



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

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Governor

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Secretary of State

**PETITION FILING INSTRUCTION SHEET
2023 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 consult Title 19 of the New Jersey Statutes or seek legal counsel.

In order to confirm the correct legislative district information for candidates and signers, please refer to <https://www.apportionmentcommission.org/adoption2022map.asp>.

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 of the New Jersey Statutes.

Candidate petitions may be filed in person or by mail, but must be received on or before 4:00 p.m. on *June 6, 2023 (N.J.S.A. 19:13-19)*.

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
- 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
- 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); (Page 1 of Petition)
- 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 at least 18 years of age, 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); (Page 12 of Petition)

- Candidate(s) must sign an **“Oath of Allegiance.”** (N.J.S.A. 19:13-8); (Pages 14 & 15 of Petition)
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); (Pages 16 & 17 of Petition)
- Candidate(s) must sign a **“Disclosure Statement of Criminal Conviction.”** (N.J.S.A. 19:13-8);
(Pages 18 & 19 of Petition)
- **“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); (Page 13 of Petition)
- 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);
- Contain the names, addresses and signatures of at least 50 legally qualified New Jersey voters in the Legislative District on the **“Signature Sheet”**. (N.J.S.A. 19:13-5); (Pages 2-11 of Petition) (“In case of a first general election to be held in a newly established election district, county, city or other political division, the number of fifty signatures to a petition shall be sufficient to nominate a candidate to be voted for only in such election district, county, city or other political division.”)

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 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

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.

Schedule an appointment by visiting <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/candidate-petition-filing.shtml>.

We suggest filing your petition as early as possible!