

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

The Election Services office does not require a write-in candidate to “declare” themselves prior to an election. However, any person wishing to conduct a write-in campaign for any election should be aware of the following **prior** to launching a write-in campaign:

On October 31, 2019, Governor Wolf signed Act 77 of 2019 into law. Act 77 does **not** allow the use of stickers or paste-on labels because the ballot-scanning machines cannot read them and may become jammed. The law now states that write-in names may be written or stamped. The Berks County Board of Elections recommends that all write-in candidates ask voters to enter the name on the ballot marking device as it appears on the candidate’s voter registration.

All write-in candidates must abide by the Campaign Finance Reporting Law. If a write-in candidate is in receipt of or spending \$250 or more for his/her campaign then the candidate must file Campaign Finance Statements and Reports in a timely manner. All advertising and signage must clearly state who is paying for that advertising and signage. Please contact the Election Services Office for the proper forms, reports and filing dates.

Once the primary/general election is concluded, the Board of Elections must certify the results. For write-in candidates, the election law requires that the Board must compute and certify write-in votes exactly as they were written in by voters. For example, a candidate registered as John C. Lancaster, would have variations of his name such as , J. Lancaster, J. C. Lancaster and Jon Lancaster, listed as separate write in votes on the certification. The results of the certification process will appear on the Berks County website (www.countyofberks.com/elections) and be available in the Election Services Office at 633 Court Street, 1st Floor, Reading, Pennsylvania.

Under Section 1406 of the Election Code in Pennsylvania (25 P.S. §3156), a candidate may petition to accumulate votes with similar names. This petition must be presented to the Board of Elections in the Election Services Office **no later** than five days after the completion of the canvass of votes cast at either a primary or general election. Please be advised that the Berks County Board of Elections and the Election Services Office cannot provide legal advice concerning this petition process. If a candidate wishes to determine whether it is necessary or advisable to present a petition of this type, that candidate should seek legal advice concerning the process.