



Office of the County Clerk

David Orr, Cook County Clerk

Tuesday, March 20, 2012 – Primary Election General Information

Candidate Filing Dates & Deadlines

Tuesday, September 6: First day to circulate petitions for established political parties

Monday, November 28 – Monday, December 5: Petition filing period for established political party candidates

Monday, December 12: Last day for filing objections to nomination papers of candidates who filed during the November 28 – December 5 filing period

*Last day to withdraw (incompatible offices)

Wednesday, December 14: Last day to conduct lottery

Monday, December 19 – Tuesday, December 27: Judicial vacancy filing period for vacancies which occurred after December 5.

Thursday, January 12: Last day to file withdrawal papers with the State Board of Elections

Wednesday, January 18: Last day to file withdrawal papers with the County Clerk

Thursday, January 19: Last day to file a notarized declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate (5:00 PM).

Referenda Question Deadlines

Monday, December 19: Last day for filing petitions for referenda for the submission of questions of public policy with the local election authority.

Tuesday, January 3: Last day for local governing boards to adopt a resolution or ordinance to allow a binding public question to appear on the ballot. (Section 28-2(c) of the Election Code sets the date to January 1, 2012, which is 79 days before the General Primary Election. January 1, 2012 is a Sunday and a holiday, as defined by section 1-6 of the Election Code, as is January 2, 2012, by designation of the Department of Central Management Services.)

Certification of Ballot Deadlines

Thursday, January 12: Certification of Ballot by the State Board of Elections

* Certification of Ballot by local election authorities

Wednesday, January 18: Certification of Ballot to the City of Chicago

Voter Registration, Early Voting & Absentee Voting

Friday, February 3: Last day to have servicemen ballots available

Thursday, February 9: First day for to apply for an absentee ballot

Tuesday, February 21: Voter registration closes for deputy registrars and local election officials

Wednesday, February 22 – Tuesday, March 13: Grace period registration & voting

Monday, February 27 – Thursday, March 15: Early voting period

Thursday, March 15: Last day to apply for an absentee ballot by mail

Friday, March 16 – Monday, March 19: Nursing home & In-Office absentee voting

Disclaimer: This is not legal advice. The Cook County Clerk's office is providing this for general information purposes only. All Candidates should consult with legal counsel regarding election matters. The Cook County Clerk's office cannot recommend an attorney or give legal advice on these matters.

- For the complete Election Calendar and Candidates Guide please visit the Illinois State Board of Elections Website: www.elections.state.il.us
- Visit the Cook County Clerk's Website: www.cookcountyclerk.com

2012 County Offices Signature Requirements

(Revised November 2, 2011)

Office	Democratic .5%	Republican .5%	Green .5%	Independent 5% – 8%	New Party 5%
State's Attorney	5,693	2,740		25,000 – 113,997	25,000
Clerk of the Circuit Court	5,693	2,740		25,000 – 113,997	25,000
Recorder of Deeds	5,693	2,740		25,000 – 113,997	25,000
1st District Board of Review	4,000	2,740		25,000 – 37,999	25,000
2nd District Board of Review	4,000	2,740		25,000 – 37,999	25,000
3rd District Board of Review	4,000	2,740		25,000 – 37,999	25,000
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner	5,586	2,668	710	25,000 – 111,590	25,000