



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS  
P.O. BOX 304  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0304

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

TAHESHA WAY  
*Acting Secretary of State*

**PETITION FILING INSTRUCTION SHEET  
2020 PRIMARY ELECTION  
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**This information sheet is not meant to encompass all of the statutory and constitutional requirements for filing petitions, but is to be used only as a guide. If you have any additional questions, you should seek legal counsel.**

The New Jersey Division of Elections accepts petitions on behalf of the Secretary of State, who serves as the Chief Election Official of the State of New Jersey. Set forth below are qualifications for candidacy along with an overview of the statutory requirements for submitting petitions to conform with Title 19, the Election Laws of New Jersey.

**Candidate petitions may be filed in person or mailed, but must be received by the deadline date; on or before 4:00 p.m. on March 30, 2020. (N.J.S.A. 19:23-14)**

Pursuant to the Constitution of the United States, Article 1, Section 2, Clause 2, to qualify as a candidate for the office of United States House of Representatives, you must meet the following qualifications:

- shall have attained the age of 25 years by the day of the swearing into office
- a United States Citizen for seven years by the day of the swearing into office
- a resident of New Jersey as of the day of the General Election

Each candidate should read and follow petition instructions.

In accordance with Title 19, petitions must meet the following requirements:

- Candidate's name, residence address, post-office address, and candidate's email address must appear on each petition. (N.J.S.A. 19:23-7); (Page 1 of Petition)
- The circulator/witness is the person who collected the signatures on the petition and must complete and sign the "**Affidavit of Person who Circulates this Petition and Witnesses Signatures**" where indicated. If the same person circulates more than one petition, he/she must complete the Affidavit of Circulator in each booklet. **Note: Affidavit must be notarized** (N.J.S.A. 19:23-11); (Page 12 of Petition)
- The circulator does not have to be a signer of the petition but must be a registered voter in the State who is affiliated with the same political party named in the petition (N.J.S.A. 19:23-11);
- Candidate must sign an "**Oath of Allegiance.**" (N.J.S.A. 19:23-15); (Page 15 of Petition)  
**Note: Oath of allegiance must be notarized;**

- Candidate must sign a **“Certificate of Acceptance to be Signed by Candidate.”** (N.J.S.A. 19:23-15); (Page 16 of Petition)
- **“Candidate’s Request for Slogan on the Official Primary Election Ballot.”** A candidate may request a designation/slogan which must not exceed six (6) words. Further, “...no such designation or slogan shall include or refer to the name of any person or any incorporated association of this State unless the written consent of such person or incorporated association of this State has been filed with the petition of nomination of such candidate or group of candidates”. (N.J.S.A. 19:23-17); (Page 13 of Petition)
- Contain the names, addresses and signatures of at least 200 registered voters who are affiliated with the same political party named in the petition in the Congressional District on the **“Signature Sheet”**. (N.J.S.A. 19:23-8); (Pages 2-11 of Petition)

The person submitting a petition will be asked to provide the day and evening telephone numbers in addition to an email address of the candidate, in order to notify him or her if a challenge to the petition is filed. The daytime phone number will also be used for public information purposes, i.e., press/citizen inquiry.

Completed candidate petitions can either be hand-delivered or mailed to the Division of Elections. Please find the addresses listed below.

**Office Location:**  
20 W. State Street, 4th Floor  
Trenton, NJ 08608

**Mailing Address for United States Postal Service:**  
P.O. Box 304  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0304

**Delivery address for all other carriers, i.e., UPS, FedEx, etc.:**  
20 W. State Street, 4th Floor  
Trenton, NJ 08608

**Schedule a candidate petition filing appointment:**

In an effort to improve the petition filing experience, the Division of Elections offers petition filers an opportunity to schedule an appointment prior to the petition filing date. Scheduling an appointment will improve the petition filing process and help reduce the time spent filing your petition.

**We suggest filing your petition as early as possible!**

Schedule an appointment by visiting <http://nj.gov/state/elections/candidate-petitions.html>.