



Am I Ready to Run?

A self-checklist for potential Candidates

Running for office is exciting, but it comes with real responsibilities. Use this checklist to reflect before you commit:

☒ Personal Readiness

- ☐ I have the time to attend regular meetings and events (evenings/weekends).
 - ☐ My family and employer support my decision to run and serve.
 - ☐ I am comfortable with being a public figure and open to scrutiny.
 - ☐ I can commit to reading and preparing for board packets, budgets, and policy documents.
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☒ Motivation & Goals

- ☐ I know *why* I want to serve (specific issues, values, or improvements).
 - ☐ I am focused on helping my community, not just opposing someone else.
 - ☐ I am willing to collaborate with people who may disagree with me.
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☒ Campaign Basics

- ☐ I understand how to circulate and file petitions correctly.
 - ☐ I am aware of campaign finance rules (>\$5,000 requires a committee).
 - ☐ I have thought about how I will fund a campaign (self-fund, donations, fundraising).
 - ☐ I have at least one or two trusted people who can help (campaign treasurer, volunteers).
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☒ Ethical & Legal Awareness


- ☐ I understand that decisions must follow laws, not personal interests.
 - ☐ I am aware of the Open Meetings Act and FOIA.
 - ☐ I am prepared to recuse myself if conflicts of interest arise.
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Next Steps

If you checked most of these boxes, you may be ready to explore a run for office!

- Review the Illinois State Board of Elections Candidate Guide.
 - Talk to a current or former Official about the realities of service.
 - Mark important dates from the election calendar.
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 For complete candidate guides and filing information, visit:
DeKalb County Clerk & Recorder's Office — dekalbcountyclerk.il.gov
Illinois State Board of Elections — elections.il.gov

