

PETITIONS, CERTIFICATES OF NOMINATION (2011) WS

Petitions and certificates of nomination are used to designate/nominate candidates.

Designating petitions are used for:

- Congress
- State Senate
- State Assembly
- County Offices
- City Offices
- Party Positions
- Some Town Offices (varies by party/by town – see list below)
 1. Republican petitions – (EXCEPT Otisco & Spafford – caucus)
 2. Democrat petitions – Marcellus, Salina & Spafford only (ALL other towns caucus)
 3. Independence petitions – ALL
 4. Conservative petitions – Camillus, Cicero, Dewitt, Elbridge, Geddes, Lysander, Manlius, Pompey, Salina & Van Buren (ALL others caucus)
 5. Green petitions – ALL
 6. Working Families petitions - ALL
 7. Reform petitions - ALL
 8. Women's Equality petitions - ALL

Any town not covered above selects candidates by caucus

Caucuses may not be held before the first day to sign a designating petition. (Normally early June)
The chairman of the party calling the caucus must publish in a local newspaper within the town at least one week and not more than 2 weeks prior to the caucus or by posting in 10 public places in the town at least 10 days prior. In addition the chairman must file a notice with the town clerk and the County Board of Elections at least 10 days prior to the caucus. These notices of caucus are posted in the counter area for the public to see them.

Independent Nominating Petitions are used by candidates seeking an independent line and are for all offices including town.

The number of signatures needed to qualify is determined by NYS Election Law. The signatures of 5% of the enrolled members of the party making the designation are required unless the statutory numbers are less. Independent nominating petitions are determined by the number of votes cast at the last gubernatorial election.

Petitions and certificates are filed with the Board of Elections during time frames established by election law. (Check political calendar for each year).

When petitions are turned in they will be time stamped immediately and a copy of the cover sheet with the time stamp showing will be given to the person delivering or if delivered by mail returned via first class mail to the candidate or agent on file. The petitions will be logged in and a list will be posted on the OCBOE Facebook page each night.

All materials received during this process are secured in a room located within the Board of Elections with a double key bipartisan lock.