

Candidate Petition Processing 2024

Presented by:
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Indiana Election Division
Election Administrator's Conference
December 11-13, 2023
Indianapolis, Indiana



2024 Petition Tsunami!!!



Petitions

- Candidates for President, U.S. Senate and Governor will file petitions for signature verification to get on the May 2024 primary ballot.
- In each case, county voter registration office must verify the signatures are registered voters of their county.

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

First day to file a petition of nomination with a county.

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

NOON DEADLINE for a (R,D) candidate for Presidential Primary to file petition of nomination with the county.

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

NOON DEADLINE for a (R, D) candidate for U.S. Senator or Governor for Primary Nomination to file petition of nomination with the county.

Friday, February 9, 2024

DEADLINE, by noon, Indianapolis time, for (R, D) President, U.S. Senator, or Governor candidate to file a declaration of candidacy and petitions for placement on the primary election ballot with the election division following certification of petition signatures by county voter registration offices.

County Process Examples

1. Count the pages while the carrier is there and have them enter the number. **Pro Tip: look at front and back.**
2. File stamp each page.
3. Carrier completes form.
4. Once verification is complete, carrier is called to retrieve petitions.
5. When carrier arrives, do a second verification count, enter it on the form and have the carrier sign.
6. Copies of all form and filed stamped petitions are then kept for future reference. This includes petitions filed with the state.

Jennings County Election Office

P.O. Box 385 Vernon, IN 47282 * Phone: (812) 352-3080 * Fax: (812) 352-3081

Email: vote@jenningscounty-in.gov

Date: _____

____ pages of petition signatures were submitted to the Election Office for verification by

Signature

Print

Contact information

Date: _____

____ pages of verified petition signatures were returned.

Signature

Print

Hamilton County Examples

1. First come, first serve basis
2. Petition carrier completes the form.
3. Count the pages twice while carrier is there.
4. Time stamp each page
5. County does required daily work (registrations and cancellations) before petition processing.
6. Make copies of petitions
7. Call the contact for pick up.
8. Carrier must sign form with date and time petitions were picked up.
9. If requested to send to IED, county sends as soon as they are done.

RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

Candidate: _____

Number of Petition Forms: _____

Representative delivering Petition: _____

Phone Number of Representative: _____

Signature of person delivering Petition: _____

Person picking up Petition: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date forms transferred to candidate: _____

Number of Petition forms: _____

Number of verified signatures: _____

Signature of person picking up Petition: _____

Printed name of person picking up Petition: _____

Ballot Access *Through Petition*

Forms for Primary Election 2024

Major Party Presidential Primary Candidate

- Declaration of Candidacy (request for Placement on Ballot) (CAN-7)
- Petition for Primary Ballot Placement (CAN-8)

IC 3-8-3-1 | IC 3-8-3-2



Ballot Access *Through Petition*

Forms for Primary Election 2024

U.S. Senator (Democratic or Republican candidates only)

- Declaration of Candidacy (CAN-2)
- Petition for Primary Ballot Placement (CAN-4)

IC 3-8-2-8

Ballot Access **Through Petition**

Forms for Primary Election 2024

Governor (Democratic or Republican candidates only)

- Declaration of Candidacy (CAN-2)
- Petition for Primary Ballot Placement (CAN-25)
- Statement of Economic Interest (CAN-12)

IC 3-8-2-8

Ballot Access *Through Petition*

Forms for Primary Election 2024

Minor party and independent candidates *WHO WANT THEIR NAME TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT*

- Petition of Nomination Form for Federal, State, State Legislative, or Certain Local Offices (CAN-19)
 - Judge and prosecuting attorney candidates ONLY since these petitions ultimately filed with the State
- Candidate's Consent (CAN-20)
- Statement of Economic Interest will be filed later with appropriate state agency

IC 3-8-1-33 | IC 3-8-6-2

Petition Signature Counts

- **Major Party Presidential Primary Candidates, U.S. Senator, and Governor**
 - Minimum 500 certified signatures from registered voters in each of the NINE Congressional districts to qualify for Democratic & Republican primary election ballot.
- **School Board**
 - Minimum 10 certified signatures from registered voters (for most school board positions) Some variation based on type of school corporation: “community” versus “metropolitan” school corporations, and others.
- **Minor Party & Independent Candidates**
 - Minimum certified signatures of registered voters totaling 2% of total votes cast for all candidates in 2022 SOS Race for election district sought
 - See back of *2024 Candidate Guide* for county-by-county and statewide totals
 - IED calculates signature requirement for state legislative candidates
 - County calculates signature requirement for local offices where the election district is smaller than the county
 - Small town minimum: 5 registered voters must sign petition if town is located entirely within one precinct, but does not include ENTIRE precinct.



Individuals signing a petition of nomination must be registered voters within the election district when the petition is processed by county officials.



Filing Process, **Generally**

- 1) Submit petitions to the county VR official for review and certification
 - For CAN-21 & CAN-34 petitions (local office and school board), the CAN-12 must be submitted when petitions are filed for review in MOST counties, including Lake, Porter & Tippecanoe
 - In the few counties with a separate Board of Registration, the CAN-12 is to be filed with the certified petitions
 - Failure to file CAN-12 at this point in the process requires the CAN-21 or CAN-34 petitions to be rejected
 - Candidate **MAY** collect certified petitions from county VR official
 - Candidates are encouraged to leave contact information with county to call when petition review is completed
- 2) File certified petitions along with candidate's consent and statement of economic interests to appropriate agency.



County VR official may **ONLY** review information for voter residing in their county.
Exception: school board candidates where school corporation is in more than one county.



Deadline to Submit **Petition for Review?**

Primary Election

- Presidential Primary Candidates
 - January 10, 2024 through NOON (local prevailing time) January 30, 2024
- U.S. Senate and Governor Primary Candidates
 - January 10, 2024 through NOON (local prevailing time) February 6, 2024

General Election

- Minor Party/Independent Candidates
 - Submit CAN-19 or CAN-21 petitions to counties for review & certification:
 - January 10, 2024 through NOON (local prevailing time), July 1, 2024 (transferred from Sunday, June 30, 2024)
 - Don't forget to file the CAN-12 with the CAN-21!
- School Board
 - Submit CAN-34 to counties for review & certification:
 - **NEW!** May 21, 2024, through NOON (local prevailing time), June 20, 2024
 - Don't forget to file the CAN-12 with the CAN-34!

Required Petition Elements



INDIANA PETITION FOR PRIMARY BALLOT PLACEMENT AS A CANDIDATE FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR IN 2024

(CAN-4)

State Form 46434 (R15 / 6-23)

Indiana Election Division (IC 3-8-2-8, IC 3-8-2-9(a), IC 3-6-12)

COUNTY: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: This petition is used to request a candidate be placed on the May 7, 2024 Democratic or Republican Primary Election Ballot for the office of United States Senator. Petitioners are not required to provide precinct/ward or Congressional district information. Except in cases of disability, the petitioner must complete this information in the petitioner's own handwriting. If assistance is provided due to disability, the assister must complete the affidavit on the reverse of this form. Each candidate must also complete a Declaration of Candidacy for Primary Nomination form (CAN-2). This petition must be filed with the appropriate county voter registration office for processing not earlier than January 10, 2024, and not later than NOON, February 6, 2024. All original, certified CAN-4 petitions, along with the CAN-2, must be filed with the Secretary of State or Indiana Election Division not later than NOON, Feb. 9, 2024.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF INDIANA OR THE INDIANA ELECTION DIVISION:

Each of the undersigned represents that 1) the individual resides at the address after the individual's signature at the time this petition was processed by county voter registration officials; 2) the individual is a duly qualified registered voter in Indiana, and 3) the individual desires to be able to vote for the candidate listed below; and 4) each of the undersigned respectfully requests you to place the following name of the legally qualified candidate for United States Senator on the May 7, 2024 Primary Election Ballot as a candidate of the (check one box) Democratic Party or Republican Party.

CANDIDATE NAME <i>(Note: the candidate's ballot name is established on CAN-2 form)</i>	COMPLETE CANDIDATE ADDRESS <i>(Does not need to match the CAN-2 form.)</i>	OFFICE SOUGHT

SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME		DATE OF BIRTH MM/DD/YYYY	RESIDENCE ADDRESS (No P.O. Boxes)			CITY or TOWN and ZIP CODE	For Office Use Only		
	First	Last		Number	Street	Apartment		REG (Y/N)	PCT/ WARD	CD
1										
2										

PETITION CARRIER CERTIFICATION *(Must be completed on each petition submitted for filing.)*

I affirm under the penalties for perjury that I have no reason to believe that any individual whose signature appears on this page is ineligible to sign this petition or did not properly complete and sign this page.

CARRIER'S SIGNATURE _____ CARRIER'S PRINTED NAME _____ CARRIER'S DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, year) _____ DATE SIGNED BY CARRIER (month, day, year) _____, 20____

CARRIER'S FULL ADDRESS, INCLUDING ZIP CODE *(number and street, city, state, and ZIP code)* _____

Note: Indiana state law does not require a petition carrier to be an Indiana resident or registered voter of Indiana to circulate or gather petition signatures for a candidate. All fields in this certification must be completed before filing with the county closes at noon, February 6, 2024, or the petition is rejected.

Required Petition Elements



LOCAL OFFICE PETITION OF NOMINATION IN 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

State Form 56760 (R3 / 6-23)

Indiana Election Division (IC 3-8-6-5; IC 3-8-6-6(b); IC 3-6-12)

(CAN-21)

COUNTY: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: This petition is used to nominate independent candidates or candidates of a minor political party. Petitioners are not required to provide precinct and ward information. Except in cases of disability, the petitioner must complete this information in the petitioner's own handwriting. If assistance is provided due to disability, the assister must complete the affidavit on the reverse of this form. This petition must be filed with the appropriate county voter registration office for processing not earlier than January 10, 2024 and not later than NOON, July 1, 2024. Each candidate must also file a statement of economic interest (CAN-12 form) at the time the CAN-21 is filed with county voter registration office for review. Not later than NOON, July 15, 2024, the original, certified CAN-21 petitions, along with the Candidate's Consent form (CAN-20) and statement of economic interests (CAN-12), must be filed with the appropriate county election board. Candidates for Federal, State, State Legislative Offices, county-level judge, or prosecuting attorney should use a CAN-19 form, not this form. School Board Candidates should use a CAN-34 form, not this form.

TO THE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK OF _____ COUNTY:

Each of the undersigned represents that: 1) the individual resides at the address after the individual's signature at the time this petition was processed by county voter registration officials; 2) the individual is a duly qualified registered voter in Indiana; and 3) the individual desires to be able to vote for the candidates listed below on the November 5, 2024 General Election Ballot as (check one box)

an independent candidate (only one (1) independent candidate allowed per petition) OR a candidate on the _____ Party ticket.

CANDIDATE NAME <i>(Note: the candidate's ballot name is established on the CAN-20 form)</i>		COMPLETE CANDIDATE ADDRESS <i>(If different from residence, include mailing address.)</i>			OFFICE SOUGHT	File with petition any political party device to be printed on the ballot under IC 3-8-7-11
1						
2						
3						
4						
SIGNATURE		PRINTED NAME First Last	DATE OF BIRTH MM/DD/YYYY	RESIDENCE ADDRESS (No P.O. Boxes) Number Street Apartment	CITY or TOWN and ZIP CODE	Office Use Only REG (Y/N) PCT/ WARD
1						

CAN-21

CAN-19



INDIANA PETITION OF NOMINATION FOR FEDERAL, STATE, STATE LEGISLATIVE, OR CERTAIN LOCAL OFFICES IN 2024

State Form 36186 (R23 / 6-23)

Indiana Election Division (IC 3-8-6-5; IC 3-8-6-6(b); IC 3-6-12)

(CAN-19)

COUNTY: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: This petition is used to nominate independent candidates or candidates of a minor political party. Petitioners are not required to provide precinct and ward information. Except in cases of disability, the petitioner must complete this information in the petitioner's own handwriting. If assistance is provided due to disability, the assister must complete the affidavit on the reverse of this form. This petition must be filed with the appropriate county voter registration office for processing not earlier than January 10, 2024 and not later than NOON, July 1, 2024. Each candidate must also file a Candidate's Consent form (CAN-20), original certified petitions, and file-stamped copy of the statement of economic interests with the Indiana Secretary of State or Indiana Election Division not later than NOON, July 15, 2024. Candidates for county-level judge or prosecuting attorney should use this form, not the CAN-21. Candidates for other Local Offices should use a CAN-21 form, not this form. School Board Candidates should use a CAN-34 form, not this form. Presidential Candidates must complete certification of presidential elector candidates on the reverse.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF INDIANA OR THE INDIANA ELECTION DIVISION: Each of the undersigned represents that: 1) the individual resides at the address after the individual's signature at the time this petition was processed by county voter registration officials; 2) the individual is a duly qualified registered voter in Indiana; 3) the individual desires to be able to vote for the candidates listed below on the November 5, 2024 General Election Ballot; and 4) each of the undersigned respectfully requests you place the following name(s) of the legally qualified candidates for the office listed as (check one box) an independent candidate (only one (1) independent candidate allowed per petition) or independent ticket for President/Vice President or Governor/Lieutenant Governor OR as candidates on the _____ Party ticket.

CANDIDATE NAME <i>(Note: the candidate's ballot name is established on the CAN-20 form)</i>		COMPLETE CANDIDATE ADDRESS <i>(If different from residence, include mailing address.)</i>			OFFICE SOUGHT	File with petition any political party device to be printed on the ballot under IC 3-8-7-11
1						
2						
3						
SIGNATURE		PRINTED NAME First Last	DATE OF BIRTH MM/DD/YYYY	RESIDENCE ADDRESS (No P.O. Boxes) Number Street Apartment	CITY or TOWN and ZIP CODE	Office Use Only REG (Y/N) PCT/ WARD

Required Petition Elements

CAN-4 (US Senate)

- Candidate's name, address and office sought
- Note – petitioners are not required to provide precinct and congressional district info.

While it's helpful if the candidate's name and address on the CAN-4, CAN-19 & CAN-21 corresponds with their Indiana voter registration record, it does not need to do so. Instead, the CAN-2 and CAN-20, respectively, establishes this information for purposes of communication after candidate filing and the candidate's ballot name.



Required Petition Elements

CAN-19 & CAN-21

- Minor Party Candidates
- Candidate name(s)
- Up to 3 individuals from the same political party may circulate the same petitions & those tallies apply to each candidate, if they are running in the same election district
- Candidate(s) address & office sought

Independent Candidates

- Candidate name, address & office sought
- Only ONE independent candidate may be included on a petition because an independent candidate is not affiliated with a political party.

“Independent” means not affiliated with any political party.

IC 3-8-6-4| IC 3-5-2-26.6





Required Petition Elements



	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME		DATE OF BIRTH MM/DD/YYYY	RESIDENCE ADDRESS (No P.O. Boxes)			CITY or TOWN and ZIP CODE	For Office Use Only		
		First	Last		Number	Street	Apartment		REG (Y/N)	PCT/ WARD	CD
1											
2											

Signature of voter

- Must reasonably conform to the registration record
- Check for voter assistance affidavit on the back

Printed first and last name

- Name should reasonably conform to registration record

Residence Address

- Voter is to be registered at the address indicated on the petition **at the time** the petition is reviewed by county VR officials
- IC 3-5-6-4 & IC 3-5-6-5 discuss minor & substantial variations in addresses

IC 3-5-6-6 | IC 3-5-6-4 | IC 3-5-6-5



Required Petition Elements

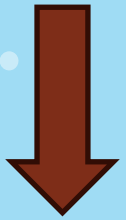
Petition Carrier Affidavit

ALL petition carriers (including candidates!) MUST complete the affidavit on the bottom of the form (petition side).

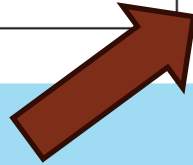
PETITION CARRIER CERTIFICATION <i>(Must be completed on each petition submitted for filing.)</i>			
I affirm under the penalties for perjury that I have no reason to believe that any individual whose signature appears on this page is ineligible to sign this petition or did not properly complete and sign this page.			
CARRIER'S SIGNATURE _____	CARRIER'S PRINTED NAME _____	CARRIER'S DATE OF BIRTH <small>(month, day, year)</small> _____, 20____	DATE SIGNED BY CARRIER <small>(month, day, year)</small> _____
CARRIER'S FULL ADDRESS, INCLUDING ZIP CODE <small>(number and street, city, state, and ZIP code)</small> _____		Note: Indiana state law does not require a petition carrier to be an Indiana resident or registered voter of Indiana to circulate or gather petition signatures for a candidate. All fields in this certification must be completed before filing with the county closes at noon, February 6, 2024, or the petition is rejected.	

Best possible notice must be given to a petition carrier if the "petition carrier certification" is incomplete. If petition carrier does not correct their affidavit by the petition certification deadline, then the petition is not to be reviewed by county VR officials. (IC 3-6-12-7; IC 3-6-12-8; IC 3-6-12-9)

Other Petition Elements



	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME		DATE OF BIRTH MM/DD/YYYY	RESIDENCE ADDRESS (No P.O. Boxes)			CITY or TOWN and ZIP CODE	For Office Use Only		
		First	Last		Number	Street	Apartment		REG (Y/N)	PCT/ WARD	CD
1											
2											



Date of Birth is NOT a required petition element
Included on form to assist county in identifying registered voter
May not reject a signature if DOB is missing

Don't forget to update the "Office Use Only" section(s) of the CAN-4, CAN-19, or CAN-21 paper form, and do NOT mark through a petitioner's name!

Finalizing Review

- Once petition is reviewed, VR official will:
 - Complete back of petition form
 - Note number of certified signatures
 - If Pres/Senate/Gov include how many signatures came from which CD
 - Sign document (seal is not required)
- Certified forms
 - Candidate can collect them from VR office
 - OR
 - VR can send to the Indiana Election Division, if candidate is running for statewide, state legislative, or federal office

No statutory deadline to finish verification process; however, any critical delay could lead to court action by candidate or party



Petition Certification



COUNTY #1 VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE CERTIFICATION

I certify that, in accordance with IC 3-8-2-9, I have reviewed the registration records of the petitioners on this petition and certify the following total number to be registered voters of this County. I also certify the following Congressional District breakdown of petitioners on this petition who are registered voters.

County:		Total Number of Valid Signatures:	
Witness my/our hand and seal this ____ day of _____, 2024, at _____ Indiana.	COUNTY SEAL HERE	Congressional District	
		Number of Valid Signatures	
Signature 1		<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk of the Circuit Court or <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Board of Registration (D)	
Signature 2, <i>if applicable</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Board of Registration (R)	

COUNTY #2 VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE CERTIFICATION, IF APPLICABLE

I certify that, in accordance with IC 3-8-2-9, I have reviewed the registration records of the petitioners on this petition and certify the following total number to be registered voters of this County. I also certify the following Congressional District breakdown of petitioners on this petition who are registered voters.

County:		Total Number of Valid Signatures:	
Witness my/our hand and seal this ____ day of _____, 2024, at _____ Indiana.	COUNTY SEAL HERE	Congressional District	
		Number of Valid Signatures	
Signature 1		<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk of the Circuit Court or <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Board of Registration (D)	
Signature 2, <i>if applicable</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Board of Registration (R)	

AFFIDAVIT OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO PETITIONER(S) WITH DISABILITIES

I affirm under the penalties for perjury that I assisted the following petitioners, due to disability, in writing the petitioner's signature, printed name, and residence address on this petition:

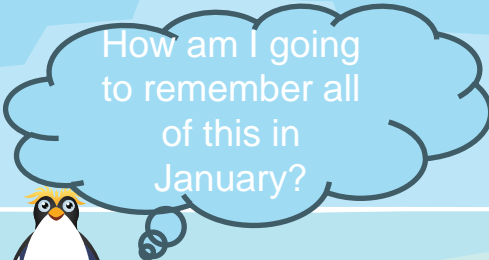
Names of Petitioners Assisted by me: _____

_____, 20____
 DATE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED (month, day, year)

ASSISTERS SIGNATURE _____ ASSISTERS PRINTED NAME _____ ASSISTERS ADDRESS (number and street, city, state, and ZIP code) _____

Petition Certification

- Back of petition includes certification for county VR officials to complete
- Up to two counties can use this certification, if petition includes signatures from more than one county
- After signature review, county completes ONE certification box
 - Extra box below in case petition has signatures of individuals who live in differing counties
 - Only one signature line is required for MOST counties
 - Second signature required if county has a bi-partisan Board of Voter Registration



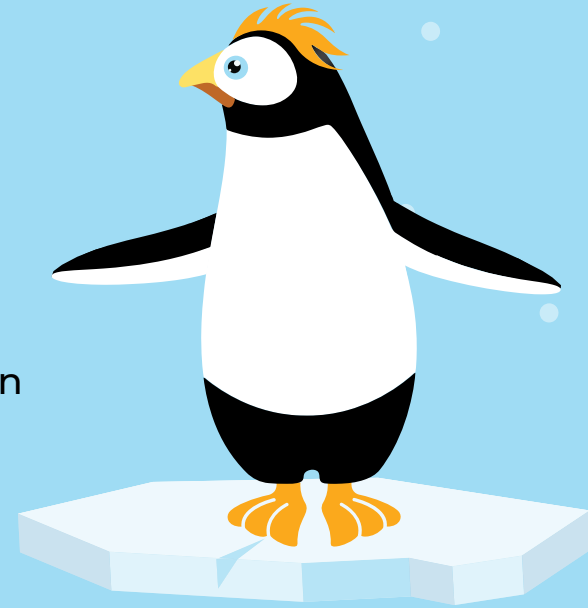
FAQS

Who can circulate petitions?

• **ANYONE** can be a petition carrier, even a candidate

Can anyone sign a petition?

Yes, but only properly registered Indiana voters living in the election district count toward the total, assuming the individual's residence address on their registration record is substantially similar to the residence address included on the petition at the *time the petition is processed by county VR officials*



What if the person updates their registration at the same time they sign the petition?

- Depends on the timing
- Current residence address indicated on petition must be substantially similar to the one on the person's voter registration record at the time the petition is reviewed and processed. Minor variation in addresses is permitted.
 - Registration updated **BEFORE** petitions are reviewed, then it's likely OK
 - Registration updated **AFTER** petitions are reviewed, then signature is rejected

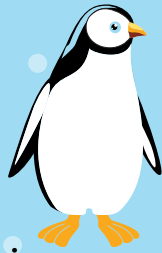
FAQS

Do all the signatures on the same petition have to come from the same county?

- No, not under state law
- Possible all ten signature lines on a petition form could be completed by voters living in ten different counties
- Practically speaking, this is a headache for candidates AND counties
 - Candidates would hope county A finished their work before the deadline in order to submit the remainder to county B on time for verification and so on



FAQS



Do signatures have to be original?

YES! Absolutely no copies of signatures, emails or faxes containing signatures, electronic, digital, or digitized signatures.

Can a voter with a disability be provided assistance in completing the petition?

YES. Person providing assistance must complete the affidavit on the back side of the petition.

Do we reject a petition for signature review if the “back side” of the petition form is not part of the submission? Or front/back of petition is stapled together?

Common sense should prevail

- Counties can make additional certification sheet copies to attach to the petition, if necessary
- However, omitting the second page of the form may result in a rejected signature if a person requested assistance from another individual and the completed affidavit of assistance is missing.

FAQS

- **Do we reject a petition if it's not on the current version of the form (or a form grandfathered as noted on the IED order)?**
- **Do we reject a petition if it's filed with the county after the submission deadline?**
- **Do we reject a petition if the CAN-12 was due at the time the CAN-21 or CAN-34 petition was filed for review?**

Yes. State law requires you to reject the petition.

EXCEPTION: In the few counties with a separate board of VR, the CAN-12 is filed with the certified petitions & candidate's consent

Filed Certified Petitions

Independent/Minor Party Local Candidates for general election

Candidate's consent (CAN-20), certified CAN-21 petitions & CAN-12 filed not later than noon (local prevailing time), July 15, 2022



IC 3-8-6-10

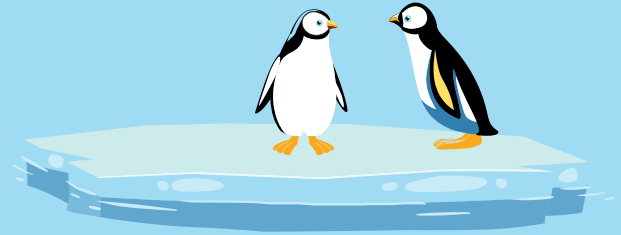
Certification of **Petition Signatures**

For CAN-19, CAN-34 petitions, if candidate does **NOT** file enough signatures to meet the filing requirement, then county clerk **MUST** notify the candidate that they failed to qualify for the ballot.

This can be done:

- In person, if the candidate files the petition in person; or
- By certified mail.

A candidate may file a CAN-1 challenge by the stated deadline to appeal the decision at a CEB hearing



Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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