

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- I want to run for office, where do I start?
 - To get your name on the ballot you must circulate and file a petition. The first day to circulate petitions is normally around the middle of February and runs for 3 weeks.
- I was appointed to an elected position; does my name just automatically go on the ballot in the next Municipal Election?
 - No ones name “automatically” goes on the ballot. The office will go on the ballot i.e.: Member of Council – 2 year term.
- How much do I get paid?
 - Compensation varies by position – School Board Directors do not get paid, Members of Council, Supervisors, Auditors, Mayors, etc. vary by Municipality. To find out if these positions are paid you must contact the municipality. Tax Collectors are paid from the municipality, county, and school district therefore you need to contact them to find out the compensation.
- Someone gave me a petition that they had left over from a previous election, can I use it?
 - No, election laws and forms are always changing so please make sure that you have the most current forms available from our office. If you use an old form and it is missing required information, this could be a fatal flaw and an opponent could challenge the validity of your petition.
- Can more than 1 person circulate a single petition?
 - No, the circulator must sign an affidavit on the back of the petition and there is only room for 1 circulator. If you want more than 1 person to circulate for you, give them a separate petition.
- Can I get my name on both the Democratic and Republican ballots?
 - Only Magisterial District Judge and School Directors can cross file.

- I am running for School Director or Magisterial District Judge and want to cross file, can I circulate both the Democratic and Republican petitions?
 - Magisterial District Judge – Yes. Since this is a non-partisan position you can circulate both.
 - School Director – No. You can circulate the petition for the party that you are registered in, someone from the opposite party must circulate your other petition.

- Can someone who is not registered sign my petition?
 - No you must be a registered voter to sign a petition. If they are not registered you cannot register them on the spot and ask them to sign. The registration must first be processed by this office and go through a 10 day waiting period before they are a registered voter.

- What if someone makes a mistake when signing my petition?
 - DO NOT use white out or scribble anything out on a petition. If a mistake is made simply draw 1 single line through the incorrect information and either write above or draw a line through the entire entry and move to the next line.

- Will the Election Office fill out my petition?
 - No, as a candidate that is your responsibility. Of course we are always there to help with any questions you have, however with every petition packet we provide you a complete set of instructions on how to fill out all the paperwork necessary to run for office. Your petition should be filled out PRIOR to circulating not when you come into the office.

- Does the Election Office check all the information on the petitions and Financial Interest Statements to make sure it is correct?
 - No it is the responsibility of the candidate or the circulator to make sure all the requirements are followed. However, if you do not follow the election rules you run the risk of someone challenging your petition and having to go to court.

- How do you determine where my name appears on the ballot?
 - We have what we call a casting of lots. We draw numbers to determine who goes on the ballot in the first position, second position, etc.

- What happens after the Primary Election?
 - If you win your parties seat your name will appear on the Municipal Ballot in November. We do not send out anything indicating that you have won/lost. Unofficial results are available on our web site, www.clearfieldcountypa.gov , election night.

- If I lose in the Primary can I change my party and run as a third party candidate for the November Municipal Election?
 - No, you would have had to change your party BEFORE the close of registration in the Primary Election cycle. The only way to run in November without winning your party nomination is to run a write-in campaign.

- When can I get results, including write-ins, after the Primary Election?
 - Please be aware that it takes us about 10 days to accumulate the write-in votes, and nothing is official until we certify our results to the Department of State. The deadline to report this for the upcoming Primary is June 6, 2011. Please be aware that we are not “putting you off”, during a Municipal Primary there are usually thousands of write-ins that we have to count one by one so it is a long and drawn out process.

Good luck to all of you as you go through this Election Process, and as always we are only a phone call or e-mail away with any other questions that you may have.

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