

How the Write-In Process Works

- Only candidates who file a Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate may be considered as a write-in candidate.
- Candidates can file as a write-in candidate until 4:30 p.m. on the 61st day prior to the election.
- Once all ballots have been received in our office, two judges, one from each major political party in Adams County, look at every write-in name to determine whether or not the name is of a candidate that has declared their write-in status and therefore shall be accepted.
- All accepted write-in votes are then included with the other tabulated votes.
- To qualify as a candidate for an established political party in a General Election, a write-in candidate at a Primary Election for that party must receive the number of votes that is equal to or greater than the number of signatures required on a petition for that office if the number of candidates whose names appear on the primary ballot is less than the number of persons the party is entitled to nominate or elect to that office at the Primary Election.
- The number of votes required for write-in candidates to be nominated or elected to an office at a Primary Election, as outlined above, does not apply if:
 1. The number of votes he/she receives exceeds the number of votes received by at least one of the candidates whose name was printed on the ballot for nomination or election to the same office;
 2. The number of candidates whose names appear on the ballot equals or exceeds the number of persons the party is entitled to nominate or elect to that office. [10ILCS 5/7-59]

How to file as a Write-In Candidate

1. A candidate who is defeated for nomination is prohibited from filing a Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate at that General Election
2. Write-in votes shall be counted only for persons who have filed notarized declarations of intent to be write-in candidates with the proper election authority or authorities no later than 61 days prior to the primary. However, whenever an objection to a candidate's nominating papers or petitions for any office is sustained under Section 10-10 after the 61st day before the election, then write-in votes shall be counted for that candidate if he or she has filed a notarized declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate for that office with the proper election authority or authorities not later than 7 days prior to the election.
[10 ILCS 5/7-59 (b), 17-16.1, 18-9.1]

After the Election

A winning write-in candidate who receives the required number of votes at a Primary Election must file:

1. Statement of Candidacy
2. A receipt for filing of the Statement of Economic Interest (exception: federal and party offices)
3. A Loyalty Oath (if desired)

These forms must be filed within 10 days of the canvass

The forms must be filed with a certifying officer or board (example: winning write-in candidate for State Representative would file with the State Board of Elections).
[10 ILCS 5/7-60]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan A. Niekamp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and "A".

Ryan A. Niekamp
Adams County Clerk's Office
507 Vermont St. Quincy, IL 62301

**DECLARATION
OF
INTENT TO BE A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE**

To: _____ in the County of _____ and State of Illinois.
(Election Authority)

I, _____, state that I am a qualified primary elector of the _____
Party (for use in primary only) and a resident of the _____ precinct of the (1)*township of _____
(2)* City/Village of _____ or (3)* _____ ward in the City of _____
residing at _____ in such City, Village or Town, and State of Illinois, that it's my
intention to be a _____ Party (for use in primary only) write-in candidate for the office of
_____, full term or vacancy (circle one) at the _____
Election to be held on _____ (date of election).

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/29-10 the undersigned certifies that the
statements set forth in this request are true and correct.

*Fill in either (1), (2) or (3)

(Signature of Candidate)

Signed and Sworn to (or affirmed) by _____ before me, on

(insert month, day, year)

(SEAL)

(Notary Public's Signature)

An original Declaration of Intent must be filed with *each* election authority (county clerk(s) or boards of election commissioners in the territory) no later than 61 days before the election