



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

P.O. Box 300

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0300

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

**PETITION FILING INSTRUCTION SHEET
2026 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.

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 by mail, but must be received by the deadline date, on or before 4:00 p.m. on *March 23, 2026*. (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. If more than one person circulates the same petition booklet or multiple petition booklets, all individuals will need to complete an Affidavit of Circulator.
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 an individual who is affiliated with the same political party named in the petition, at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States and not otherwise disqualified from voting (N.J.S.A. 19:23-11);

- Candidate must sign ONE of the following: an **“Oath of Allegiance.”**; **“Affirmation of Allegiance”** or **“Declaration of Allegiance”**; (N.J.S.A. 19:23-15); (Pages 15-17 of Petition)
Note: Oath of allegiance, Affirmation of allegiance or Declaration 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 18 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 500 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 contact information listed below.

Office Location:
225 W. State Street, 1st 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.:
225 W. State Street, 1st 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 <http://nj.gov/state/elections/candidate-petitions.html>.

We suggest filing your petition as early as possible!