

# Clark County Board of Elections

## Petition Pre-verification Policy

The Clark County Board of Elections adopted a policy in 2009, and revised this policy on February 12, 2013, which outlined that **petitions will not be pre-verified or reviewed regarding sufficiency** and that **no potential candidate, filer, or petitioner will be informed of deficiencies that may prevent the Board of Elections from certifying the petition until after the Board has acted. Once a petition is filed in public office, NO alterations, corrections, or additions may be made.**

The Board adopted these policies to assure impartiality in performing its duty to “review, examine, and certify the sufficiency and validity of petitions and nomination papers” (O.R.C. §3501.11 (K)). It is impossible for the Board or its staff to fulfill such lawful obligation if it is also required to provide legal assistance to filers. In addition, **judicial precedent places the responsibility for correctness and completion of the petition directly upon the petitioner or candidate.** If a candidate or a filer attempts to file a petition that does not meet the requirements of law, it is up to the candidate or filer to make such determination prior to filing.

This policy coincides with [Directive 2016-25](#) from the Ohio Secretary of State which effectively prohibits a Board of Elections from “pre-checking petitions for prospective candidates or petitioners who seek review of their petitions' validity and sufficiency before the candidates or petitioners file their original petitions.” A copy of this directive is available at [www.sos.state.oh.us](http://www.sos.state.oh.us).