

1. All nominating petitions that are issued and filed are public records and open to public inspection.
2. All petitions must be obtained from the Anderson County Election Commission office. Each petition has to have the candidate's name and office sought completed at the time the petition is issued. The candidate must complete the candidate's section to include their correct residential address and the candidate's signature on each page. Candidates must also decide how they want their name to appear on the ballot. Titles cannot be used, however, nicknames are permitted. Judicial candidates must provide their Supreme Court Registration Number.
3. No photocopies of any petition will be accepted.
4. A qualifying petition is required to have twenty-five (25) nomination signatures, not to include the candidate's signature. These signatures must be of registered voters who are eligible to vote for the candidate (example: If you are running for County Commission in District 1, your signatures must be people who are currently residing and registered to vote in District 1). We recommend that you obtain fifty (50) signatures, because some people may not be registered voters, may have become ineligible to vote or may not have changed their address with the Election Office.
5. A voter signing your petition should sign their name as it is signed on their voter registration record. (example: If their name is listed as Elizabeth A. Montgomery on their voter registration record, they should not sign it as Betsy Montgomery or Mrs. William Montgomery, as it may make it difficult to find the correct voter in our files). Many signatures are very difficult to read; please be sure the voter prints their name below their signature.
6. Each voter must sign their own name. Do not allow one voter to sign for another. This includes well-meaning spouses.
7. Voters shall list their residence address. Post Office Box numbers, business addresses or lack of an address will disqualify the signature.
8. Each petition issued will be treated as a public record. Petition information will be released to the public and press.
9. Candidates have until NOON on the qualifying deadline to turn in their petition. We encourage all candidates to return their nomination petitions before the last day of qualifying to avoid a deadline problem. Nominating petitions will be checked in the order in which they are received.
10. Unprocessed voter registration applications will not count as valid signatures.
11. Candidates will be notified in writing verifying if the petition does or does not have the required number of valid signatures.

Helpful Tips for Filing a Valid Petition with Signatures that Count

Candidate Must:

- Provide Correct Residential Address
- Sign Petition
- If person is a judicial candidate, Provide Supreme Court Registration Number
- If the district contains more than one county, (for example: Senate District 17 is a multiple county district or, State House Seat 40 is a multiple county district) the candidate must file the **original** petition in their county of residence and file **certified duplicate** copy in all other counties that are included in the district by the qualifying deadline. The county election office may provide the certified duplicate¹¹ copies of the original petition at the time the petition is filed.

Circulator of Petition Must:

- Have at least 25 registered voters sign the petition² (For purposes of attaining the required 25 valid signatures, county election commission offices highly recommend that more than the minimum of 25 signatures be collected.)
- Have each registered voter **sign** his or her own Name (A printed name of someone who has registered to vote with a signature may be counted if the printed name provides sufficient evidence that it has been written by the registered voter in question. You may have to look at the whole voter registration form.)
- Have each registered voter provide his or her residential address.
- If the person has moved to an address outside of the precinct of registration, then the person's voter registration address will have to be changed with the county election commission office before it can be counted.³
- A ditto mark that follows an address may not be counted. Ditto marks cannot be counted for signatures. Family members who sign beneath each other must sign

¹ A certified duplicate is a photocopy of the original petition with the words "This is a true copy of the original" signed by the person making the copy along with the copier's name, title and date.

² A person is not a registered voter until the county election commission has processed the person's voter registration application and mailed the voter registration card to the person's address.

³ The county election commission does not have the duty or obligation to process voter registration forms or change of address forms that are turned in at the same time as the petition. If the person is not registered to vote already nor has a change of address, the circulator will be wise not to rely upon that signature as a valid one.

their own last names. Ditto marks on a last name do not provide the election commission with sufficient information to compare the appropriate signatures.

- Do not accept P.O. Boxes. P.O Boxes will not be counted, even if listed as the person's mailing address.
- Do not allow one individual to sign for another individual. This includes well-meaning spouses!

Petitions Are:

- Public Records.
- Released to the Media and Public at large upon request.
- Legal Documents (the original is a legal document) and therefore photocopies are not accepted.
- The responsibility of the candidate and if lost the candidate must start over.