

## Running for Office in Ulster County

### **Qualifications**

- † Must be a US Citizen
- † Must be 18 years of age or older
- † Must be an elector for the position you are running for: Eligible to vote for the position – qualified to register to vote and live in the political jurisdiction

### **Getting your Name on the Ballot/ Party Nominations**

Party Caucus: A caucus is an open meeting of a town or village political party at which candidates are nominated for elective offices. Only residents of the town or village who are enrolled members of the party may participate by nominating candidates and voting at the caucus. Caucuses are organized by the political party soliciting nominations. Each candidate must receive a nomination and second by an eligible party voter attending the caucus to be considered by the body.

Party Nominations for all other elected positions in Ulster County are done through the Primary Election Process. In the Primary Election Process, Party Designations for Primary Elections are made on a Designating Petition.

If only one candidate for a particular office has a party's Designating Petition filed on his or her behalf, then that candidate's name will appear for that office on that party's line on the ballot in the General Election on November 3. If more than one candidate for a particular office has the same party's Designating Petition filed on his or her behalf, then there will be a Primary Election on June 23 to determine which candidate's name will appear for that office on that party's line on the ballot in the General Election on November 3.

If no candidate for a particular office has a party Designating Petitions filed on his or her behalf, then that party will not have a candidate for that office on the ballot in the General Election on November 3 and the open office will be filled through a write-in.

### **Independent Nominations**

To run for an office on a line other than an official party line, one must have an independent nominating petition filed on one's behalf. The petitioning period for independent nominating petitions begins on April 14- after the Designating Petition process has completed. *Any candidate that has an Independent Nominating Petition filed on their behalf must file a Certificate of Acceptance by May 29.*

### **Acceptances and Authorizations**

When the candidate is not an enrolled member of the party for which a Designating Petition has been filed, two Certificates must be filed with the Board of Elections no later than April 7. Failure to file each of the certificates will invalidate the petition.

**Certificate of Acceptance:** Must be filled out by the candidate and be notarized.

**Certificate of Authorization:** Must be filled out by an officer of the party and be notarized. Establishes that the party is authorizing you to run on their line.