

# WRITE-IN CANDIDATE INFORMATION

## HOW TO BECOME A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE

A write-in candidate must file a notarized "Declaration of Intent to be a Write-in Candidate" (**Form P-1F**) no later than 61 days prior to the election. The declaration **must be filed with the proper election authority or authorities** in those jurisdictions in which the candidate is seeking to be a write-in candidate. Declaration of Intent forms are **NOT TO BE FILED** with the State Board of Elections.

The Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate form can be obtained from the election authorities office and/or <https://lasallecountyil.gov/780/2026-General-Primary-Election-Information>. (10 ILCS 5/7-59(b), 17-16.1, 18-9.1)

**Note:** Whenever an objection to a candidate's nominating papers for any office is sustained after the 61<sup>st</sup> day before the election, the candidate may file a notarized Declaration of Intent to be a Write-in Candidate form for that office with the proper election authority or authorities no later than seven days prior to the election. (10 ILCS 5/7-59(b), 17-16.1, 18-9.1)

The La Salle County Clerk's office policy is to **NOT** accept a Declaration of Intent to be a Write-in Candidate Form P-1F by email or fax. The declaration **must be an original with a wet signature signed in front of a notary**.

- **THE DEADLINE FOR FILING A NOTARIZED AND ORIGINAL "DECLARATION OF INTENT TO BE A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE" (FORM P-1F) FOR THE MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION IS THURSDAY, JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2026.**

## GENERAL PRIMARY WRITE-IN CANDIDATE QUALIFYING FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION

The write-in candidate must receive the number of votes that is equal to or greater than the number of signatures required on a petition for that office if the number of candidates whose names appear on the primary ballot is less than the number of persons the party is entitled to nominate or elect to that office at the Primary Election. (10 ILCS 5/7-59 (c)(1) and (2)).

1. The number of votes required for a write-in candidate to be nominated or elected to an office at a Primary Election, as outlined above, does not apply if:
  - a) The number of votes they receive exceeds the number of votes received by at least one of the candidates whose name was printed on the ballot for nomination or election to the same office; or
  - b) The number of candidates whose names appear on the ballot equals or exceeds the number of persons the party is entitled to nominate or elect to that office. (10 ILCS 5/7-59(c)(1) and (2)).

## FILING PARTISAN IN THE PRIMARY & BEING DEFEATED FOR NOMINATION

A candidate who is defeated for nomination at the General Primary Election is prohibited from filing a "Declaration of Intent to be a Write-in Candidate" (Form P-1F) at the subsequent General Election. (10 ILCS 5/17-16.1, 18-9.1)

## WINNING IN THE PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION

A winning write-in candidate in the general primary or general election **MUST** file a Statement of Candidacy and receipt for the filing of the Statement of economic Interests (exception for federal and party offices only). Winning write-in candidates **MAY** also file a Loyalty Oath. (10 ILCS 5/7-60, 22-1)

For a general primary candidate, these forms must be filed within 10 days of the canvass of the general primary and must be filed with the certifying officer or board.

For a general election candidate, these forms must be filed with the certifying officer or board prior to taking office. (10 ILCS 5/22-1)