

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PETITION CIRCULATORS – 2026 ELECTIONS

CIRCULATOR REQUIREMENTS

1. The circulator, who is the person who requests the voter to sign, **no longer has to be a registered voter or live in the district;** i.e. in the Village, the Ward, the State.
2. The law requires they must be United States citizens and be 1) 18 years of age or, 2) 17 years of age but 18 years of age on the date of the immediately following general election and otherwise qualified to vote. They must also include their current address on the circulator's affidavit.
3. The circulator **MAY NOT** circulate petitions for candidates of more than one political party for the same primary election.
4. The circulator must personally see each registered voter sign the sheet. The circulator has the sworn duty to insure that only valid signatures are on the petitions. If the circulator fails to do so and signs the bottom of the sheet, he has possibly committed perjury.
5. The circulator may not leave the sheet on a counter for passers-by to sign and return later to pick up the filled-in sheet.
6. Petitions which do not have signatures on each line are acceptable. A circulator may sign a sheet as a voter. Do not use abbreviations such as "O.L." for Oak Lawn or "L.S.D." for Lake Shore Drive. Write the words out in full. Do not use ditto marks (""). Abbreviations such as "St.", "Ave." and "N." are acceptable.
7. When the circulators have completed signature-gathering, they should complete the circulator's affidavit in the presence of a Notary Public. The circulator must certify address, age and citizenship information and also certify that the signatures on that sheet were signed in his/her presence and are genuine and that to the best of his/her knowledge the persons so signing were duly registered voters of the political subdivision for which the candidate shall be nominated, or elected, and that their respective registration addresses are correctly stated therein. **A sheet may not be signed and left to be notarized when the notary arrives at a later time.**

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SIGNER REQUIREMENTS

1. The signer must be a registered voter at the address where he resides and must reside within the candidate's election district.
2. The signer may only sign for himself/herself. **He/She may not sign for his spouse, children, friends or neighbors.** If the signer signs any other names, then he/she is committing the crime of forgery.
3. Signers should sign as they are registered to vote. The inclusion or exclusion of middle initials is not important. Shortened first names may be used, such as Bill for William or Liz for Elizabeth.
4. The signature should be written in the voter's usual style. Most people sign in cursive script. However, some people do not use cursive script, but always print their names. This type of printing is acceptable, if the person signed his voter's registration card in that fashion.
5. A signer **MAY NOT** sign petitions for candidates of more than one political party for the same primary election.
6. A petition signer, just as a circulator, may change party affiliation from one election to another. (If you voted in the Democrat primary last election, you may sign a Republican petition).
7. The petition signer does not have to fill in the city, village or county himself/herself. This can be done by the circulator. The only mandatory requirement for the signer is to sign his/her name and street address.
8. Signatures may be struck from the petition by the circulator or the candidate, prior to filing, in the following manner:
 - a.) The person striking the signature must initial the petition at the place where the signature is struck.
 - b.) The person striking the signature must sign a certificate of Deletion listing the page number and line number of each signature struck from the petition.

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the election?

Circulation of Nomination Petitions for the March 17, 2026 Republican Primary begins August 5th 2025 and those petitions are due October 27 through November 3rd 2025. The General Election takes place November 3rd 2026.

When should I turn in my completed petition?

Completed petitions should be turned in upon completion so that the campaign can keep track of the number of signatures that are needed.

Where can I find a Notary to notarize my completed petition?

Usually, banks and libraries have notaries or township, city, and village halls. If none of these works out contact the campaign and they will assist you.

Can a voter sign more than one petition for the same office?

Yes, as long as the candidates are all Republicans.

GENERAL PRIMARY PETITION

We, the undersigned, members of and affiliated with the Republican Party and qualified primary electors of the Republican Party, in the _____ of _____ in the County of Winnebago, and State of Illinois, do hereby petition that the following named person or persons shall be a candidate(s) of the Republican Party for the nomination/election for the office or offices hereinafter specified to be voted for at the Primary Election to be held on March 17, 2026 (date of election).

NAME: Gary Caruana	OFFICE: Winnebago County Sheriff
ADDRESS: 6361 Portofino Court Rockford, Illinois 61107	A Full Term is sought, unless an unexpired term is stated here: _____ year unexpired term

If required pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/7-10.2, 8-8.1 or 10-5.1, complete the following (this information will appear on the ballot)

FORMERLY KNOWN AS _____ UNTIL NAME CHANGED ON _____
(List all names during last 3 years) (List date of each name change)

NAME (VOTER'S SIGNATURE)	VOTER'S PRINTED NAME (optional)	STREET ADDRESS OR RR NUMBER	CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE	COUNTY
1.			,IL	Winnebago
2.			,IL	Winnebago
3.			,IL	Winnebago
4.			,IL	Winnebago
5.			,IL	Winnebago
6.			,IL	Winnebago
7.			,IL	Winnebago
8.			,IL	Winnebago
9.			,IL	Winnebago
10.			,IL	Winnebago

State of _____)
County of _____) SS.

I, _____ (Circulator's Name) do hereby certify that I reside at _____, in the City/Village/Unincorporated Area of _____ (if unincorporated, list municipality that provides postal service) (Zip Code) _____, County of _____, State of _____ that I am 18 years of age or older (or 17 years of age and qualified to vote in Illinois), that I am a citizen of the United States, and that the signatures on this sheet were signed in my presence, not more than 90 days preceding the last day for filing of the petitions and are genuine and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the persons so signing were at the time of signing the petition qualified voters of the _____ Party in the political division in which the candidates is seeking nomination/elective office, and that their respective residences are correctly stated, as above set forth.

(Circulator's Signature)

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) by _____ before me, on _____
(Name of Circulator) (Insert month, day, year)

(SEAL)

(Notary Public's Signature)

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