



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  
*Secretary of State*

**PETITION FILING INSTRUCTION SHEET  
2021 GENERAL ELECTION  
NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**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(s) petitions may be filed in person by appointment only, by mail or electronically, but must be received by the deadline date, on or before 4:00 p.m. on *June 8, 2021* the day of the primary election. (N.J.S.A. 19:13-9)**

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, Article IV, Section 1, Paragraph 2, to qualify as a candidate for the office of New Jersey General Assembly, you must meet the following qualifications:

- shall have attained the age of 21 years by the day of the swearing into office
- a United States Citizen
- a resident of New Jersey for two years as of the day of the General Election
- a resident of the legislative district for one year as of the day of the General Election
- a legal voter by the day the petition is filed

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. 19:13-6);
- Signed "**Affidavit of Person who Circulates this Petition and Witnesses Signatures**". The person who circulates the petition does not have to be a signer of the petition and shall not be required to be a registered voter, but shall be voter eligible, which means at least 18 years of age, a resident of this State, a citizen of the United States, and not otherwise disqualified from voting under the State Constitution or election laws of New Jersey. **Note: Affidavit must be notarized.** (N.J.S.A. 19:13-7);

- Candidate(s) must sign an “**Oath of Allegiance.**” (N.J.S.A. 19:13-8);  
**Note: Oath of allegiance must be notarized;**
- Candidate(s) must sign a “**Certificate of Acceptance to be Signed by Candidate.**” (N.J.S.A. 19:13-8);
- Candidate(s) must sign a “**Disclosure Statement of Criminal Conviction.**” (N.J.S.A. 19:13-8);
- Contain the names, addresses and signatures of at least 100 legally qualified New Jersey voters in the Legislative District on the “**Signature Sheet**”. (N.J.S.A. 19:13-5);
- If Candidate(s) are requesting that their names be bracketed, their names must appear the same on all petition booklets (N.J.S.A. 19:14-10);
- “**Candidate’s Request for Slogan on the Official General Election Ballot.**” A candidate shall state a designation/slogan which must not exceed three (3) words. Further, “...no such designation shall contain the designation name, derivative, or any part thereof as a noun or an adjective of any political party entitled to participate in the primary.” (N.J.S.A. 19:13-4);

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, mailed or submitted electronically to the Division of Elections. Please find the contact information 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

Submit electronically to one of the following email addresses:  
[dawn.schilling@sos.nj.gov](mailto:dawn.schilling@sos.nj.gov); or [donna.barber@sos.nj.gov](mailto:donna.barber@sos.nj.gov).

**PLEASE BE ADVISED:** Petitions being submitted in person require a petition filing appointment. The Division of Elections is not accepting walk-in appointments.

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

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