

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1829 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY RABB, MADDEN, McNEILL AND ROZZI, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), entitled
 2 "An act concerning elections, including general, municipal,
 3 special and primary elections, the nomination of candidates,
 4 primary and election expenses and election contests; creating
 5 and defining membership of county boards of elections;
 6 imposing duties upon the Secretary of the Commonwealth,
 7 courts, county boards of elections, county commissioners;
 8 imposing penalties for violation of the act, and codifying,
 9 revising and consolidating the laws relating thereto; and
 10 repealing certain acts and parts of acts relating to
 11 elections," in nomination of candidates, further providing
 12 for number of signers required for nomination petitions of
 13 candidates at primaries and for place and time of filing
 14 nomination petitions and filing fees and providing for secure
 15 online signature collection for Federal, State and municipal
 16 political offices.

17 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 18 hereby enacts as follows:

19 Section 1. Sections 912.1 and 913(b.1) and (b.2) of the act
 20 of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania
 21 Election Code, are amended to read:

22 Section 912.1. Number of Signers Required for Nomination
 23 Petitions of Candidates at Primaries.--(a) Candidates for
 24 nomination of offices as listed below shall present a nominating
 25 petition containing at least as many valid signatures of

1 registered and enrolled members of the proper party as listed
2 below:

3 (1) President of the United States: [Two] Six thousand.

4 (2) United States Senate: [Two] Six thousand.

5 (3) Governor: [Two] Six thousand including at least [one]
6 three hundred from each of at least ten counties.

7 (4) Lieutenant Governor: [One] Three thousand including at
8 least [one] three hundred from each of at least five counties.

9 (5) Treasurer: [One] Three thousand including at least [one]
10 three hundred from each of at least five counties.

11 (6) Auditor General: [One] Three thousand including at least
12 [one] three hundred from each of at least five counties.

13 (7) Attorney General: [One] Three thousand including at
14 least [one] three hundred from each of at least five counties.

15 (8) Justice of the Supreme Court: [One] Three thousand
16 including at least [one] three hundred from each of at least
17 five counties.

18 (9) Judge of the Superior Court: [One] Three thousand
19 including at least [one] three hundred from each of at least
20 five counties.

21 (10) Judge of the Commonwealth Court: [One] Three thousand
22 including at least [one] three hundred from each of at least
23 five counties.

24 (11) For any other office to be filled by the vote of the
25 electors of the State at large or for any other party office to
26 be elected by the electors of the State at large: [One] Three
27 thousand including at least [one] three hundred from each of at
28 least five counties.

29 (12) Representative in Congress: [One] Three thousand.

30 (13) Senator in the General Assembly: [Five hundred] One

1 thousand five hundred.

2 (14) Representative in the General Assembly: [~~Three~~] Nine
3 hundred.

4 (15) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the
5 electors in counties of the first class at large: [~~One~~] Three
6 thousand.

7 (16) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the
8 electors in counties of the second class at large: [~~Five~~
9 ~~hundred~~] One thousand five hundred.

10 (17) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the
11 electors in cities of the first class at large: [~~One~~] Three
12 thousand.

13 (18) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the
14 electors in counties of the second class A at large: [~~Two~~] Seven
15 hundred fifty.

16 (19) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the
17 electors in counties of the third class at large: [~~Two~~] Seven
18 hundred fifty.

19 (20) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the
20 electors in counties of the fourth class at large: [~~Two~~] Seven
21 hundred fifty.

22 (21) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the
23 electors in cities of the second class at large: [~~Two~~] Seven
24 hundred fifty.

25 (22) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the
26 electors in cities of the second class A at large: [~~One~~] Three
27 hundred.

28 (23) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the
29 electors in cities of the third class at large: [~~One~~] Three
30 hundred.

1 (24) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the
2 electors in counties of the fifth class at large: [One] Three
3 hundred.

4 (25) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the
5 electors in counties of the sixth class at large: [One] Three
6 hundred.

7 (26) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the
8 electors in counties of the seventh class at large: [One] Three
9 hundred.

10 (27) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the
11 electors in counties of the eighth class at large: [One] Three
12 hundred.

13 (28) Office of judge of any court of record other than a
14 Statewide court or a court in a county of the first or second
15 class: [Two] Seven hundred fifty.

16 (29) District delegate or alternate district delegate to a
17 National party convention: [Two] Seven hundred fifty.

18 (30) Member of State committee: [One] Three hundred.

19 (31) Office of district council member in a city of the
20 first class: [Seven hundred fifty] Two thousand two hundred
21 fifty.

22 (31.1) Office of district council member in a city of the
23 second class: [One] Three hundred.

24 (32) Office of magisterial district judge: [One] Three
25 hundred, but only for a candidate's primary election when the
26 candidate does not already hold the office of magisterial
27 district judge. A sitting magisterial district judge elected to
28 the office shall not be required to file a nominating petition
29 under this section to run for the office of magisterial district
30 judge but may instead file a certificate of nomination for

1 reelection specifying the intent to seek reelection to the
2 office. If a sitting magisterial district judge files a
3 certificate of nomination for reelection, the sitting
4 magisterial district judge may not challenge the nominating
5 petition of another candidate for magisterial district judge.

6 (33) Office of judge of election: Ten.

7 (34) Inspector of elections: Five.

8 (35) School director: Ten.

9 (36) All other public and party offices: Ten.

10 (b) Unless otherwise specified under subsection (a), for any
11 public or party office which encompasses more than one political
12 subdivision, at least five signatures from each subdivision must
13 be secured.

14 Section 913. Place and Time of Filing Nomination Petitions;
15 Filing Fees.--* * *

16 (b.1) Each person filing any nomination petition for a
17 public office for which compensation is provided by law shall
18 pay for each petition, at the time of filing, a filing fee [to
19 be determined as follows, and no] equivalent to one per centum
20 of the annual salary of that public office. No nomination
21 petition shall be accepted or filed, unless and until such
22 filing fee is paid by a certified check or money order or also
23 by cash when filed with the county board. All moneys paid on
24 account of filing fees shall be transmitted by the county board
25 to the county treasurer and shall become part of the General
26 Fund. Certified checks or money orders in payment of filing fees
27 shall be made payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or to
28 the county, as the case may be, and shall be transmitted to the
29 State Treasurer or to the county treasurer and shall become part
30 of the General Fund.

1 [1. If for the office of President of the United States, or
2 for any public office to be filled by the electors of the State
3 at large, the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

4 2. If for the office of Representative in Congress, the sum
5 of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).

6 3. If for the office of judge of a court of record,
7 excepting judges to be voted for by the electors of the State at
8 large, the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

9 4. If for the offices of Senator or Representative in the
10 General Assembly, for any office to be filled by the electors of
11 an entire county, for the office of district councilman in a
12 city of the first class and for any office other than school
13 district office to be filled by the electors of an entire city,
14 the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), except as provided in
15 paragraph 4.1.

16 4.1. If for nonschool board offices for any third class city
17 official, the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

18 6. If for the office of delegate or alternate delegate to
19 National party convention, or member of National committee or
20 member of State committee, the sum of twenty-five dollars
21 (\$25.00).

22 7. If for the office of constable, the sum of ten dollars
23 (\$10.00).

24 8. If for the office of district councilman in a city of the
25 second class or the office of district justice, the sum of fifty
26 dollars (\$50.00).]

27 (b.2) A filing fee shall not be paid for a nomination
28 petition for any public office for which no compensation is
29 provided by law[, nor for any nomination petition for any public
30 officer in any borough, town or township nor any party officer

1 except as provided above nor for any nomination petition for
2 judge of election or inspector of elections].

3 * * *

4 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

5 Section 913.1. Secure Online Signature Collection for
6 Federal, State and Municipal Political Offices.--Notwithstanding
7 any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Commonwealth
8 shall promulgate regulations by January 1, 2025, to establish
9 and implement an electronic system for qualified electors to
10 sign a nomination petition for a candidate for all Federal,
11 State and political offices by way of a secure Internet portal.
12 The following apply:

13 (1) The system shall be implemented for use in the 2025
14 Municipal primary and each election thereafter.

15 (2) The system shall allow only those qualified electors who
16 are eligible to sign a petition for a particular candidate to
17 sign the petition and shall provide a method for the qualified
18 elector's identity to be properly verified.

19 (3) A candidate may choose to collect up to the full number
20 of required nomination petition signatures by use of the online
21 signature collection system under this section.

22 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.