

Candidate Guidelines

April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election

1. Complete a Statement of Candidacy – Independent.

Statement of Candidacy must be notarized.

2. Complete an Independent Candidate Petition.

Each candidate will need at least 14 but no more than 64 valid signatures. The above number is based on five percent (5%) minimum of the number of votes cast at the last municipal election which was on April 4, 2023.

Petition signers must be registered voters within the Village of Winnebago. Petition signers are to sign their respective names as they are registered to vote (i.e. if registered as William E. Jones, to be signed as “William E. Jones” not “Bill Jones”). Ditto marks are not to be used for any part of the address. Street addresses are to be used, not post-office boxes. A petition signer may only sign for himself or herself. No one may sign on behalf of someone else, even a family member.

3. File the original Statement of Economic Interest.

This form must be turned in by the candidate to the County Clerk’s Office at:

***Winnebago County Clerk
404 Elm Street
Rockford, IL 61101***

The receipt from the filing of the Statement of Economic Interest must be filed with the Village Clerk by the end of the filing period.

Petitions may **not** be circulated prior to August 20, 2024. The petition circulator must personally witness all signatures made on the petition. There can be only one circulator for each petition page. The petition circulator must fill in the statement at the bottom of the petition and sign as the circulator of the petition before a Notary Public licensed in the State of Illinois, and the Notary Public must affix his or her seal. You may photocopy and circulate blank petition sheets.

The Statement of Candidacy – Independent and the Independent Candidate Petition are to be returned to the Village Office no earlier than 8:00 a.m. November 12, 2024, and no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 18, 2024.

The Statement of Candidacy – Independent and the Independent Candidate Petition must be filed together. The receipt from the Statement of Economic Interest filed with the County Clerk’s Office does not necessarily have to be filed at the same time the Statement of Candidacy – Independent and the Independent Candidate Petition are filed but must be filed with the Village Clerk by the end of the filing period in order for your name to appear on the ballot.

Candidates shall appear on the election ballot in the order in which the forms are returned to the Village Office. All petition filers in line at the Village Office by 8:00 a.m. on November 12, 2024, shall be considered an "8:00 a.m." filer. If more than one candidate for a given position files by 8:00 a.m. on November 12, 2024, a lottery will be held to determine order on the ballot.

Positions open for election are:

- Village President – (4-year term)
- Village Clerk – (4-year term)
- Village Trustees – 3 positions (4-year term)
- Village Trustee – 1 position (2-year term)

Note: The above guidelines are intended for general informational purposes only. The Village Clerk makes no representation regarding the validity of forms or other documents provided, as the individual candidate is responsible for making sure the proper forms are completed correctly. By State Statute, Municipal Clerks do not have any official election responsibilities prior to the first date for filing of petitions.

The staff at the Village Office will not notarize any documents pertaining to the election. You may have your documents notarized at First National Bank, US Bank, and the School Superintendent's Office.