

A close-up, vertical view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The flag is draped and slightly wrinkled, with the blue field of stars at the top and the red and white stripes below. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the fabric.

State of Illinois

TOWNSHIP CAUCUS GUIDE FOR 2025

Issued by the
Illinois State Board of Elections

Issued: July 2024

INTRODUCTION

Please note: The dates in this calendar are calculated in accordance with the language of Senate Bill 4488, which passed both Houses of the General Assembly on May 25, 2024, and was sent to the Governor for his signature on June 6, 2024. As of the date of this publication, the Governor has not signed this legislation. This legislation will become law upon his signature or Monday, August 5, 2024, whichever is sooner. Please check back with the Illinois State Board of Elections on or after August 6, 2024, for more information.

Political Party Township Caucuses: Township caucuses shall be held by each established political party on the first Tuesday in December preceding the date of the township election. For the 2025 Consolidated Election, the township caucuses will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. (60 ILCS 1/45-10)

Political Party Multi-Township Caucuses: Multi-township caucuses shall be held by each established political party on the first Wednesday in December preceding the date of the multi-township election. For the 2025 Consolidated Election, the multi-township caucuses will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. (60 ILCS 1/45-25(a))

When to Hold a Primary Election: Most townships in Illinois use the caucus method of nominating established party candidates for township office; however, a primary election is required for nominations of political party candidates for township officers in townships of over 5,000 population whose boundaries are co-extensive with or lie wholly within incorporated towns, villages, or cities not under the commission form of government. (10 ILCS 5/7-1(a), 60 ILCS 1/45-5)

In counties with a population of more than 3,000,000 (e.g. Cook County) and in townships with a population of more than 15,000 in counties other than Cook, the township central committee of a political party may decide to nominate its candidates by primary election. If the township central committee decides to hold a primary, it must file a statement of that determination ([SBE Form M-11](#)) with the county clerk no later than August 15, 2024. If any part of a township is within the jurisdiction of a board of election commissioners, the township central committee must promptly notify that board of the determination. (60 ILCS 1/45-55)

Caucus costs: The costs of the caucus are borne by the (multi) township. (10 ILCS 5/17-30; 60 ILCS 1/45-45)

NOTE: For the purposes of this guide, “(multi) township” is to indicate that the provision applies to both townships and multi-townships. When information differs (dates, etc.) multi-township and township have been separated.

FORMS

Election law prescribes the general format of election forms to be used and the State Board of Elections (“SBE”) has prepared suggested forms. The suggested forms provided by the SBE may be utilized, or if the forms are not mandated, they can use a version of forms they create themselves that include the legal requirements set by the Election Code.

All suggested forms are available for download from the back of this guide. Forms may also be available for purchase from election supply companies. Local election officials are advised to contact their election authority (county clerk or board of election commissioners) regarding the availability of forms.

Notices

| Deadline | Who | What | To Whom | Statute |
|---|--|---|---|--------------------|
| 30 days prior to caucus Nov. 4, 2024 | Township Clerk | Notice of obligation to report time and location of caucus | Chair/Memberships of Township Central Committee | 60 ILCS 1/45-10(a) |
| 30 days prior to caucus Nov. 4, 2024 | Multi-Township Clerk | Notice of obligation to report time and location of caucus | Chair/Memberships of Multi-Township Central Committee | 60 ILCS 1/45-25(c) |
| *20 days prior to caucus Nov. 13, 2024 | Township Central Committee Chair | Notice of time and location of party caucus | Township Clerk | 60 ILCS 1/45-15(a) |
| *20 days prior to caucus Nov. 14, 2024 | Multi-Township Central Committee Chair | Notice of time and location of party caucus | Multi-Township Clerk | 60 ILCS 1/45-25(c) |
| 10 days prior to caucus Nov. 25, 2024 | Township Board | Notice of caucus by publication SBE Form N-6 | In a newspaper having general circulation in the township | 60 ILCS 1/45-10(a) |
| 10 days prior to caucus Nov. 25, 2024 | Multi-Township Central Committee | Notice of caucus by publication SBE Form N-6 | In a newspaper having general circulation in the township | 60 ILCS 1/45-25(c) |

* State law provides the date and notice requirements for caucuses (10 ILCS 5/10-1(b); 60 ILCS 1/45-50(b)(2)), but the location of a caucus is generally determined by the political party's township central committee.

NOTE: If the time and location of 2 or more political party caucuses conflict, the (multi) township clerk shall establish, by a fair and impartial public lottery, the time and location for each caucus.

Also, the SBE recommends the (multi) township central committee to select a committee chair prior to the caucus who would be chair of the caucus proceedings. (60 ILCS 1/45-10(a), 45-25(c))

ESTABLISHING RULES OF PROCEDURE

The (multi) township central committees shall promulgate caucus Rules of Procedure prior to holding their respective established political party's caucus (60 ILCS 1/45-15 and 45-25(b)). The Rules of Procedure must be approved and may be amended by a majority vote of the qualified participants at the caucus. (60 ILCS 1/45-50(a)) The Rules of Procedure shall include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

1. No caucus shall commence earlier than 6:00 p.m.
2. The caucus shall commence at the place specified in the notice of caucus.
3. Procedures by which qualified caucus participants shall determine by majority vote the duties of caucus judges of election. Caucus judges of election shall be appointed by a majority vote of the (multi) township central committee. No judge of the Supreme Court, Appellate Court, Circuit Court, or Associate Judge shall serve as a caucus judge of election.
4. Nominations for selection as a candidate shall be accepted from any qualified participant of the caucus.
5. Method of voting (i.e., written ballot, voice vote, show of hands, standing vote) for determining the candidate or candidates selected for nomination.
6. Whether candidates will be selected as a slate or as individual nominees for each office.
7. Whether written notice of intent to be a caucus nominee shall be required.
8. A participant in a caucus shall be entitled to only one vote for each office for which they are voting. A participant's vote shall not be weighted to be equal to more than one vote.

(60 ILCS 1-45-50(b)(1-9))

NOTE: The voters participating at an established political party (multi) township caucus shall not select for nomination more candidates than there are to be elected for each office. (60 ILCS 1/45-50(d))

CAUCUS PARTICIPATION

Requirements for individuals participating at a political party's (multi) township caucus:

1. Shall be registered to vote under Article 4, 5, or 6 of the Election Code;
2. Shall be registered to vote within the (multi) township district for which the nomination is made ([SBE Form H-1](#));
3. Shall sign an affidavit ([SBE Form H-1](#)) that they are a registered voter and affiliated with the established political party holding the caucus;
4. Shall not take part in the proceedings of more than one established political party (multi) township caucus for the same election (the requirement also applies to (multi) township clerks);
5. Shall not sign a petition of nomination for an independent or new political party candidate for the same election;
6. Shall not become an independent candidate or a candidate of another established political party or a new political party for the same election.

(60 ILCS 1/45-50(c)(1-6))

Prohibitions on Participation:

No person may participate at a (multi) township caucus of an established political party if such person is or was at any time during the 12 months prior to the caucus:

1. An elected or appointed public official of another established political party;
2. An elected or appointed officer, director, precinct committeeperson, or representative of the township committeeperson of another established political party;
3. A judge of election appointed for another statewide established political party pursuant to Article 13 or 14 of the Election Code;
4. A voter who voted in the primary election of another statewide established political party different from the party holding the caucus (e.g., a voter who cast a Republican ballot at the March 2020 General Primary Election cannot participate in a Democratic caucus in December 2020).

(60 ILCS 1/45-50(a)(1-4))

CAUCUS DAY PROCEDURES

Note: While some procedures below are explicitly required by 60 ILCS 1/45, some are simply suggested procedures to follow. For more information on caucus day procedures, review 60 ILCS 1/45 for specific information.

State law provides the date and notice requirements for caucuses (10 ILCS 5/10-1(b); 60 ILCS 1/45-50(b)(2)), but the location of a caucus is generally determined by the political party's township central committee.

1. Upon entering the room where the caucus is held, caucus judges have each participant sign an affidavit stating that they are a registered voter in the (multi) township and are affiliated with the established political party conducting the caucus. ([SBE Form H-1](#)) (60 ILCS 1/45-50(c)(3))
2. At the appointed time, the chair of the (multi) township central committee shall call the meeting to order. The first order of business shall be to elect a secretary from the assembly. The secretary-elect should take their place next to the chair and proceed to record the caucus business. The Rules of Procedure, which will have been drafted by the appropriate (multi) township central committee, must be approved and may be amended by a majority vote of the qualified participants attending the caucus. (60 ILCS 1/45-50(a))
3. The chair, or presiding officer, shall then announce the method of voting selected by the (multi) township central committee, introduce the caucus judges of election, and announce the offices for which nominees are to be chosen.
4. The chair shall call for opening nominations for each office according to the order in which the offices will appear on the township election ballot. Nominations from the floor may be made and no second is required; however, one or more members of the caucus may wish to offer a second as a form of endorsement. The chair should repeat each nomination as is illustrated in the following:

Chair: Nominations are now in order for candidates for the office of township supervisor.
Member: I nominate Mr. Smith.
Chair: Mr. Smith is nominated. Are there any further nominations?
5. When it appears that no one else wishes to make any further nomination for an office, the chair should again ask the assembly if anyone has a further nomination to offer and, if not, they shall declare the nominations closed and proceed to either vote on the nominations or proceed to

open nominations for the next office, depending on the procedure that the (multi) township central committee has selected.

6. For **township caucuses**, the caucus judges of election are responsible for tallying the vote, with the township central committee acting as the canvassing board (60 ILCS 1/45-20(a)). For **multi-township caucuses**, there is some ambiguity in the statutory language, but in practice most multi-township caucuses are canvassed by the multi-township central committee. For jurisdictions operating under board of election commissioners, the board shall make abstracts or statements of the votes for all offices and questions voted on at the election. (10 ILCS 5/22-8) If any method other than a written ballot is employed, the canvass will be concurrent with the tallying. For instance, if a voice vote is issued, the caucus judges of election will make their report with the concurrence of the (multi) township central committee; such concurrence shall take the place of the canvass. The chair will then declare the candidates nominated.
7. If written ballots are used, the SBE advises having a centrally located ballot box over which the caucus judges of election can maintain control. A reasonable amount of time should be allowed for voting. When it appears that those wishing to vote have done so, the chair shall inquire as to whether there is anyone who has not completed their vote. If there is no reply from the floor, the chair shall declare the balloting closed. The caucus judges of election shall immediately begin tallying the votes. As soon as tallying has been completed, the (multi) township central committee shall proceed to canvass the caucus report. Upon completion of the canvass, the chair shall announce the results and declare the nominees).* The voters participating at an established political party (multi) township caucus shall not select for nomination more candidates than there are to be elected for each office.
8. When the selection of all nominees has been completed, the chair shall call for a motion from the floor to adjourn. After the motion is seconded, a voice vote on adjournment shall be taken. Upon an affirmative vote, the Chair then adjourns the meeting.

** No candidate for nomination at a caucus shall be required to (1) circulate and file nomination petitions or (2) file a fee in order to become a candidate at the caucus. (60 ILCS 1/45-50(e))*

POST CAUCUS PROCEDURES

| Timeline | Who | What | To Whom | Statute |
|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <p>After caucus and prior to candidate filing period*</p> <p>(Dec. 3 – 8, 2024)</p> | <p>Township Central Committee</p> | <p>Canvass and declare caucus results</p> | <p>Township</p> | <p>60 ILCS 1/45-20(a) and (b)</p> |
| <p>After caucus and prior to candidate filing period*</p> <p>(Dec. 4 – 8, 2024)</p> | <p>Multi-Township Central Committee</p> | <p>Canvass and declare caucus results</p> | <p>Township</p> | <p>60 ILCS 1/45-25(d) and (e)</p> |
| <p>Dec. 9 – Dec 16, 2024</p> | <p>Township Central Committee</p> | <p>File Certificate of Nomination by Caucus. Also included for each candidate shall be a Statement of Candidacy, Loyalty Oath (optional), and Statement of Economic Interests Receipt**</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SBE Form H-2</p> | <p>Township Clerk or Board of Election Commissioners (if applicable)</p> | <p>60 ILCS 1/45-20(b)</p> |
| <p>Dec. 9 – Dec 16, 2024</p> | <p>Multi-Township Central Committee</p> | <p>File Certificate of Nomination by Caucus. Also included for each candidate shall be a Statement of Candidacy, Loyalty Oath (optional), and Statement of Economic Interests Receipt**</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SBE Form H-2</p> | <p>Office of the Election Authority</p> | <p>60 ILCS 1/45-25(e)</p> |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Prior to certification | Local Election Authority | Ballot Placement Lottery File Certification of Political Party Ballot Placement Lottery SBE Form M-1 | Appropriate election authorities | 10 ILCS 5/7-60.1 |
| Jan. 23, 2025 | Township Clerk | Certification of Ballot SBE Form G-1 | Office of the Election Authority | 10 ILCS 5/7-60.1 60 ILCS 1/45-20(c) |

*Specific deadline is not established in statute, but canvassing and declaring the caucus results must be completed before the candidates can file their nomination papers with the (multi) township clerk during the period of Dec. 9 – 16, 2024. The SBE recommends it be completed prior to December 9, 2024, to allow candidates the flexibility to file at any point during the full filing period.

****Filing of Certificate of Nomination by Caucus and Additional Required Forms:**

The chair of the (multi) township central committee shall file a Certificate of Nomination by Caucus ([SBE Form H-2](#)) listing each candidate nominated for township office at the caucus. The Certificate of Nomination by Caucus shall include for each candidate: a Statement of Candidacy ([SBE Form P-1K](#)), the Loyalty Oath (optional) ([SBE Form P-1C](#)), and a receipt for filing a Statement of Economic Interest with the county clerk. The Certificate of Nomination by Caucus shall be filed between 113 and 106 days prior to the (multi) township election (December 9 – December 16, 2024). (10 ILCS 5/7-60.1; 60 ILCS 1/45-20(b), 45-25(e), 45-30(a)). The Certificate of Nomination by Caucus shall be signed by both the chair and the secretary of the caucus who shall each also include their residence addresses.

Ballot Placement Lottery:

The local election authority shall, prior to certification, determine by a fair and impartial method of random selection the order of placement of the established political party candidates for the Consolidated Election ballot. Such determination shall be made in the office of the local election official and shall be open to the public. Three days written notice of the time and place of conducting such random selection shall be given by each local election official to the county chair of each established political party, and to each organization of citizens within the election jurisdiction which was entitled, under Article 7 of the Election Code, at the next preceding election, to have pollwatchers present on the day of election. Each local election official shall post in a conspicuous, open and public place, at the entrance of the office, notice of the time and place of such lottery. The local election official shall then file the Certification of Political Party Ballot Placement Lottery ([SBE Form M-1](#)) as part of their

official certification of candidates to the election authorities whose duty it is to prepare the official ballot for the consolidated election in that political subdivision. (10 ILCS 5/7-60.1)

Exception – Townships under Board of Election Commissioners:

If the township is entirely within the corporate limits of a city, village, or incorporated town under the jurisdiction of a board of election commissioners, the nomination papers and the results of the party ballot placement lottery form shall be filed in the office of the board of election commissioners instead of the township clerk. (10 ILCS 5/7-60.1)

NOMINATED CANDIDATES FOR ASSESSOR

The Certificate of Nomination by Caucus, Statement of Candidacy, the Loyalty Oath (optional), and receipt for filing a Statement of Economic Interests filed on behalf of a candidate for the office of (multi) township assessor are not valid unless the candidate files with the township clerk or board of election commissioners, as the case may be, proof of their qualifications pursuant to Section 2-45 of the Property Tax Code. (35 ILCS 200/2-45(e)) In accordance with the Property Tax Code, a candidate for (multi) township assessor cannot file nominating papers or participate as a candidate unless a copy of the certificate of their qualifications is filed with the township clerk, board of election commissioners, or other appropriate authority as required by the Election Code. (35 ILCS 200/2-45(b)) See the 2025 State Board of Elections' Candidate's Guide for more information regarding these qualifications.

The appropriate election authority shall notify the candidates for township assessor or multi-township assessor of the obligation to file proof of their qualifications as provided in Section 2-45 of the Property Tax Code. (60 ILCS 1/45-40)

TOWNSHIP CLERK/BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS – Campaign Finance Reporting Obligations

The township clerk or board of election commissioners with whom caucus Certificates of Nomination are filed must provide the [D-5 Notice of Obligation](#) to comply with the Illinois Election Code to each candidate at the time they file their nomination papers. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(7), 5/10-6.1)) However, if a candidate files their nomination papers by mail, or an agent of the candidate files their nomination papers, the board or the county clerk with whom the petitions were filed will send the notice to the candidate by first class mail within 2 business days. (10 ILCS 5/9-16) The notice will state that the manual of instructions and forms for statements required to be filed under Article 9 of the Election Code

are available from the State Board of Elections or county clerk upon request. (10 ILCS 5/9-15(3)) All suggested forms are available for download from the end of this publication.

FILING LOCATION REMINDER

The township central committee files the Certification of Nomination by Caucus with the township clerk or board of election commissioners. The township clerk or board will retain the Certificate of Nomination by Caucus and all candidate paperwork. The township clerk or board will then file a Certification of Ballot ([SBE Form G-1](#)) with the election authority (county clerk or board of election commissioners). (10 ILCS 5/7-60.1, 60 ILCS 1/45-20(b))

The multi-township central committee files the Certificate of Nomination by Caucus directly with the election authority (county clerk or board of election commissioners), who will retain the Certificate of Nomination by Caucus and all candidate paperwork. (60 ILCS 1/45-25(e))

CALENDAR

Thursday, August 15, 2024

Last day for the township central committees having a population of over 3,000,000 (Cook County) and in townships having a population of over 15,000 in counties other than Cook County, to notify the appropriate election authority that their specific party will nominate candidates by primary election.

Monday, October 21 – Monday, October 28, 2024

Filing period for established political party candidates who seek nomination at the February 25, 2025, Consolidated Primary Election.

Please note: This filing period does not apply to townships which nominate their candidates by caucus.

Monday, November 4, 2024

Last day for the township clerk to notify the chair or membership of each township central committee by first-class mail of the chair's or membership's obligation to report the time and location of the political party's caucus.

Monday, November 4, 2024

Last day for the multi-township clerk to notify the chair or membership of each multi-township central committee by first-class mail of the chair's or membership's obligation to report the time and location of the political party's caucus.

Tuesday, November 12 – Monday, November 18, 2024

Filing period for independent, new party, and nonpartisan candidates who seek election at the April 1, 2025, Consolidated Election.

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Last day for each chair of a township central committee to notify the township clerk by first-class mail of the time and location of their political party's caucus.

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Last day for each chair of a multi-township central committee to notify the multi-township clerk by first-class mail of the time and location of their party's caucus.

Monday, November 25, 2024

Last day for a township board to publish a notice stating the time and location of the caucus for each political party.

Monday, November 25, 2024

Last day for the multi-township central committee of each established political party to publish the notice stating the time and location of the multi-township caucus.

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Established political party township caucus.

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Established political party multi-township caucus.

Monday, December 9, 2024

First day the established political party Certificate of Nomination by Caucus form may be filed in the office of the local election official, or the appropriate board of election commissioners, with a Statement of Candidacy, Loyalty Oath (optional), and a receipt for filing a Statement of Economic Interests for each candidate.

Monday, December 16, 2024

Last day the established political party Certificate of Nomination by Caucus form may be filed in the office of the local election official, or the appropriate board of election commissioners, with a Statement of Candidacy, Loyalty Oath (optional), and a receipt for filing a Statement of Economic Interests for each candidate. Candidates for (multi) township assessor are obligated to file a Certificate of Qualifications as provided in Section 2-45 of the Property Tax Code.

Thursday, January 23, 2025

- The last day (68 days prior to the Consolidated Election) for the township clerk to hold the party placement lottery and file the Certification of Political Party Ballot Placement Lottery ([SBE Form M-1](#)) with the election authority (county clerk or board of election commissioners).
- The last day (68 days prior to the Consolidated Election) that the township clerk can certify to the election authority (county clerk or board of election commissioners) a Certification of Ballot ([SBE Form G-1](#)). This certificate must list the offices and names of the nominees for each office as they appear upon the Certificate of Nomination by Caucus that was filed with their office.

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Illinois Consolidated Primary Election.

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Illinois Consolidated Election.

FORMS

[Code of Fair Campaign Practices](#)

[D-5 Notice of Obligation](#)

[SBE Form G-1](#)

Certification of Ballot Party Candidate

[SBE Form H-1](#)

Affidavit of Voter Attending Township Caucus

[SBE Form H-2](#)

Certificate of Nomination by Caucus

[SBE Form M-1](#)

Certification of Political Party Ballot Placement Lottery

[SBE Form M-11](#)

Request for Primary Election – Township

[SBE Form N-6](#)

Notice of Caucus

[SBE Form P-1C](#)

Loyalty Oath

[SBE Form P-1K](#)

Statement of Candidacy – Nomination by Caucus

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