



Election Division Dispatch

Brad King & Angie Nussmeyer, Co-Directors | January 2018

NEWS & UPDATES

Indianavoters.com Updates

If you visit indianavoters.com, you'll see a refreshed website with new content and features, including a filter to identify if a person is already registered to vote to reduce duplicate registrations coming through the online portal. Duplicate registrations may still occur, especially if users aren't searching with an exact match to their registration name, but the site will provide better information to the user, including confirmation of registration and an option to update, if the registration address is incorrect.

Many improvements go live by January 10, 2018, and will continue to be made to the site over the next several months, including enhancements to identify election day polling locations and allow counties to provide more data regarding early voting dates, times, and sites. If you visit the site after January 10, and believe you have found an error, please let us know so we can share with our partners.

Don't Forget the CAN-5!

When a Democratic or Republican candidate runs for office in the primary election, counties must hand-deliver or mail the CAN-5 (Candidacy Filing Confirmation for 2018) no later than one day after receiving the candidate's filing. You can use the form provided on the 2018 forms disc (or found on the portal), or use SVRS to generate the document after creating the candidate's profile in the system. Questions? Contact the Quest Help Desk or visit the online training portal for a step-by-step guide.

Office Naming Standards & SVRS

Recently the state launched an Election Night Reporting (ENR) website that pulls data from SVRS to display on indianavoters.com on election night. To ensure consistency with candidate and office names, all office names across all counties were updated to display uniformly in SVRS and an SOP was created. As candidate filing season is underway it is important to use upper and lower case characters when entering candidate names in SVRS and, if any offices need to be added, please consult the SOP (found on the training portal site) to ensure the proper format is used.

JANUARY WEB TRAINING

Jan. 3 | Petition Processing

Jan. 4 & 9 | After Hours User Validation

Jan. 11 & 15 | Candidate Set-up in SVRS

Jan. 16 & 18 | ePollbook Acceptance Testing

Jan. 23 & 25 | Token Pilot Project

Dates are subject to change; check the 2018 INSVRS Training Schedule on the county portal to confirm.

CALENDAR

January 10, 2018:

Candidate Filing Begins

January 15, 2018: IED Closed

January 17, 2018 (noon):

2017 CFA Annual Report Due (PAC, Candidates)

February 6, 2018 (noon):

Deadline to file D&R U.S. Senate petitions with county

February 9, 2018 (noon):

Candidate Filing ends

February 12, 2018 (noon):

Deadline for candidate to withdraw

February 16, 2018 (noon):

Deadline to file candidate challenge

February 20, 2018

Deadline for counties to file the VRG-21 with the Election Division

February 23, 2018:

Deadline for IED to certify list of candidates to counties

March 1, 2018

Deadline to determine the validity of challenged declaration of candidacy

March 1, 2018

Deadline for regular party committees to file 2017 Annual Report

IN FOCUS: FOUR REASONS TO REJECT A CANDIDATE FILING

In a few short days, county election officials will have a steady stream of candidates visiting their offices to file paperwork to run for office. Every Democratic and Republican candidate running for local office in the primary election must file a CAN-12 statement of economic interest and a CAN-2 declaration of candidacy.

(A reminder that for this purpose, candidates for prosecutor and judge are not running for “local office.” Both are state offices and these candidates must file their candidate paperwork with the Election Division. However, campaign finance filings made by these candidates are managed by the county election board.)

County election officials are not “candidate police” and may not reject a candidate filing except for these **FOUR** reasons specified in statute:

- 1) Candidate running for state office (federal, statewide, state legislative, judge, prosecutor) presents candidate filing incorrectly to county. IC 3-5-4-1.2
- 2) Filed after the noon, prevailing local time candidate filing deadline. IC 3-5-4-1.9
- 3) Filing made on a form NOT approved by the state. IC 3-5-4-8
- 4) Declaration of candidacy is not accompanied by the required statement of economic interest (CAN-12). IC 3-8-2-11; 3-8-9-6

Some candidates may fail to include required information on their filing or jot down the wrong precinct, for example. Only a registered voter of the election district or the county party chair may file a challenge (CAN-1) with the county clerk by the noon, February 16, 2018, deadline to

question the inaccuracy of a form or the candidate’s qualifications to run for elected office.

The County Election Board must hold a hearing inviting the challenged candidate and the challenger to present the facts of the case. The Board will review the facts, apply the law, and determine if the candidate will remain on the ballot (or not).

One last reminder: county election administrators must mail the CAN-5 Candidacy Filing Confirmation to each Democratic or Republican candidate filing for nomination in the primary election within 24-hours of receiving the filing paperwork.

For more information, please review pages 5-20 of the 2018 Indiana Candidate Guide OR review the chapter specific to the office found in the Guide.

VR CORNER

Don’t Forget to File the VRG-21!

Federal law (NVRA) and state law requires a 90-day “freeze” period on nearly all voter list maintenance (VLM) activities before each primary, general, municipal, or special election. To confirm your county has complied with voter list maintenance requirements, a VRG-21 (Affidavit of County Voter Registration Officer Concerning Voter List Maintenance) must be filed with the Indiana Election Division.

The deadline to file the VRG-21 with the Election Division is close of business, Tuesday, February 20, 2018.

While most VLM activity must be put on “pause” during this period (and counties will not have access to some voters within SVRS as a result), counties may continue to:

- 1) process voter registration forms;
- 2) Remove deceased voters;
- 3) Remove voters who are imprisoned after being convicted of a crime; and
- 4) Remove a voter if the voter submits a written request to cancel their voter’s registration.

In addition, no voter may be marked “inactive” during the 90-day freeze period.

QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Q. Do candidates for Judge and Prosecutor need to file a CAN-12 Statement of Economic Interest?

- A. No. Candidates for judicial office or prosecutor do not file a CAN-12 with the county election board. Instead, these candidates file a statement of economic interest with the Commission on Judicial Qualifications before filing the declaration of candidacy with the Election Division.

Q. I’m the elected Clerk and plan to run for re-election in 2018. What, if any, special steps do I need to take to manage elections?

- A. The only restriction you should be concerned about relates to absentee ballots. A county clerk running for re-election or another office on the ballot may not print their signature on the absentee ballot and must use the generic county seal on it. (Your county’s generic seal can be found on the SVRS county portal in the “Shared Documents” folder.) State law does not require the clerk’s signature or county seal be printed on election day ballots, but if the county does so, then it’s our best advice to apply the same ballot printing rule.