.

- 1) Be sure the upper portion of the petition is properly filled in: including **Party, Date of Election, Name of Candidate, Title of Public Office or Party Position including jurisdiction, AND Place of Residence** (our office cannot accept just the mailing address). **Failure to have the correct election date will invalidate the entire petition.**
 - a) **Also note:** If two or more offices having the same title are to be filled for different terms, the **term of office** must be included as part of the title of the office.
- 2) Fill in **committee information**, if applicable, in correct space. For designating petitions, failure to list three (3) eligible voters as a vacancy committee **will not** invalidate the petition unless a vacancy occurs, which under the NYS Election Law may be filled only by such committee. For OTB petitions, a committee to receive notices must be included.
- 3) Designating and OTB petitions require the number of signatures equal to 5% of the voters currently enrolled in the party within the political subdivision, or the statutory minimum, whichever is less. Independent nominating petitions require the number of signatures equal to 5% of the total number of votes cast for Governor at the last gubernatorial election for the political subdivision. **See Page 7 for signature requirements.**
- 4) All columns must be completed and must be in **ink**. 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. However, corrections or alterations in the date or signature **MUST** be initialed by the person making the correction.
- 5) In addition to the requirement for the signature, the printed name of the signer may be added, provided that the failure to provide a place to print the name or failure to print a name if a space is provided shall **NOT** invalidate the signature or petition.
- 6) Use current enrollment and registration lists to determine voter's eligibility to sign a petition. They must reside in the political subdivision for the public office or party position listed on the petition. **Fill in the name of the Town in the last column, not the postal code city** (e.g. residents of 'Apalachin' are in the Town of Owego). A signature will not be deemed invalid solely because the address provided is the post office address of the signer, if proof that such address is the accepted address of such signer is provided to the BOE no later than three days following the receipt of specific objections to such signature.

- 7) Voters may not sign a petition for more candidates than there are openings for an office. For example, if there is one council seat open, then the voter may only sign one petition for a candidate for that office. If there are 2 seats open, the voter may sign petitions for 2 candidates.
- 8) **Witness Statement:** The witness must be a resident of the State of New York. For designating and OTB petitions, the witness must also be an enrolled voter of the same party as the voters qualified to sign the petition, or a Notary Public. Independent petitions may be witnessed by any registered voter. The carrier must witness all signatures on his/her petition. **Do NOT** give a petition to someone else to obtain signatures and then sign your name as the witness. Never allow anyone to sign another name except his/her own.
 - a) You **CANNOT** witness your own signature. You may sign another carrier's petition for the same candidate, but you are advised only to do so when they are finished circulating petitions. You CANNOT sign for one candidate and carry/witness for another candidate for the same office. You CAN carry/witness for multiple candidates for the same office IF you are not signing for any.
 - b) When you have completed each sheet, print your name on the first line of the Witness Statement where it asks for "Name of Witness". Fill in your party, residence, and number of signatures. Subscribing witness information may be inserted by someone other than the witness provided that it is done prior to the witness signing or in the witness' presence. Information below the witness' signature (Town and County) can be filled in by anyone prior to filing the petition.
- 9) Each petition must be numbered sequentially at the foot of each sheet before being filed. Any two or more petition sheets must be **securely bound** (paper clips are acceptable, but staples or binder clips are highly recommended), which will hold the pages together in numerical order. **All petitions containing ten or more sheets must be accompanied by a cover sheet. Do not number the petition sheets unless you are the person who will be binding or filing the petition.**
- 10) All papers required to be filed pursuant to the Election Law shall, unless otherwise provided, be filed within the given dates located in the front of this petition packet and between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.
- 11) All petitions or other legal papers sent by mail in an envelope postmarked prior to midnight of the last day of filing shall be deemed "timely" and accepted for filing when received. However, due to the inconsistency of the mail, it is strongly advised to **file petitions in person** at the Board of Elections office.

*****NOTE:** The above information is provided to assist petition carriers and candidates in the petition process and does **NOT** represent all sections of NYS Election Law associated with nominating petitions. For more detailed information, see ARTICLE 6 of the NYS Election Law, and/or call our office – **(607) 687- 8261**.

LAST MINUTE CHECKS

The following are some common petition errors. Please check your petitions for these errors before filing.

- ✓ Petitions with multiple pages must be **securely fastened**. Acceptable bindings include paper clips, binder clips, staples, etc.
- ✓ Petitions with **10 or more pages must have a cover sheet**.
- ✓ Cover sheet must be completed and **signed**.
- ✓ Petitions pages must be **sequentially numbered** at the foot of the page.
- ✓ Top of petition must have party and **correct date of election as follows:**
 - ✦ **Designating or OTB petition must have Primary Election Date**
 - ✦ **Independent petition must have General Election Date**
- ✓ Public Office or Party Position must include Town, District and Term of Office (if applicable).
- ✓ Each signature line must have **all** requested data in **ink**.
- ✓ The witness statement must have **all** requested data in **ink**.
- ✓ Any alterations or corrections must be initialed.

The purpose of this list is to provide filers with common petition errors. It is NOT a complete list of all possible petition errors or requirements per NYS Election Law.

2026 SIGNATURES REQUIRED

Official signature requirements as of February 20th, 2026.

OFFICES*	<i>DESIGNATING PETITIONS (by Party)</i>				<i>INDEPENDENT PETITIONS</i>
	DEM	REP	CON	WOR	
County Legislator, 3rd District	54	81	4	1	123
Berkshire Town Offices	11	25	1	1	29
Candor Town Offices	39	78	4	1	100
Nichols Town Offices	16	40	1	1	45
Owego Town Offices	182	289	12	3	417
Richford Town Offices	10	16	1	1	24
Spencer Town Offices	25	44	3	1	59
Tioga Town Offices	29	77	3	1	80

**Signature requirements are included only for Tioga County jurisdictions that have at least one office up for election in 2026. Petitioners for a Party Position (such as Delegate to a Judicial Convention or County Committee Member) should contact the Board of Elections or their Party leadership for signature requirements.*

The number of signatures required for Designating Petitions is based on 5% of party enrollment in that political unit (EL § 6-136[2]).

The number of signatures required for Independent Petitions is based on 5% of the total number of votes cast for governor at the last gubernatorial election in that political unit (EL § 6-142[2]).

POLICY FOR EXAMINING PETITONS

1. A Certificate of Examination form must be signed before petitions or certificates may be reviewed. If copies are requested, paper copies may be provided at a rate of \$0.25 per page. Electronic copies may be provided at no charge.
 2. Any person examining any petition or certificate may not use or have in his hand a pen or pencil during the process of examining a petition.
 3. No person or group may examine any petition or certificate for a period of more than two (2) consecutive hours if another person is waiting to examine the same petition or certificate.
 4. You may examine a petition or certificate only in the Board of Elections office, and in the presence of one or more employees of the Board.
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RULES FOR PETITION OBJECTIONS

Pursuant to Election Law § 6-154

Who may file objections to petitions or certificates?

Any registered voter who is eligible to vote for the named public office or party position.

Procedure for filing objections:

1. To be considered, general objections must be submitted **within three days** after the filing of a petition or certificate, or within three days after the last day to file such a certificate, if no such certificate is filed. These shall be filed with the same officer or board as the original petition or certificate.
2. The general objection must state only that there is an objection to a named petition or certificate, must be dated, signed, and contain the address and telephone number of the objector.
3. When such an objection is filed, specifications of the grounds of the objections shall be filed **within six days** thereafter with the same officer or board and if specifications are not timely filed, the objection shall be null and void.
4. Any person filing general objections to any designating or independent nominating petition filed with the County Board of Elections who thereafter files specifications of his objections to any such petition with such board shall do so in accordance with

the provisions of §6-154 of the NY Election Law. All such specifications shall substantially comply with the following requirements:

- A) The volume number (if applicable), page number, and line number of any signature objected to on any petition shall be set forth in detail. In addition, any portion of any petition or any signature line or witness statement objected to shall be specifically identified and reasons given for any such objection;
 - B) The total number of signatures objected to shall be set forth and all objections relating to a single signature line should be grouped together;
 - C) Symbols and/or abbreviations may be used to set forth objections, provided that a sheet explaining the meaning of any such symbols and/or abbreviations is attached to the specifications.
5. The objector filing the specifications must personally deliver or mail by overnight* mail a duplicate copy of the specifications to each candidate for public office named on the petition. In the case of a petition containing candidates for party position, service of the specifications shall be made on either the named candidates or the first person named on the petition's committee to fill vacancies. Service shall be made on or before the date of filing of any specifications with the Board. Proof of service shall accompany the specifications or be received by the end of two business days following the filing of the specifications, whichever is later.
**USPS Priority Mail Express is recommended.*
6. Notice shall be given by overnight mail to the objector and the candidate named in such petition or certificate of the date(s) on which the board shall consider the specifications filed, and board findings, the result of and research of the specifications, and shall make a determination as to the sufficiency of such petition or certificate and shall provide the objector and candidate or their agent(s) an opportunity to be heard as to the validity of each specific objection. Copies of the board's research of specifications shall accompany such notice.
7. Any notice and/or determination relating to a petition for which specifications of objections have been filed shall be transmitted by the Board to the objector filing the specifications.
8. Any candidate or objector may designate an attorney or agent to receive any notice and or determination on his or her behalf. Any such designation shall be in writing and include the name, address, email and telephone number of any such attorney or agent, and any such attorney and /or the agent shall be eligible to represent any such objector in any proceeding conducted by the Board relating to the specifications.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Who Must File?

All candidates and political committees are required to disclose, at specific times, all of the financial activity made in connection with their campaign or in support or opposition of candidates, committees or ballot proposals/propositions. Such disclosure is made by filing campaign financial disclosure reports.

When are Reports Filed?

****Check out the Campaign Financial Disclosure Filing Calendar available on our website or the SBOE website.**

Election Reports: There are three campaign financial disclosure reports filed in connection with each primary, general, and special election. The exact dates for filing are found on the political calendar, which you may pick up in our office, from our website, or the SBOE website. The following disclosures are to be filed:

- ✓ 32-day pre-election; **and**
- ✓ 11-day pre-election: **and**
- ✓ 10-day post-election for **primary elections**
- or-
- ✓ 27-day post-election for **general** or **special elections**

Periodic Reports: All candidates and committees obligated to file campaign financial disclosure reports must submit, in addition to any required election reports, periodic campaign financial disclosure reports twice a year on the following dates:

- ✓ January 17th
- ✓ July 17th

These periodic reports must be filed until such time as the **candidate or committee terminates** (CF-18; Termination or Resignation Request Form/ No-Activity Report Form).

How are Reports Filed?

**All campaign finance filings are to be submitted directly to the
New York State Board of Elections.**

Filers will need to acquire a Filer ID# and log-in information from NYSBOE. For detailed information on how to file reports, visit the NYSBOE campaign finance web page (<https://elections.ny.gov/campaign-finance>), or call the **Campaign Finance Unit** at **1-800-458-3453** OR **518-474-8200**, or email cinfo@elections.ny.gov.

Which Reports are Required to be Filed?

Candidates are obligated to file campaign financial disclosures unless they have an authorized committee which has registered with the NYS Board of Elections and the candidate is not going to raise or spend money themselves, except through their authorized committee. In this case, the candidate must file only a form [CF-16](#) (Candidate's Authorization for a Committee to make Campaign Financial Disclosures). This statement names the candidate's authorized committee that will file the financial disclosure statements on the candidate's behalf. The committee must file the form [CF-02](#) (Committee Registration/Treasurer and Bank Information) and [CF-03](#) (Committee Authorization Status). If the named treasurer does not file these documents ([CF-02 & CF-03](#)) which indicate that he/she has accepted the responsibility for filing the financial reports, then that responsibility remains with the candidate. In that case, the candidate must file a [CF-04](#) form to register and request a NYSBOE Filer ID#.

After the candidate/committee has filed the appropriate form(s) via mail, NYSBOE will send a Filer ID# and an email to set up a user log-in for the [Electronic Filing System \(EFS\) Web Application](#). All filers are now required to submit reports electronically via the EFS Web Application, unless a waiver has been granted by the NYSBOE.

Candidates who run their own campaigns (without a committee) **and** candidates with an authorized committee, who raise and spend monies outside of their committee, are required to file either "In-Lieu-Of", "Itemized" or "No-Activity" Financial Disclosure Statements. To file a report electronically, you must use your personal Filer ID information to log into the [EFS Web Application](#). Through this application, filers can create, submit, and view disclosure reports.

- You qualify to file an **In-Lieu-Of Statement** if you are a candidate and/or authorized committee solely supporting one candidate, or a ballot proposition committee, and if, at the close of each reporting period for which such statement would be required, neither the total receipts nor the total expenditures of the campaign have exceeded \$1,000, including the candidate's own money.
- An **Itemized Statement** is required once the \$1,000 threshold is exceeded. You must now file an itemized statement covering all transactions since the beginning of the campaign. Also, once an itemized report is required, you may not file an In-Lieu-Of Statement for any future reporting.
- A **No-Activity Statement** is to be filed by itemized filers when there are no transactions to report for the reporting period (i.e., receipts and/or expenditures).

Exemptions: In some instances, candidates or committees may be exempt from filing campaign financial disclosures. In these circumstances, the filer must submit a Claim of Exemption form ([CF-05](#)) and indicate one of the following reasons for being exempt:

- a. I am a candidate and I have not/will not receive or spend more than \$50 for my campaign, including my own personal funds.
- b. I am the treasurer of a committee formed solely to support or oppose a ballot proposition and the committee has not/will not raise or spend over \$100 relative to the ballot proposition.
- c. *For those in a town, city or village having a population under 10,000:* 1) I am a candidate for public office, or treasurer of an authorized committee solely supporting one candidate for public office, or treasurer of a committee solely supporting or opposing a ballot proposition; and 2) the receipts or expenditures of the candidate or committee will not exceed \$1,000 in the aggregate for the campaign.

For training on how to use the EFS Web Application and learn more details about campaign finance filing requirements:

- Go to www.elections.ny.gov, select **Campaign Finance** tab, then select **Electronic Filing System (EFS)** tab and scroll down to find links to register for an EFS training webinar, view training videos, download user guides, and more.

For any and all other information you may go to any of the following sources:

- State of New York Election Law, Article 14 – Campaign Receipts and Expenditures
- NYS Board of Elections - [Campaign Finance Handbook](#)
- NYS Board of Elections – [EFS Web Application User Guide](#)
- NYS Board of Elections Website: www.elections.ny.gov
- Contact the New York State Board of Elections Campaign Finance Unit
 - Call them at 1-800-458-3453 OR 518-474-8200
 - Email them at cfinfo@elections.ny.gov

FURTHER PROVISIONS

Please be aware that there may be other requirements which apply to running for certain offices. These may include but may not be limited to:

Financial Disclosure Requirements:

- Utilize the resources listed in the Campaign Finance section to ensure you are completing all necessary disclosure requirements.

Hatch Act:

- osc.gov/Services/Pages/HatchAct.aspx
- Call 1-800-85 HATCH

The Commission on Judicial Conduct:

- cjc.ny.gov
- Call (646) 386-4800 - Main Office
- (518) 453-4600 - Albany
- (585) 784-4141 - Rochester

Judicial Campaign Ethics Center:

- nycourts.gov/ip/jcec/
- 1-888-600-JCEC

State Ethics Commission:

- Call 1-800-873-8442

Legislative Ethics Committee:

- Call (518) 432-7837

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