

Independent Nominating Petitions
(NY State Election Law: Section 6-138)

Important differences for independent nominating petitions:

- Copy of sample Independent Nominating Petition attached.
- The **General Election date** must be recorded on the petition.
- The chosen **Emblem** must be on the petition. Please file a copy of the emblem at the Board of Elections.
- Number of signatures required: 5% of the total number of votes cast for governor at the last gubernatorial election in such political unit.

Who can carry an Independent Petition?

- Anyone who signed another petition for the same race ***cannot*** carry.
- Anyone who carried but did not sign a petition for that office can carry.
- Anyone who is a registered voter in the state who did not sign a petition for that office can carry.
- A Notary Public or Commissioner of Deeds can carry.

Who can sign an Independent Petition?

- Anyone who is registered to vote in the political unit for which the nomination is sought.
- If the person signing such a petition has already signed either a designating or nominating petition for the same office, the signature will not be counted.

Vacancy Committee:

- A vacancy committee is made up of at least 3 people who are registered voters.
- The same people who served on the Designating Petitions may also serve on the Independent Petitions.
- A vacancy committee is optional.

Name of Independent Body

Shall be in English character and shall not include the name or part of the name or an abbreviation of the name or part of the name, nor shall the emblem or name be of such a configuration as to create the possibility of confusion with the emblem or name of a then existing party, or the emblem or name of an independent body selected by a previously filed Independent Nominating Petition for the same office.

Additional Information

- A Certificate of Acceptance for nominations made by independent nominating petitions must be filed with the appropriate Board of Elections.
- Judicial candidates do not need to file a Certificate of Acceptance.
- If a candidate is also nominated via a designating petition and loses in the Primary Election, there is an extended date by which they can decline their independent nomination and remove their name from the ballot.