

Township of Vernon
County of Sussex, State of New Jersey
PETITION OF NOMINATION FOR COUNCIL MEMBER
AT LARGE
GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Instructions and Forms

Pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40:45-2*, all elections of municipal officers are held on the date specified by the provisions of the Optional Municipal Charter Law, *N.J.S.A. 40:69A-1 to 210* (“Faulkner Act”). Section 5-4C of the Code provides that the “Township Council shall consist of five (5) members, elected at-large by the voters of the Township at a regular municipal election held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the years in which municipal officers are to be elected. The terms of the members of the Council shall be four (4) years, beginning on January 1 next following their election.”

The Faulkner Act permits regular municipal elections to be held on the day of the general election in November pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40:45-7.1a*, and conducted pursuant to the Uniform Nonpartisan Elections Law, *N.J.S.A. 40:45-5 through 21* (“UNEL”). *N.J.S.A. 40:69A-150*. Vernon Township has elected to hold November elections pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40:45-7.1a*. The UNEL governs “all municipalities having adopted a plan or form of government, or a charter, which provides for the election of municipal officers at regular municipal elections held ... on the day of the general election in November pursuant to [*N.J.S.A. 40:45-7.1a*], including municipalities holding regular municipal elections under the [Faulkner Act], . . . only with respect to the time, manner and method of election of municipal officers.” *N.J.S.A. 40:45-6*.

Pursuant to the UNEL, a petition of nomination (“petition”) consists of the following documents, necessary as indicated below:

1. **Individual Certificates of Nomination** [*N.J.S.A.* 40:45-8a and 9];
2. **Certification of Petition** [*N.J.S.A.* 19:13-7];
3. **Candidate’s Oath of Genuineness of Individual Certifications of Nomination and Acceptance of Nomination** [*N.J.S.A.* 19:13-8; *N.J.S.A.* 40:45-8b];
4. **Campaign Manager’s Oath of Genuineness of Individual Certifications of Nomination** [*N.J.S.A.* 40:45-8b];
5. Either:
 - a. **Candidate’s Oath of Allegiance** [*N.J.S.A.* 19:13-8; *N.J.S.A.* 41:1-1]; or
 - b. **Candidate Affirmation or Declaration of Allegiance** [*N.J.S.A.* 19:13-8; *N.J.S.A.* 41:1-6];
6. **Candidate’s Petition for Designation on Ballot** [*N.J.S.A.* 40:45-10];
and
7. **Notice to All Candidates Regarding Obligations Under the Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act.**

The UNEL requires every petition to contain **Individual Certificates of Nomination, equal in number to at least 1% of the registered voters of the Township of Vernon. 171 signed petitions are needed.**

In the event individual petitions of nominations must be discounted, it is suggested additional petitions over and above the required number be obtained for submission.

Under *N.J.S.A.* 40:45-8b and 19:13-6, each individual certification of nomination must be on a separate sheet of paper and bear the name, address and signature of the petitioner. The New Jersey Supreme Court has interpreted the requirement that each petitioner be a “qualified voter” to mean registered voter. *Lesniak v. Budzash*, 133 *N.J.* 1, 12 (1993). Therefore, only citizens registered to vote in the Township of Vernon are eligible to sign and submit an **Individual Certificate of Nomination**. Further, under *N.J.S.A.* 40:45-9, each individual certification of nomination must not contain the name of more than one (1) candidate. At the time of signing the certificate, each petitioner must not have signed more certificates for candidates for that office than there are places to be filled for the office.

All certificates not complying substantially with the UNEL, shall be rejected. To guard against disqualification in the event **Individual Certificates of**

Nomination are discounted, it is suggested that candidates obtain and submit a number of individual certificates of nomination over and above the statutory minimum.

Pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40:45-8b*, the candidate for office must make an oath as prescribed by **Candidate's Oath of Genuineness of Individual Certifications of Nomination and Acceptance of Nomination**. The oath signed by the candidate shall constitute their acceptance of nomination. No person may accept nomination for more than one (1) municipal office to be voted for at any single municipal election. Additionally, the candidate's campaign manager, if one should exist, must make an oath as prescribed by **Campaign Manager's Oath of Genuineness of Individual Certifications of Nomination**.

Pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:13-8*, a candidate must make the oath of allegiance prescribed in *N.J.S.A. 41:1-1* and set forth in **Candidate's Oath of Allegiance**, or, if the candidate is conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath, the affirmation or declaration of allegiance permitted by *N.J.S.A. 41:1-6* and set forth in **Candidate's Affirmation or Declaration of Allegiance**.

Any candidate may petition the Township Clerk, under *N.J.S.A. 40:45-10*, to print opposite the candidate's name on the ballot, such designation as requested by the candidate in the petition, for the purpose of indicating either an official act or policy to which the candidate is pledged or committed. Any candidate who wished to make such a designation may submit the **Candidate's Petition for Designation on Ballot**. The designation shall not be more than six (6) words or indicate political party affiliation. The Township Clerk, on the filing of the petition, will cause the designation to be printed opposite the name of the candidate upon the ballot. If several candidates for the same office shall petition that their names be grouped together and that the one designation named by them shall be printed opposite their names, the clerk shall group their names in a bracket, and opposite the bracket shall print the designation. Petitions requesting a designation or grouping of candidates shall be filed with the clerk on or before the last day fixed for filing the petition for nomination. If two candidates or groups select the same designation, the clerk shall notify the candidate or group whose petition was last filed, and that candidate or group shall select a new designation.

Any required oath, affirmation or declaration and affidavit must be made and taken before an officers authorized to administer such oath, affirmation and declaration or affidavit under *N.J.S.A. 41:2-1*.

A petition completed with all necessary forms as indicated above must be submitted to the Township Clerk **on or before the 64th day prior to a regular municipal election, 4:00 pm, Tuesday, September 5, 2023**. When a petition is presented for filing, the Township Clerk will examine it and determine whether it conforms to the UNEL and, where applicable, the provisions of the general election laws (*N.J.S.A.* Title 19). If the Clerk determines a petition is nonconforming, the Clerk will retain the petition and notify the nominated person of the defect, by written notice delivered to him personally or by certified mail to his place of residence stated in the petition.

Where petition, or any affidavit(s) annexed thereto is found defective, the candidate named therein may file such amendment(s) as may be necessary to eliminate the defect, whether of matters of substance or form. When so amended, the effect shall be as if the petition had been originally filed in the amended form. After the last day for filing of the original petition, no amendment may be made for the purpose of adding the name of any person who did not sign the original petition, nor shall any amendment be made at any time for the purpose of changing the name of the candidate or the office for which he was to be nominated. **No amendment to a nominating petition shall be made and filed less than 61 days before the election.**

Please complete the two (2) page **Candidate Information Form** provided and submit it as pages 1 and 2 of your completed petition.

Township of Vernon
County of Sussex, State of New Jersey

INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATE OF NOMINATION

I, the undersigned, a registered voter of the municipality of the Township of Vernon, residing at

_____,
certify that I do hereby join in a petition of the nomination of:

_____,
whose residence is at

_____,
for the office of [**COUNCIL MEMBER-AT-LARGE**] to be voted for at the election to be held in the Township of Vernon on the **7th day of November, 2023**, and I further certify that I know this candidate to be a registered voter, for the period required by law, of the municipality and a person of good moral character, and qualified, in my judgment, to perform the duties of the office, and I further certify that I have not signed more petitions or certificates of nomination than there are places to be filled for the above office.

Name of Petitioner (Print)

Petitioner's Signature

Date: _____

NOTICE: All candidates are required by law to comply with the provisions of the "New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act." For further information, please call the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission at (609) 292-8700, or Toll Free within NJ at 1-888-313-ELEC (3532).

Township of Vernon
County of Sussex, State of New Jersey
CERTIFICATION OF PETITION

The undersigned, being fully sworn upon their oath, hereby deposes and says:

- (1) I am the person who circulated the accompanying petition of nomination;
- (2) The herein petition is being made in good faith;
- (3) I personally saw all the signatures made thereto and verily believe that the signers are registered voters, and therefore duly qualified voters; and
- (4) I am at least 18 years of age, a resident of the State of New Jersey, a citizen of the United States, and not otherwise disqualified under the New Jersey Constitution and therefore voter eligible.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

_____ Signature of Affiant	_____ Name of Affiant (print)
	_____ -
	_____ Street Address
	_____ City State Postal Code

Sworn to and subscribed
before me this ____ day
of _____, 20__;

Officer authorized under *N.J.S.A.* 41:2-1

Township of Vernon
County of Sussex, State of New Jersey

**CANDIDATE'S OATH OF GENUINENESS OF
INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATIONS OF NOMINATION
AND ACCEPTANCE OF NOMINATION**

The undersigned, being fully sworn upon their oath, hereby deposes and says:

- (1) I am the person endorsed in the accompanying petition as qualified for the office mentioned in said petition;
- (2) I am a resident and registered voter of the Township of Vernon;
- (3) I accept the herein nomination and do consent to stand as candidate for election at the ensuing municipal election to be held on the **7th day of November, 2023**, and if elected, I agree to accept the office of **COUNCIL MEMBER-AT-LARGE**;
- (4) I have not accepted any other nomination for municipal office which is to be voted for at the ensuing municipal election indicated in paragraph three (3) above; and
- (5) To the best of my knowledge and belief, each signature to the papers appended hereto is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

_____ Signature of Affiant	_____ Name of Affiant (print)
Sworn to and sub- scribed	_____
before me this ____	_____
day	Street Address
of _____,	_____
20__;	City State Postal Code

Officer authorized under *N.J.S.A. 41:2-1*

**Township of Vernon
County of Sussex, State of New Jersey**

**CAMPAIGN MANAGER'S OATH OF GENUINENESS OF
INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATIONS OF NOMINATION**

The undersigned, being fully sworn upon their oath, hereby deposes and says:

- (1) I am the campaign manager for _____, a candidate for office of **COUNCIL MEMBER-AT-LARGE** at the ensuing municipal election to be held on the **7th day of November, 2023**;
- (2) The herein petition of nomination is being submitted in good faith; and
- (3) To the best of my knowledge and belief, each signature to the papers appended hereto is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

_____ Signature of Affiant	_____ Name of Affiant (print)
	_____ _____ Street Address
	_____ City State Postal Code

Sworn to and subscribed
before me this ___ day
of _____, 20__;

Officer authorized under *N.J.S.A.* 41:2-1

Township of Vernon
County of Sussex, State of New Jersey
CANDIDATE'S OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the Governments established in the United States and in this State, under the authority of the people. So help me God.

Signature of Affiant

Name of Affiant (print)

Street Address

City State Postal Code

Sworn to and subscribed
before me this ____ day
of _____, 20__;

Officer authorized under *N.J.S.A.* 41:2-1

Township of Vernon
County of Sussex, State of New Jersey

CANDIDATE'S AFFIRMATION OR DECLARATION OF ALLEGIANCE

I, _____, do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the Governments established in the United States and in this State, under the authority of the people.

Signature of Affiant

Name of Affiant (print)

Street Address

City State Postal Code

Affirmed or declared to
and subscribed
before me this ___ day
of _____, 20__;

Officer authorized under *N.J.S.A.* 41:2-1

Township of Vernon
County of Sussex, State of New Jersey

**CANDIDATE’S PETITION FOR DESIGNATION ON
BALLOT**

I, the undersigned, candidate for the office of **COUNCIL MEMBER-AT-LARGE** at the ensuing municipal election to be held on the **7th day of November, 2023** in conformity with the law, do hereby petition the Township Clerk to print on the Election Ballot opposite my name the following:

*Note: Designation may not exceed six (6) words and may not reference
a party affiliation*

Name of Candidate-Petitioner
(Print)

Candidate-Petitioner’s Signature

Date

**Township of Vernon
County of Sussex, State of New Jersey**

**NOTICE TO ALL CANDIDATES REGARDING
OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE
NEW JERSEY CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EX-
PENDITURES REPORTING ACT**

Candidates for municipal office to be voted for at the election to be held in the Township of Vernon on the **7th day of November, 2023**, are permitted to spend in furtherance or aid of their candidacy. As a candidate, you should familiarize yourself with the provisions of the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act. To obtain a Compliance Manual for Campaign Reporting, or to receive information concerning reporting dates, please fill out the following page entitled "Compliance Manual Request Form" and mail or fax to the Election Law Enforcement Commission.

It is the candidate's sole responsibility to adhere to the provisions of this Act.

NOTICE: ALL CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW JERSEY CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES REPORTING ACT. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL ELEC AT (609) 292-8700 OR TOLL FREE WITHIN NJ AT 1-888-313 ELEC(3532).

Candidate-Petitioner's Signature

Name of Candidate-Petitioner
(Print)

Date

Township of Vernon
County of Sussex, State of New Jersey
CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM
COUNCIL MEMBER
(PAGE 1)

Petition of Nomination for: _____
(Office)

Name of Candidate _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

Name of Campaign Manager
(if any) _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

Total number of Individual
Certificates of Nomination
submitted in support of peti-
tion (and annexed hereto) _____

Township of Vernon
County of Sussex, State of New Jersey
CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM
(PAGE 2)

Candidates' Petition of Nomination Checklist

*(*required; ◇ required if applicable (see instructions))*

Individual Certificates of Nomination*	_____
Certification of Petition ◇	_____
Candidate's Oath of Genuineness of Individual Certifications of Nomination and Acceptance of Nomination*	_____
Campaign Manager's Oath of Genuineness of Individual Certifications of Nomination◇	_____
Either*	
Candidate's Oath of Allegiance; or	
Candidate Affirmation or Declaration of Allegiance	_____
Candidate's Petition for Designation on Ballot	_____
Notice to All Candidates Regarding Obligations under the Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act*	_____

Please complete the two (2) page Candidate Information Form and submit it as pages 1 and 2 of your completed petition.