# NEWS & UPDATES

## October Build

Recently, some updates to SVRS were made that impact county users:

- **ABS-9:** Updates made to the secrecy waiver used by military and overseas voters to vote by fax or email (NOTE: a similar form for voters with print disabilities is in the works)
- **ABS-24:** Form was added to comply with new statute to inform voter that their absentee application was rejected; similar functionality to generating a notice of disposition for military and overseas voters
- **Indianavoters.com:** Public user interface for selecting a reason to vote absentee-by-mail was made mobile friendly; ABS-Mail and ABS-Traveling Board apps **submitted online** must now include a phone number to be submitted through online portal. (NOTE: Phone number is not a requirement for any paper filing to request any ABS ballot type or voter registration form.)

## Redistricting Reminders

Not to be confused with drawing new precinct boundaries, all county commissioner and county council election districts in Indiana must be recertified or redrawn in 2021. State law requires this action to be taken in the first year following the decennial census, which was most recently performed in 2020.

The requirements for redrawing commissioner districts can be found in IC 36-2-2-4, while IC 36-2-3-4 sets forth the requirements to draw county council districts. The deadline to file with the county clerk an ordinance either recertifying existing districts OR creating new legal descriptions of the districts is December 31, 2021. There are special procedures for Lake and St. Joseph counties included in these laws.

Additionally, all school corporations must also recertify or in some cases, redraw, election districts not later than December 31, 2021, and file with the county clerk an amended plan with the new districts or a notice the districts will remain unchanged. IC 20-23-4-35.5 sets forth this requirement for community school corporations in the year following the decennial census. Most school corporations in Indiana are organized as community school corporations, but there are exceptions and other statutes might apply.

Finally, towns (NOT cities) may move some or part of their elections to even-numbered years like 2022. A town may choose to redraw their election districts ahead of 2022, but must file the ordinance with the county clerk not later than November 8, 2021, to be effective in 2022. Next year, all cities and towns must redraw their election districts not later than November 8, 2022, to comply with the requirement to redraw or recertify election districts in the second year following the 2020 census.

## 2022 Candidate Guide

The 2022 Candidate Guide was recently posted to in.gov/sos/elections under the Election Administrator’s tab. This book joins the 2022 Campaign Finance Manual for publication release ahead of the 2022 election cycle. The Election Administrator’s Edition of the Calendar Guide and VR Manual should be posted online in November.

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# CALENDAR

**Nov. 2, 2021:** Election Day, if special election conducted

**Nov. 5, 2021:** Deadline to register for December conference to avoid $50 late payment penalty!

**Nov. 8, 2021:** Deadline for small towns holding an election in 2022 to file redistricting ordinance or to recertify those districts to the county clerk, if the town desires (but is not required) to redraw boundaries ahead of 2022 election

**Nov. 9, 2021:** Shipment 2 of post-Aug 27 VRCs shipped to counties

**Nov. 12, 2021:** Deadline to file nomination for county award recognition at the December conference

**Nov. 17, 2021:** Shipment 3 of post-Aug 27 VRCs shipped to counties

**Dec. 13-15, 2021:** IED Election Administrators’ Conference at Westin Hotel in downtown Indianapolis

**Dec. 22, 2021:** Shipment 4 of post-Aug 27 VRCs & undeliverable cards from mailer 1 & 2 shipped to counties

**Dec. 25, 2021:** Deadline to publish notice of precinct changes in newspaper for public comment, IF cleared by IED to do so

**Dec. 31, 2021:** Deadline for County Executive to file ordinance with clerk regarding new district boundaries for County Commissioners or County Council or to recertify existing boundaries pursuant to IC 36-2-2-4 & IC 36-2-3-4

**Dec. 31, 2021 (NOON):** Deadline for D/R county party chairs to file state convention delegate district information with CEB, if county party is electing convention delegates by district

**Jan. 4, 2022:** Deadline for new precinct boundaries to be approved for 2022 election cycle

**Jan. 5, 2022:** Candidate filing opens

**Jan. 19, 2022 (NOON):** 2021 Annual Report due for all open candidate committees & PACs

**Feb. 1, 2022 (NOON):** Deadline to file petitions for D/R US Senate candidates with county VR officials for county certification

**Feb. 4, 2022 (NOON):** Candidate Filing closes

**Mar. 1, 2022 (NOON):** Deadline for party committees to file 2021 Annual Report

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# NOVEMBER WEB TRAINING

**Nov. 4 & Nov.9 | October Hotfix**

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

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Information in this newsletter is provided by the Indiana Election Division as a courtesy to county election administrators. If a person is unclear concerning election law provisions, the Election Division can serve as an interpretive source. However, where important legal rights are concerned, you must consult with your own attorney to be fully and properly advised.
IN FOCUS: Filing Petitions for Ballot Access in 2022

To continue the candidate filing discussion from our last newsletter, this month we are previewing ballot access through a petition of nomination. More information will come at the December conference, but below are the basic concepts.

D/R Candidates for U.S. Senate
To file in the May 2022 primary election, Democratic and Republican candidates for US Senate must gather at least 500 certified signatures of registered voters in each of the state’s 9 Congressional districts for a minimum total of 4,500. Candidates will first file petitions with county officials for certification. The second step is to collect the petitions and then file with IED. (See key dates for more info)

Independent & Minor Party Candidates
This information applies ONLY to those minor party or independent candidates that want their names printed on the ballot.
(Alternatively, an independent or minor party candidate can file to be a write-in candidate, but their name is NOT printed on the ballot.)

This group of candidates must collect petition signatures of registered voters within their election district that total at least 2% of the total votes cast for all candidates running in the 2018 SOS race. Countywide totals are compiled in the back of the 2022 Candidate Guide.

If the election district is smaller than the county, then the clerk will need to pull the 2018 SOS precinct level results to add up all votes cast among all SOS candidates in the precinct making up the election district and then multiply that number by 2%.

If the math results in a decimal point, then you round down. For example, the calculated number is 10.76. In this case, the candidate must have at least 10 certified signatures of registered voters within their election district to have their name printed on the ballot.

Minor party or independent candidates running for federal, statewide, or state legislative office should contact IED at elections@iec.in.gov to have the minimum number of certified signatures needed to be on the ballot.

School Board Candidates
Most school board candidates gain access to the November ballot by collecting signatures of 10 registered voters in their election district (or higher number if needed). A few school corporations are governed by state law requiring higher numbers.

In most instances, the election district is the entire school corporation. In limited cases, there are smaller election districts within the boundaries of the school corporation. The school plan or the school corporation’s attorney would be the best resource if a candidate is unsure about how the districts are structured.

Libertarian Candidates
Ballot access rules for Libertarian candidates do not require petitions. Instead, candidates are nominated at convention or through ballot vacancy procedures.

Key 2022 Dates
Jan. 5, 2022: D/R/Ind/MP candidates can begin filing petitions on this date for county VR review & certification
Feb. 1, 2022 (NOON): Deadline for D/R candidate for US Senate to file petition with county for review & certification
Feb. 4, 2022 (NOON): Deadline for D/R candidates for US Senate to file county certified petitions with IED along with a completed CAN-2 form
June 30, 2022 (NOON): Deadline for Ind/Minor Party candidates to file petition for county review & certification
July 15, 2022 (NOON): Deadline for Ind/MP candidates to file certified petitions & other required paperwork, if applicable
July 27, 2022: First day for school board candidate to file petition with county VR official
August 26, 2022 (NOON): Deadline to file school board petition and consent, along with other paperwork

VR CORNER

Petition Processing Reminders
As we ease into the 2022 election cycle, here are a few reminders about petition processing, which will be covered in more detail at the December conference:

1/ The person signing a petition must be registered to vote at the address noted on the petition at the time the petition is processed. If Sally signs the petition in November 2021 at an address on Main Street and she updates her registration in December 2021 to First Avenue, then her entry on the petition will not be counted as she is no longer registered at the Main Street address.

2/ The Congressional Districts in place for the 2022 election are the Congressional Districts in play for the petitions. In other words, Mark may live in the 7th Congressional District today but his township was moved into the 6th District during redistricting. The county will note his election district as the 6th CD NOT the 7th CD.

3/ Petition carriers can be anyone; there is no legal requirement that they be registered voters in Indiana, for example. However, the carrier must complete the affidavit found on the petition of nomination form. No information can be missing. If it is, then the county must try to contact the petition carrier and cannot process the petition until that affidavit is perfected. If the filing deadline passes and the affidavit remains incomplete, then the petition is rejected.

QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Q. When can a voter apply for an absentee ballot for the May 2022 Primary election?
A. For those voters using the ABS-Mail and ABS-Travelling Board applications, the earliest the form can be submitted is December 1, 2021. For military and overseas voters using the FPCA and voters with print disabilities using the combined form, the earliest those can be filed is January 1, 2022. The FPCA and combined form are good for one calendar year (January 1 to December 31, 2022). IED is working on updates to the absentee series, so you might advise voters who want to file early to wait for the new version of the forms before filing it.

Q. When will forms be released for 2022?
A. Several forms for the 2022 election cycle have been released, including the candidate series. Those forms are found at forms.in.gov and on Election Administrator’s Portal at in.gov/sos/elections. IED is working to update the remainder of the forms collection in time for the Dec. Conference, including the state VR form and the ABS series. Please be sure to respond to the survey related to updating the county contact info on the VRG-7 and the ABS-Mail form before it closes on Nov. 5, 2022.