STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
P.O. BOX 304
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0304

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

TAHESHA WAY
Secretary of State

PETITION FILING INSTRUCTION SHEET
2021 PRIMARY ELECTION
NEW JERSEY STATE SENATE

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.

The New Jersey Division of Elections accepts petitions on behalf of the Secretary of State, who serves as the Chief Election Official of the State of New Jersey. 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(s) petitions may be filed in person by appointment only, by mail or electronically, but must be received by the deadline date, on or before 4:00 p.m. on *April 5, 2021*. (N.J.S.A. 19:23-14)

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, Article IV, Section 1, Paragraph 2, to qualify as a candidate for the office of New Jersey State Senate, you must meet the following qualifications:

- shall have attained the age of 30 years by the day of the swearing into office
- a United States Citizen
- a resident of New Jersey for four years as of the day of the General Election
- a resident of the legislative district for one year as of the day of the General Election
- a legal voter by the day the petition is filed

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);

- 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. **Note: Affidavit must be notarized** (N.J.S.A. 19:23-11);

- The circulator does not have to be a signer of the petition but must be a registered voter in the State who is affiliated with the same political party named in the petition (N.J.S.A. 19:23-11);

- Candidate(s) must sign an **"Oath of Allegiance."** (N.J.S.A. 19:23-15);
  Note: Oath of Allegiance must be notarized;

- Candidate(s) must sign a **"Certificate of Acceptance to be Signed by Candidate."** (N.J.S.A. 19:23-15);

- Candidate(s) must sign a **"Disclosure Statement of Criminal Conviction."** (N.J.S.A. 19:23-15);

- Contain the names, addresses and signatures of at least 100 registered voters who are affiliated with the same political party named in the petition in the Legislative District on the **"Signature Sheet".** (N.J.S.A. 19:23-8);

- **"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);

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, mailed or submitted electronically to the Division of Elections. Please find the contact information listed below.

Office Location:
20 W. State Street, 4th 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.:
20 W. State Street, 4th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08608

Submit electronically to one of the following email addresses:
dawn.schilling@sos.nj.gov; or donna.barber@sos.nj.gov.

PLEASE BE ADVISED: Petitions being submitted in person require a petition filing appointment. The Division of Elections is not accepting walk-in appointments.

Schedule an appointment by visiting http://nj.gov/state/elections/candidate-petitions.html.

We suggest filing your petition as early as possible!