

## CIRCULATING PETITIONS

May a candidate circulate their own petitions?

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Yes.

When can the circulator start collecting signatures?

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No more than 90 days prior to the last day for filing petitions. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 8-8, 10-4)

If a candidate finds something wrong with their petitions after they are filed, can a new set of petitions be circulated and filed before the end of the filing period?

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Yes, but the candidate must cancel the original set of petitions in writing. If the candidate fails to cancel the original set of petitions, then only the original petitions shall be considered filed and all subsequent petitions shall be void. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(11), 10-6.2)

May a circulator circulate petitions for an independent candidate and a partisan candidate, or for more than one political party?

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No person shall circulate or certify petitions for candidates of more than one political party, or for an independent candidate or candidates in addition to one political party, to be voted upon at the next primary or general election, or for such candidates and parties with respect to the same political subdivision at the next consolidated election. (10 ILCS 5/10-4)

May a circulator circulate petitions for a partisan candidate, or for more than one political party?

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No. (10 ILCS 5/10-4)

Does the circulator have to be a registered voter?

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No, but they must be a United States citizen and be 18 years of age, or 17 years of age by the immediately following general or consolidated election. (10 ILCS 5/3-6) They must also include their current address on the circulator's affidavit.

May a circulator sign as a voter on the petition they are circulating?

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Yes, as long as the circulator is a registered voter in the applicable political subdivision or district.

Can a petition sheet be circulated by more than one individual?

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No. Only the person who signs the page as circulator can circulate that sheet. By signing as a circulator, the circulator is attesting that all signers signed in their presence. (10 ILCS 5/7-10)

Who can remove a signature from a nominating petition?

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Only the circulator or the candidate on whose behalf the petition was circulated may strike a signature; however, an individual can submit a written request to the proper filing office to have their name removed from the petition before the petition is filed. (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 10-3)

### Must the notary of the petition be an Illinois notary and may the notary also be a signatory of the petition?

Under the provisions of the Uniform Recognition of Acknowledgements Act (765 ILCS 30/2): “Notarial acts may be performed outside this State for use in this State with the same effect as if performed by a notary public of this State by the following persons authorized pursuant to the laws and regulations of other governments in addition to any other person authorized by the laws and regulations of this State...” “(1) a notary public authorized to perform notarial acts in the place in which the act is performed...”

It has not been definitively determined whether a notary may also be a signatory to a petition. Some electoral boards and circuit courts have upheld petitions where the notary was also a signer of the petition, but the issue has not yet been decided by the Supreme Court or any appellate court in Illinois. A cautious candidate might wish to avoid using a petition signer as the notary so as to avoid the risk of having to defend against an objection on this issue.

*For additional information, contact the Index Department of the Secretary of State’s office, 111 E. Monroe, Springfield, IL 62756-0001, (217) 782-7017.*

### Must the notary put the date of his commission expiration on the document?

Yes, the notary stamp indicates the date the commission expires.

### Must the notary public live in the same county as the candidate?

No, but the notary must be authorized to administer oaths in the place where the notary act is performed.