

# ADVISORY ISSUED JUNE 29, 2020

## Collection of Signatures for the 2020 State Primaries and General Election

*Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, please note the change in procedures for collecting signatures on nomination papers.*

***NOTE: Completed nomination papers must be PRINTED and received by the local boards of canvassers by July 10 at 4 p.m. You must submit them in-person, via drop box, via US mail, or fax. Nomination papers WILL NOT be accepted electronically from candidates.***

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Nomination papers originally printed by the Secretary of State or local boards of canvassers may be reduced to a letter-sized document, so long as the document is the **exact** copied image of the state or locally issued nomination paper.

In addition to the traditional manner of in-person signature collection, the nomination papers may be transmitted to the voter by the candidate/campaign for their endorsement signature by mail or electronic transmission. Electronic transmission includes email and fax. If the exact copied image of the nomination paper is transmitted electronically, it is understood that the front of the nomination paper will be transmitted to the voter. Voters may download and print a hard copy of the nomination paper and sign it by hand and write the voter's address on the spaces provided. Voters may deliver signed nomination papers to the candidate/campaign by hand/mail or by electronic image, meaning a scanned copy or photograph of the nomination paper sent by email or fax.

Thereafter and prior to submission to the local boards of canvassers, the respective voter or candidates/campaigns must reproduce the front pages of nomination papers along with a corresponding back page which indicates how and by whom the signature was obtained. Single-sided sheets or two sheets stapled or otherwise attached together **are acceptable**.

Signed nomination papers may not be submitted to local boards of canvassers electronically and must be submitted by the voter or candidate/campaign in person, by mail, by drop box or fax, to the local board of canvassers in the city/town where the voter resides, by 4 p.m. on July 10, 2020 in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws 17-14-11. Nomination papers must be signed so that local boards of canvassers will be able to check and certify the signature against the voter's registration. The use of a "/s/" as a signature will not be accepted.

In the event that the candidate or voter return the nomination papers by fax, the candidate or voter must use the fax number set forth on the local board of canvassers' website.

A nomination paper shall not be disqualified or disallowed for having extraneous markings generated by the process of scanning the nomination paper or of sending the nomination paper by fax or in the case of a photograph of the signed nomination paper, where such photograph extending beyond the margins for the nomination paper itself, so long as the text of the nomination paper remains legible when printed and so long as the marking of difference cannot reasonably be construed to affect the nomination paper content.



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# COLLECTING SIGNATURES

Candidates in 2020 have the option to collect voter signatures electronically. Candidates may either pick up their nomination papers in person or request their nomination papers be emailed to them.

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## Collecting signatures in person



Do not go out to collect signatures if you are feeling sick or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.



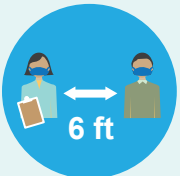
Wipe your clipboard and pen between each use. Have hand sanitizer on hand for those signing your nomination papers to use before and after signing.\*



Cover your nose and mouth with a protective mask. Dispose of your mask or wash it (if it is cloth) at the end of the day.



Frequently wash your hands or use hand sanitizer while you collect signatures. Avoid touching your face.



To the extent possible, comply with social distancing guidelines. Maintain a six-foot distance while voters sign your nomination papers.



Keep a log of where and when you collect signatures to help with contact tracing.

*\*Be sure wipes and hand sanitizer have at least 60% alcohol content to kill the spread of germs.*

## Collecting signatures electronically\*\*



Email your nomination paper to voters in your district/ward or print copies of the form to hand-deliver or mail. Voters can then sign your nomination papers.



Voters may print the nomination paper to sign and hand-deliver or mail back to you as the candidate.

**-OR-**



Local boards of canvassers will match voter's signatures on the nomination papers to their signatures on their voter cards.



Voters may electronically sign a nomination paper as long as the signature can be matched to the voter record.

*Only open attachments you are expecting. Opening attachments from unknown senders leaves you vulnerable to cyber attacks.*

**\*\*Affidavit of Signatures Obtained on the back of the nomination paper indicates signatures may have been obtained electronically. One Affidavit of Signatures may be submitted for multiple front pages as long as the signatures were collected by the same person.**



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