



NOMINATION PETITIONS, PETITION PACKETS, AND SIGNATURES

2022 Statutory Town Webinar Series, Part II

Colorado Municipal League

December 9, 2021

NOMINATION PETITIONS

- A nomination petition is the primary way a citizen can get on the regular election ballot or on a special vacancy or recall election ballot.
- The nomination petition is created by the municipal clerk and contains specific elements as prescribed by state statute.
- In a regular municipal election, a nomination petition is made available and can be circulated beginning 91 days before the day of the election and shall be filed no later than 71 days before the day of the election.
- In a special vacancy or recall election, the best practice is to allow a maximum of 20 days to circulate a nomination petition.

NOMINATION PETITION CONTENTS

- Name and address of candidate and office being sought.
- Signature lines with the following elements: signature, printed name, street name and number, city/town, county, and date of signing.
- Affidavit of circulator (for language on affidavit, see 31-10-302(3), C.R.S.).
- Affidavit of acceptance of nomination by candidate (for language on affidavit, see 31-10-302(6), C.R.S.).
- ***NOTE: Nomination petitions do NOT contain any warning to signers of petition nor names of persons comprising a vacancy committee***

(MINIMUM) SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

- Statutory towns – 10 signatures.
- Statutory cities – 25 signatures.
- Home rule municipalities – determined by charter or ordinance.
- ***NOTE: Petitions filed without the minimum number of signatures are not valid.***

CURING NOMINATION PETITIONS

- If upon checking the signatures, the number of valid signatures falls below the minimum number required, contact the candidate immediately.
- Candidates have until prior to 63 days before the day of the election to 'cure' their petitions, i.e., to obtain enough signatures to reach the minimum threshold required.
- Candidates should be provided a new petition which must be completed in the same manner as the original petition.
- If the affidavit of circulator or the affidavit of candidate was not proper or complete, return the original petition to the candidate for cure.

OBJECTION TO NOMINATIONS

- Objection to nominations can be made in writing within 3 days after the petition is filed.
- Notice is made to affected candidate and the clerk shall decide objections within 48 hours after the objection is filed.
- If the petition is found to be 'defective' in either form or substance, it may be amended (or refiled) within 3 days after the objection is sustained and not later than the 64th day before the day of the election.
- The clerk's decision on form is final. If the issue at hand is one of substance, the clerk's decision may be reviewed by the district court.

NOMINATION PETITION PACKETS

- Packets MAY include any or all of the following:
 - Instructions to petition circulators.
 - Candidate calendars.
 - General information regarding service on the board/council.
 - FCPA forms and instructions on when/how to use/file forms, including filing dates.

CHECKING SIGNATURES

- It is recommended that each signature be individually reviewed/checked.
- Items to look for:
 - Name and address on petition match name and address on voter registration list.
 - Signer was registered prior to signing petition.
 - All portions of the signature line were completed.
 - Signer did not sign more petitions than he/she was able to sign.
 - Nicknames or shortened names were listed; middle names or initials were not included.
- ***NOTE: Do not rely on personal knowledge; verify, verify, verify...***

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