

WILL COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE NOMINATING PETITIONS - APPARENT CONFORMITY POLICY

OVERVIEW

The Will County Clerk's Office will follow this policy in reviewing all candidate nominating petitions prior to their acceptance and certification. The goal of this policy is to establish a uniform standard to determine whether petitions are in "apparent conformity" as stated below in 10 ILCS 5/10-8:

"Except as otherwise provided in this Code, certificates of nomination and nomination papers, and petitions to submit public questions to a referendum, being filed as required by this Code, and being in apparent conformity with the provisions of this Act, shall be deemed to be valid unless objection thereto is duly made in writing within 5 business days after the last day for filing the certificate of nomination or nomination papers or petition..."

POLICY

The intent of the Will County Clerk's Office is to accept and certify all candidate nominating petitions that are in "apparent conformity." In making that determination, the Will County Clerk's Office staff will conduct a limited review of the petitions to determine whether:

- A Statement of Candidacy is being filed, and
- The nominating sheets contain at least 10 percent of the minimum number of signatures required for the office sought.
 - Staff will conduct a **10-percent signature count only**.
 - Staff **will not** verify the validity of any signatures.

Nominating petitions that do not meet these two basic criteria will not be accepted. Candidates will be informed at the time of filing if their petitions are not in "apparent conformity." Candidates will have until the close of the filing period to file petitions that are in "apparent conformity."

THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE DOES NOT PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE

The Will County Clerk's Office wishes to assist all candidates in filing their nominating petitions. However, the Will County Clerk's Office does not provide legal advice or legal assistance. Discussions with Will County Clerk's Office staff during the filing process should not be considered legal advice.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The acceptance and certification of nominating petitions by the Will County Clerk's Office does not constitute a decision or ruling on the validity of the petitions pursuant to the Illinois Election Code. Petitions may be challenged for any number of reasons under the Election Code. The Will County Clerk's Office will make no representations and offers no assurances regarding the outcome of potential legal challenges to any petitions.

CANDIDATE RESPONSIBILITIES

Candidates are responsible for completing their nominating packets completely and properly. Candidates are strongly encouraged to seek legal counsel to review their nominating petitions before filing. A candidate's responsibilities include but are not limited to filing the number of required valid signatures for the office they seek; meeting the age, residency, or other qualifications for the office; numbering petition sheets consecutively; notarizing required documents; and ensuring Statement of Economic Interest receipts are filed. This is not a complete list. For more information on nominating petition filing, candidates are encouraged to review the Illinois State Board of Elections' Candidate's Guide. A link to that guide is provided on the Will County Clerk's website at willcountyclerk.gov under **Elections/Candidate Services**