

# Impact Local: A Quick Guide to Running for Office

*This handout provides a quick reference for common offices, election timing, and key requirements. For complete details, always refer to the Illinois State Board of Elections Candidate Guides*

Office	Election Type	Election Year(s)	Paid?	Time Commitment	File Petitions With	Party Affiliation?	Campaign Finance Rules	Basic Qualifications
<b>Mayor/President</b> <i>(Municipal)</i>	Consolidated (odd years)	Every 4 yrs	Varies	Regular meetings, admin duties	City Clerk	<u>Partisan</u> or Nonpartisan (depends on form of gov't)	File if raising/ spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, resident of City, registered voter
<b>Aldersperson/ Village Trustee</b>	Consolidated (odd years)	Every 4 yrs	Varies (stipend/salary)	2–4 meetings/month + prep	City Clerk	<u>Partisan</u> or Nonpartisan (depends on form of gov't)	File if raising/ spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, resident of City, registered voter
<b>City Clerk</b> <i>(Cortland, DeKalb, Genoa, Sandwich, Sycamore)</i>	Consolidated (odd years)	Every 4 yrs	Varies	Admin role, regular hours	City Clerk	<u>Partisan</u> or Nonpartisan (depends on form of gov't)	File if raising/ spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, resident of City, registered voter
<b>City Treasurer</b> <i>(Sandwich)</i>	Consolidated (odd years)	Every 4 yrs	Varies	Admin role, regular hours	City Clerk	<u>Partisan</u> or Nonpartisan (depends on form of gov't)	File if raising/ spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, resident of City, registered voter
<b>Township Supervisor</b>	Consolidated (odd years)	Every 4 yrs	Stipend/Salary (varies)	1–2 meetings/month + admin	Township Clerk	Partisan	File if raising/ spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, Township resident, registered voter
<b>Township Trustees</b>	Consolidated (odd years)	Every 4 yrs	Stipend/Salary (varies)	1–2 meetings/month	Township Clerk	Partisan	File if raising/ spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, Township resident, registered voter
<b>Township Clerk/Assessor/ Highway Commissioner</b>	Consolidated (odd years)	Every 4 yrs	Stipend/Salary (varies)	Admin & field duties	Township Clerk	Partisan	File if raising/ spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, Township resident, registered voter (IL Dept. of Revenue Assessor Cert. required before filing)
<b>Multi-Township Assessor</b>	Consolidated (odd years)	Every 4 yrs	Stipend/Salary (varies)	Admin & field duties	County Clerk	Partisan	File if raising/ spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, Township resident, registered voter (IL Dept. of Revenue Assessor Cert. required before filing)

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Park District Commissioner	Consolidated (odd years)	Every 4/6 yrs (varies)	Unpaid Volunteer	1–2 meetings/month	Park District Secretary	Nonpartisan	File if raising/spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, District resident, registered voter
Library District Trustee	Consolidated (odd years)	Every 4 yrs	Unpaid Volunteer	Monthly meetings	Library Secretary	Nonpartisan	File if raising/spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, District resident, registered voter
Regional Board of School Trustees	Consolidated (odd years)	Every 6 yrs	Unpaid Volunteer	Varies, infrequent	County Clerk	Nonpartisan	File if raising/spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, County resident, registered voter
School Board Member	Consolidated (odd years)	Every 4 yrs	Unpaid Volunteer	2–3 meetings/month + committees	County Clerk	Nonpartisan	File if raising/spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, resident of District for 1-year, registered voter, not employed by that district
Community College Trustee	Consolidated (odd years)	Every 6 yrs	Unpaid Volunteer	Monthly meetings	County Clerk	Nonpartisan	File if raising/spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, District resident, registered voter
Fire Protection District Trustee	Consolidated (odd years)	Every 6 yrs	Unpaid Volunteer	Monthly meetings	County Clerk	Nonpartisan	File if raising/spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, District resident, registered voter
County Board Member	General (even years)	Every 2 yrs (staggered)	Per Diem & Mileage	4-5 meetings/month + committees	County Clerk	Partisan	File if raising/spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, resident of District, registered voter
County Clerk & Recorder	General (even years)	Every 4 yrs	Full-Time Salaried	Full-Time office	County Clerk	Partisan	File if raising/spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, County resident, registered voter
County Treasurer	General (even years)	Every 4 yrs	Full-Time Salaried	Full-Time office	County Clerk	Partisan	File if raising/spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, County resident, registered voter
County Sheriff	General (even years)	Every 4 yrs	Full-Time Salaried	Full-Time office	County Clerk	Partisan	File if raising/spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, County resident, registered voter
Regional Superintendent of Schools	General (even years)	Every 4 yrs	Full-Time Salaried	Full-Time office	County Clerk	Partisan	File if raising/spending > \$5,000	Must hold a valid Administrative Certificate, U.S. Citizen, county resident

Office	Election Type	Election Year(s)	Paid?	Time Commitment	File Petitions With	Party Affiliation?	Campaign Finance Rules	Basic Qualifications
State Representative	General (even years)	Every 2 yrs	Full-Time Salaried	Legislative Session + Constituent Services	Illinois State Board of Elections	Partisan	File if raising/spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 21+, resident of District for 2 yrs
State Senator	General (even years)	Every 2 or 4 yrs (staggered)	Full-Time Salaried	Legislative Session + Constituent Services	Illinois State Board of Elections	Partisan	File if raising/spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 21+, resident of District for 2 yrs
U.S. Representative	General (even years)	Every 2 yrs	Full-Time Salaried	Legislative + DC travel	Federal Election Commission	Partisan	File with FEC	U.S. Citizen, 25+, resident of U.S. for 7 yrs, live in state
U.S. Senator	General (even years, staggered)	6 yr terms	Full-Time Salaried	Legislative + DC travel	Federal Election Commission	Partisan	File with FEC	U.S. Citizen, 30+, resident of U.S. for 9 yrs, live in state
President & Vice President	General (every 4 yrs)	Next in 2028	Full-Time Salaried	Full-time/Federal	Federal Election Commission	Partisan	File with FEC	U.S. Citizen by birth, 35+, resident of U.S. for 14 yrs
Judges (Supreme, Appellate, Circuit, Subcircuit)	General (even years, retention)	Varies	Full-Time Salaried	Full-Time Judicial office	Illinois State Board of Elections	Partisan Nomination; Retention is Nonpartisan	File if raising/spending > \$5,000	Must be licensed Illinois attorney, resident of District, U.S. Citizen
State Central Committeeperson (Party Org.)	General Primary (even years, Dem only)	Every 4 yrs	Unpaid Volunteer	Party duties	Illinois State Board of Elections	Partisan	File if raising/spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, District resident, registered voter
Precinct Committeeperson	General Primary (even years)	Every 2 yrs	Unpaid Volunteer	Party duties, meetings	County Clerk	Partisan	File if raising/spending > \$5,000	U.S. Citizen, 18+, Precinct resident, registered voter

### Nonpartisan Candidate

- Runs for offices where party labels do not appear on the ballot by law.
- Common for school boards, park boards, library boards, community colleges, and some local referenda.
- Petitions and ballots list only the candidate's name — no party, no "Independent," nothing.

### How It Differs from Independent

- **Independent** = still part of a partisan election (ex: county board, city office, state/federal office) but chooses *not* to affiliate with a party → will be listed as *Independent* on the ballot.
- **Nonpartisan** = the office itself is legally nonpartisan → nobody has party labels, so you're simply "Jane Smith."