



This guide is meant to be an intro to running for office in Pennsylvania as a Libertarian and to share basic information to Affiliates as they support our candidates. This document is not legal advice, and each candidate should explore election laws and requirements that may have changed since the creation of this document.

### **Important Things To Know To Run As A Libertarian In Pennsylvania**

- The Pennsylvania State Legislature, known as “The General Assembly”, is composed of the State Senate (50 districts total) and the State House of Representatives (203 districts).
- There are 18 Congressional (U.S. House) Districts and Two U.S. Senators
  - Candidates for State Legislature must be 21 years old for the state house and 25 years old for the state senate and must have lived in Pennsylvania for Four Years and have lived in “their respective districts” for one year prior to their election. They also must reside in their district for their entire term of service.
- There are 2,560 local municipalities in Pennsylvania with many elected offices such as mayor, council, township supervisor, school directors, auditors, constables, judge of elections, etc.
- Only the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, and its county affiliates have the authorization to nominate candidates to run under the Libertarian Party name. Nominations for statewide candidates are done at our annual state convention, and all other nominations are done at the county level. For more information refer to our bylaws and policy manual.

### **Candidate Support Team, Candidate Paperwork and Campaign Finance**

- One of the most important steps is to organize a support team for your candidacy. Many candidates try to take on the workload themselves, and while our Elections and Candidate Support Committees are there to assist as much as possible it can be very cumbersome for an individual candidate. A few volunteers can go a long way. Here are a few roles to consider seeking help with:
  - Campaign Manager to help plan events
  - Campaign Treasurer to help manage funds and assist with campaign finance filings
  - Campaign Fundraiser to help gather funds from donors
- If a candidate chooses to create a political committee for their campaign, they will need a campaign treasurer and a chairman before taking donations. This committee must be

registered with the state using a form **DSEB-500, Political Committee Registration Statement**. A guide and more information can be found [here](#).

- Your Candidate Affidavit and Candidate Nomination Paper (All available through the LPPA Elections Committee), along with a copy of your Statement of Financial Interests must be filed together with the PA Elections Office in Harrisburg with the requisite filing fee by the deadline set by the PA Department of State, or with the County Board of Elections in Municipal Election years.
  - Candidate Affidavit and Nomination Papers are available through the LPPA Elections Committee
  - Statement of Financial Interests may be filled out [here](#)
  - 2024 Important Dates to Remember [here](#)
  - 2024 Campaign Finance Deadlines [here](#)
    - For relevant dates based on office sought, reach out to [candidatesupport@lppa.org](mailto:candidatesupport@lppa.org)
  - A guide for campaign finance reports can be found [here](#) and filing online can be found [here](#).

## Petitioning Process

- Each elected office has a set number of required signatures for Nomination Papers to appear on the November election as we do not hold primaries for Libertarians in Pennsylvania. These signatures can come from any registered voter in the district of the office sought. This varies from the two Major Parties as they can only receive signatures of registered party members on their Nomination Petitions to appear in their respective primary. For confirmation of requirements, reach out to the LPPA Elections Committee.
- For state level elections all nomination papers are to be turned in by the LPPA Elections Committee along with an approved candidate list. It is crucial to email [elections@lppa.org](mailto:elections@lppa.org) as soon as a state level candidate decides to run for office so they are not omitted from this list, otherwise the state Elections Bureau will not accept the papers.
- The county affiliates and LPPA Regional Reps are also available to help candidates find out these requirements

## Campaign Strategy and Execution

- Running a campaign can be overwhelming. Spending time planning before you set out will save tons of scrambling and missing opportunities. If you have a campaign manager this will help make the process less stressful. Here are a few of the many things you can do to prepare:
  - Campaign Calendar
    - Primary Day - The most crucial day to get out with volunteers and get signatures. Work with LPPA Candidate Support or County Affiliate to identify the highest in person turnout precincts to make sure you are covered

- Community festivals and parades - If you do not get enough signatures on Primary Day, this is an opportunity to get more. It is important to understand the allowable signatures for the position so they are not thrown out if challenged by another political party. These are also great campaigning and fundraising events.
- Campaign Finance Deadlines - Write relevant dates from the calendar above on the campaign calendar so you do not miss deadlines and avoid late penalties.
- Campaign Events, Town Halls, etc
- Neighborhood canvassing days
- Fundraising Events

Running for office can be a stressful endeavor. Hopefully this brief guide will help put some concerns at ease, and never be afraid of racing out for any questions you may have!

LPPA Elections Committee

[elections@lppa.org](mailto:elections@lppa.org)

LPPA Candidate Support

[candidatesupport@lppa.org](mailto:candidatesupport@lppa.org)