



Election Division Dispatch

Brad King & Angie Nussmeyer, Co-Directors | June 2021

NEWS & UPDATES

Statewide VLM Post Card Mailer

The first card in the statewide VLM post card was dropped in the mail on May 17 to all active Hoosier voters. If the non-forwardable mail is returned, then our vendor will begin mailing the second card with the attached, postage-paid voter response card (VRC) on or around June 1 and continue to do so until July 27, 2021.

VLM Hoppers for this project will be visible in early June, so you can begin evaluating and processing any returned card 2 or requests made by the voter using the VRC. Finally, IED and Civix hosted web trainings related to this project in May. You can access materials and recorded sessions in the SVRS County Portal.

2022 Candidate Forms: Petitions

IED updated the CAN-4, CAN-19, CAN-21 and CAN-34 forms for the 2022 cycle, and made them available on our website in the Candidate Info section. You can also find them on the SVRS County Portal in the Shared Documents folder, along with an updated forms list. NONE of these forms can be filed yet; the filing deadlines are noted in the instructions. But, a declared candidate may begin circulating petitions to gather signatures to prep for filing in 2022:

- **CAN-4:** Used by D/R US Senate Candidates to qualify for the May primary election. Must have at least 500 certified signatures of registered voters in each of the 9 Congressional Districts.
- **CAN-19:** Used by Independent & minor party candidates to gather petition signatures to run in the Nov. 2022 election as a federal, state, or judicial candidate.
- **CAN-21:** Used by Independent & minor party candidates to gather petition signatures to run in the Nov. 2022 election as a candidate for local office.
- **CAN-34:** Used by school board candidates to get on the ballot for Nov. 2022 election.

2022 Election Calendar Brochure

The 2022 Election Calendar Brochure is now available on the IED website: <https://www.in.gov/sos/elections/files/2022-Calendar-Brochure.FINAL.pdf>

The brochure notes high-level dates for candidates, parties, election officials, and the public for 2022. The 2022 Election Calendar guidebook will not be published until later this year in time for the 2022 Election Administrators' Conference. (We are soliciting bids for this year's conference, but don't yet have dates or location to share. Stay tuned!)

ALPHABET SOUP:

OCD = Office of Census Data

In the coming months, you'll be hearing the term "OCD" a lot more as their team coordinates with staff at the Indiana Election Division on re-precincting details.

The Office of Census Data is a bi-partisan team (one D and one R director) that is part of the Legislative Services Agency or LSA. LSA works with legislators to draft bills, and OCD plays a critical role in the upcoming redistricting effort. In fact, their staff maintains the official precinct shapefile for the state and gathers and records precinct-level election result data.

IED works with OCD and shares the IEC-8 re-precincting paperwork filed by counties. This ensures that the official precinct boundaries, as established by the IEC-8s, are properly recorded for purposes of redistricting. Plus, each precinct is made up of census blocks, which are smaller units that contain demographic data provided by the US Census Bureau.

CALENDAR

- **June 1, 2021:** Second mailer start date for those first cards returned as undeliverable
- **July 27, 2021:** Final drop date for card 2 to allow for at least 30-days notice to the voter
- **Aug 2, 2021 (noon):** Deadline for a public question for the Nov. 2, 2021 special election (*Transfers from Sun., Aug. 1*)
- **Aug 21, 2021:** Recommended deadline for a voter to mail back a voter response card from the statewide mailer
- **Aug 27, 2021:** Deadline for IED to receive the VRC from card 2
- **Oct 4, 2021:** VR deadline for precincts where special Nov. election conducted
- **Oct 4, 2021:** "Freeze" deadline for county to move voter to "inactive" status in precincts where a special election conducted (if applicable)
- **Nov 2, 2021:** Election Day, if special election conducted

JUNE WEB TRAINING

June 8 & 19 | Reports Library Overview

2021 Calendar now posted to INSVRS County Portal. Dates/times subject to change. Please verify against the calendar.

IN FOCUS: Candidate Committees & Planning for 2022

Several counties have reached out to ask what candidates - or people thinking about being candidates - can do in 2021 to prepare for the 2022 election cycle.

In 2021 state law is pretty straightforward. Any person who is thinking about running for an office must open up a campaign finance committee when a threshold dollar amount is raised or spent. This is a universal requirement, regardless of the office sought or the year the person is thinking about being on the ballot.

If the person is thinking of running for an office paying more than \$5,000 in a calendar year, then a candidate **MUST** file a CFA-1 not later than noon, ten days after raising or spending \$100 toward running for office.

If the office pays less than \$5,000 in a calendar year (or it's a school board office), the CFA-1 is filed not later than noon, ten days after raising or spending \$500 toward running for office.

The CFA-1 will ask a candidate if this is a principal or exploratory committee. If the person isn't sure which office they want to

pursue, the "exploratory" box would be marked. The committee would need to amend their CFA-1 at a future date to switch from "exploratory" to "principal" when a decision is made on the office for which he or she intends to run.

Marking "principal" means the candidate has intentions to run for a particular office, though the CFA-1 can be amended at a future date to change the office sought or move it to an "exploratory" committee.

To be clear, filing a CFA-1 to open a campaign finance committee in 2021 does NOT commit a person to running for that office in 2022 or beyond. Instead, the committee is meeting its requirement under state law to open a committee and file required reports until such a time the Final/Disbands CFA-4 report is filed.

Of course the candidate will want to pay attention to the filing deadlines in 2022 to make sure their declaration of candidacy, petition of nomination, and statement of economic interests are timely filed to have their name printed on the ballot.

The "CAN" series of forms are needed to get onto the ballot; the "CFA" series of forms are used for campaign finance reporting purposes only.

If a local candidate opens a committee in 2021, then they'll likely file the 2021 annual report in January 2022. However, if the treasurer changes in 2021, then an outgoing treasurer's report must also be filed along with the amended statement of organization (CFA-1).

Next year, the requirements to open a committee are more complicated since the act of filing for office means some candidates must open a committee. Those details will be covered in a future *Dispatch*. For now, you simply need to remember this basic raise/spend threshold requirement to get you through 2021.

For more information, review the *2020 Campaign Finance Manual* OR access the PowerPoint & recording of a training session IED offered on this topic in the "Shared Documents" folder of the County Portal.

VR CORNER

Public Access to VR Info

State law sets for the public access rules as it relates to voter registration documents. The purple *VR Guidebook* is a more detailed source, but below are some references that may be helpful to county VR officials.

1/ IC 3-7-26.4 does NOT apply to county election boards. This chapter in statute gives direction to the Election Division as to how it can provide statewide voter file information.

2/ The county election board must adopt a uniform and non-discriminatory policy to allow a person to request the county voter registration information from SVRS. The county policy cannot "pick and choose" which fields from the file to provide; it's an all or nothing decision point. However, this statute does not include individual registration records or SVRS report. See IC 3-7-27-6 for those details and the Public Access Counselor opinion found in the appendix of the VR Guidebook.

3/ At the county level, a person can request reports out of SVRS by filing the VRG-24 and paying any established public access fee, if applicable.

4/ Unless enrolled in the AG's address confidentiality program, an individual's voter registration record is public information! A county VR official may only redact a 9-digit SSN to the last 4 digits, if the full SSN is on file.

QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Q. Do Libertarian candidates need to file petitions of nominations like Independent or minor party candidates?

A.No. The Libertarian Party has different ballot access rules than Democratic, Republican, Independent, and minor party candidates. Below is a simplistic view of statute; the *2020 Candidate Guide* offers more details.

The D & R parties are considered "major" parties because their Secretary of State candidates were the top 2 vote-getters in previous elections. Therefore, D & R parties nominate most candidates for the Nov. election in the May primary and a few others at a state convention.

At one point the Libertarian Party was considered a "minor" party, but fielded a candidate to run for Secretary of State who achieved not less than 2% and not more than 10% of the total votes cast for the office. As a result, their party nominates candidates for the fall election at a state or county convention. Unless there is a change in state law, their party will continue to have this level of ballot access assuming future Libertarian candidates for SOS earn at least 2% of the total votes cast for that race in its election year.

Other minor parties can achieve this level of ballot access, but it all starts with fielding a candidate for the SOS race who earns a 2% vote share. (Independent candidates could not since "Independent" is not a political party.)