

**INDEPENDENT**  
**PETITION GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATES**  
**(2023)**

**FIRST DAY TO SIGN INDEPENDENT PETITIONS:**

**APRIL 18, 2023**

**INDEPENDENT FILING DATES:**

**MAY 23-MAY 30, 2023**

You may file your petition in our office between the hours of 9:00am to 4:30pm

OR

If you choose to mail your petition, please note that it can only be received between May 23<sup>rd</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup>. If the petition is received outside of this window, it will be invalid. Please ensure that your petition is acceptable if mailed. WE are not able to make corrections to your petition. It will be declined.

YOU WILL RECEIVE A RECEIPT IF YOUR PETITION IS DEEMED VALID.

1. THE DESIGNATING PETITIONS SHALL BE FILLED IN WITH INK.

2. FILL IN THE CANDIDATE'S FULL NAME (as it will appear on the ballot), PUBLIC OFFICE TITLE which includes the town that you are in, and TERM OF OFFICE. For example, ***(Councilmember Town of Arietta 4-year term)*** FULL RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS. The petition must have your full residential and mailing address. THIS INFORMATION MUST BE FILLED IN AT THE TOP OF THE PETITION ***BEFORE CIRCULATION***. Please note that Councilman/person is now (COUNCILMEMBER). In Inlet and Long Lake Town Councilmember seats must be identified as A, B, C or D. If your petition is brought into the BOE with the top filled out incorrectly, ***it will not be accepted***.

3. A CANDIDATE MUST CHOOSE THE NAME AND EMBLEM OF AN INDEPENDENT PARTY. (Samples of emblems are enclosed). THE CHOSEN PARTY'S NAME AND EMBLEM MUST BE ON THE PETITION ***BEFORE CIRCULATION***.

WHEN SELECTING AN EMBLEM:

\*The emblem or name of an independent body **cannot** be the same as a previously filed independent petition for the same office.

\*The name of an independent party **shall not include** the words: American, United States, New York State, Empire State, **or any abbreviation of the name of an existing party**.

\*You cannot use the American Flag as an emblem even though it is in the samples.

4. ALL PETITIONS FILED MUST HAVE THE CORRECT ELECTION DATE of November 7, 2023. FAILURE TO HAVE THE CORRECT ELECTION DATE WILL INVALIDATE THE ENTIRE PETITION.

5. COMMITTEE TO FILL VACANCY: FAILURE TO LIST (3) THREE ELIGIBLE VOTERS WILL NOT INVALIDATE THE PETITION. IF A VACANCY OCCURS, UNDER THE NYS ELECTION LAW THE OFFICE CAN BE FILLED BY SUCH COMMITTEE. It is up to the candidate whether to seek out persons willing to be on their Vacancy Committee.

6. SIGNATURE LINE: PLEASE MAKE SURE THE DATE ON THE SIGNATURE LINE IS NOT BEFORE THE FIRST DAY TO SIGN INDEPENDENT PETITIONS: APRIL 18, 2023. (If a prior date is used that signature will not be valid.) THE SIGNER ONLY HAS TO PLACE THEIR ORIGINAL SIGNATURE ON THE PETITION. (The person witnessing the signature can fill out the rest of the information.)

7. THE SIGNER'S ADDRESS SHOULD BE AS IN THE ENROLLMENT/REGISTRATION BOOK GIVEN YOU. If the signer states the address in the book is incorrect, they need to fill out a new registration form with us to get it changed. We cannot change addresses without the new form being filled out and signed by the voter. CONTACT ONLY VOTERS LISTED IN THE BOOK WE GIVE YOU. THEY ARE THE ONLY ACTIVE VOTERS IN YOUR TOWN AT THIS TIME.

8. THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES YOU GET SHOULD BE (AT THE MINIMUM) THE NUMBER LISTED ON THE INFORMATION SHEET THAT WE GIVE YOU. Voters who sign your petition should not have signed any designating or independent petition (including your own) for the same office in the same district or Town and can be ANY PARTY and NON-AFFILIATED (unless it happens to be a Vote for Two as in Town Councilmember). In Inlet and Long Lake, Town Councilmember seats are distinct and are a Vote for One. (A, B, C, D)

9. ANY CORRECTIONS MADE ON THE PETITION, OTHER THAN THE ORIGINAL SIGNATURE SHOULD BE INITIALED BY THE PERSON WITNESSING THE SIGNATURE. YOU MAY DRAW A LINE THROUGH ERRORS. WHITE-OUT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

10. WITNESS STATEMENT: THE WITNESS MUST BE AN ENROLLED VOTER AND MUST LIVE IN THE SAME DISTRICT AS THE CANDIDATE. THE PERSON WHO WITNESSES ALL THE SIGNATURES ON THE PETITION MUST BE THE PERSON WHO FILLS OUT THE WITNESSING INFORMATION. YOU CAN NOT WITNESS YOUR OWN SIGNATURE!

CHOOSE EITHER 1) STATEMENT OF WITNESS OR 2) NOTARY PUBLIC OR COMMISSIONER OF DEEDS (If you are a Notary or Commissioner of Deeds circulating for a candidate). YOU DO NOT HAVE TO FILL OUT BOTH SECTIONS, JUST ONE OR THE OTHER.

11. THE PETITION SHEETS SHALL BE NUMBERED SEQUENTIALLY AT THE FOOT OF EACH SHEET.

12. ALL PETITIONS CONTAINING (10) TEN OR MORE PAGES SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A COVER SHEET WHICH WE CAN PROVIDE TO YOU PRIOR TO YOU FILING.

13. TWO OR MORE PETITION SHEETS SHALL BE SECURELY FASTENED TOGETHER. (PAPER CLIPS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE) (STAPLES ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED).

14. **EVERY CANDIDATE IS REQUIRED BY ELECTION LAW TO FILE A FINANCIAL STATEMENT (CF-05) EVEN IF YOU SPEND UNDER \$50.00 ON YOUR CAMPAIGN. THEY ARE NO LONGER SUPPLIED TO YOU BY US AND ARE NO LONGER FILED HERE AT THE BOE. GO TO – <https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/download/finance/cf05.pdf> DOWNLOAD, FILL OUT AND SEND TO THE SBOE AT THE ADDRESS STATED ON THE FORM. WE WILL NOT FOLLOW UP TO SEE IF YOU HAVE FILED BUT THE SBOE WILL. YOU MUST FILE ANOTHER CF-05 EVEN IF YOU FILED FOR YOUR DESIGNATING PETITION AS YOU ARE NOW CREATING A NEW PARTY FOR YOURSELF.**

15. **EVERY CANDIDATE IS REQUIRED TO FILE A CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE.**

-----  
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of us at: 518-548-4684  
Democratic Election Commissioner Jade Sherman  
Republican Election Commissioner Gail P. Teal

HAMILTON CO. BOARD OF ELECTIONS: 102 COUNTY VIEW DRIVE  
P.O. BOX 175  
LAKE PLEASANT, NY 12108

## **2023 Independent Petition Information**

Independent petitions for the 2023 November Election will be available beginning April 10, 2023. The first day to obtain signatures will be Tuesday, April 18, 2023. The filing dates for Independent petitions are May 23<sup>rd</sup>-May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The office will be closed to observe the Memorial Day holiday on May 29<sup>th</sup>, so please plan accordingly. You may pick up your packets, on or after April 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Board of Elections. You may also call after April 10<sup>th</sup>, to make other arrangements to obtain your packets.

### **Signature Requirements:**

Anyone running for a COUNTY office will need to collect (144) signatures.

Those of you running for town positions, see below:

Arietta: 11

Benson: 7

Hope: 11

Indian Lake: 35

Inlet: 9

Lake Pleasant: 26

Long Lake: 24

Morehouse: 4

Wells: 22

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the office, 518-548-4684