
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1276 Session of
2026

INTRODUCED BY PICOZZI, CAPPELLETTI, KEEFER, KANE, SAVAL, STREET
AND TARTAGLIONE, APRIL 14, 2026

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 14, 2026

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 dates of elections and primaries and special
12 elections, further providing for affidavits of candidates; in
13 nomination of candidates, further providing for affidavits of
14 candidates, for statement of candidates for delegates to
15 national conventions, for Secretary of the Commonwealth to
16 furnish county boards with list of candidates and candidates
17 to be notified, for nominations by political bodies, for
18 examination of nomination petitions, certificates and papers
19 and return of rejected nomination petitions, certificates and
20 papers and for affidavits of candidates; and, in penalties,
21 further providing for false affidavits of candidates and for
22 false signatures and statements in nomination petitions and
23 papers.

24 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
25 hereby enacts as follows:

26 Section 1. Sections 630.1, 910, 911, 916, 951(e), 976,
27 981.1, 1802.1 and 1813 of the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333,
28 No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, are amended to

1 read:

2 Section 630.1. [Affidavits] Statement of Candidates.--Each
3 candidate for any State, county, city, borough, incorporated
4 town, township, school district or poor district office, or for
5 the office of United States Senator or Representative in
6 Congress, selected as provided in section 630 of this act, shall
7 file with the nomination certificate [an affidavit] a statement,
8 subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to
9 unsworn falsification to authorities), stating--(a) his
10 residence, with street and number, if any, and his post-office
11 address; (b) his election district, giving city, borough, town
12 or township; (c) the name of the office for which he consents to
13 be a candidate; (d) that he is eligible for such office; (e)
14 that he will not knowingly violate any provision of this act, or
15 of any law regulating and limiting election expenses and
16 prohibiting corrupt practices in connection therewith; (f)
17 unless he is a candidate for judge of a court of common pleas,
18 the Philadelphia Municipal Court or for the office of school
19 board in a district where that office is elective or for the
20 office of justice of the peace, that he is not a candidate for
21 the same office of any party or political body other than the
22 one designated in such certificate; (g) that he is aware of the
23 provisions of section 1626 of this act requiring election and
24 post-election reporting of campaign contributions and
25 expenditures; and (h) that he is not a candidate for an office
26 which he already holds, the term of which is not set to expire
27 in the same year as the office subject to the [affidavit]
28 statement.

29 Section 910. [Affidavits] Statement of Candidates.--Each
30 candidate for any State, county, city, borough, incorporated

1 town, township, ward, school district, poor district, election
2 district, party office, party delegate or alternate, or for the
3 office of United States Senator or Representative in Congress,
4 shall file with his nomination petition his [affidavit]
5 statement, subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904
6 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities), stating--(a)
7 his residence, with street and number, if any, and his post-
8 office address; (b) his election district, giving city, borough,
9 town or township; (c) the name of the office for which he
10 consents to be a candidate; (d) that he is eligible for such
11 office; (e) that he will not knowingly violate any provision of
12 this act, or of any law regulating and limiting nomination and
13 election expenses and prohibiting corrupt practices in
14 connection therewith; (f) unless he is a candidate for judge of
15 a court of common pleas, the Philadelphia Municipal Court or for
16 the office of school director in a district where that office is
17 elective or for the office of justice of the peace that he is
18 not a candidate for nomination for the same office of any party
19 other than the one designated in such petition; (g) if he is a
20 candidate for a delegate, or alternate delegate, member of State
21 committee, National committee or party officer, that he is a
22 registered and enrolled member of the designated party; (h) if
23 he is a candidate for delegate or alternate delegate the
24 presidential candidate to whom he is committed or the term
25 "uncommitted"; (i) that he is aware of the provisions of section
26 1626 of this act requiring pre-election and post-election
27 reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures; and (j)
28 that he is not a candidate for an office which he already holds,
29 the term of which is not set to expire in the same year as the
30 office subject to the [affidavit] statement. In cases of

1 petitions for delegate and alternate delegate to National
2 conventions, the candidate's [affidavit] statement shall state
3 that his signature to the delegate's statement, as hereinafter
4 set forth, if such statement is signed by said candidate, was
5 affixed to the sheet or sheets of said petition prior to the
6 circulation of same. In the case of a candidate for nomination
7 as President of the United States, it shall not be necessary for
8 such candidate to file the [affidavit] statement required in
9 this section to be filed by candidates, but the post-office
10 address of such candidate shall be stated in such nomination
11 petition.

12 Section 911. Statement of Candidates for Delegates to
13 National Conventions.--Each candidate for election as delegate
14 or alternate delegate to a National party convention may
15 include, with [his affidavit] the statement required under
16 section 910, the statement hereinafter set forth in this
17 section; but his failure to include such statement shall not be
18 a valid ground, on the part of the Secretary of the
19 Commonwealth, for refusal to receive and file his nomination
20 petition. [Such] The statement required in this section, if
21 signed, shall be signed on all the sheets of said petition,
22 together with the date of signing and shall be in substantially
23 the following form:

24 Delegate's Statement

25 I hereby declare to the voters of my political party in the
26 (here insert "State of Pennsylvania," if a delegate or alternate
27 delegate at large; otherwise, insert ".....District") that,
28 if elected and in attendance as a delegate to the National
29 convention of the party, I shall, with all fidelity, to the best
30 of my judgment and ability, in all matters coming before the

1 convention, support (here insert name of presidential candidate)
2 for President of the United States and shall use all honorable
3 means within my power to aid in securing the nomination for such
4 candidate for President.

5
6 (Signature of candidate for delegate or alternate delegate, and
7 date of signing.)

8 On the ballots or ballot labels used at a primary, after or
9 under the name of each candidate for delegate or alternate
10 delegate to a National party convention, shall appear the words
11 "committed to (here insert name of presidential candidate)" or
12 "uncommitted" according to whether the candidate included, or
13 failed to include, the above statement with [his affidavit] the
14 statement required under section 910.

15 Section 916. Secretary of the Commonwealth to Furnish County
16 Boards with List of Candidates; Candidates to Be Notified.--The
17 Secretary of the Commonwealth, as soon as possible after the
18 last day fixed for the filing of nomination petitions with him,
19 and after the last day for the withdrawal of candidates filing
20 such nomination petitions, and after the candidates shall have
21 cast lots for the position of their names upon the primary
22 ballots or ballot labels, shall forward to the county board of
23 each county a correct list of candidates of each party for the
24 various offices, in the order in which they are to appear upon
25 the official ballots or ballot labels, with their respective
26 residences, giving city, borough, town or township, and post-
27 office addresses as shown in their [affidavits] statements
28 required under section 910; and shall also at the same time
29 notify the said candidates by mail that their names have been so
30 certified to said county boards. In the case of each candidate

1 for delegate or alternate delegate to a National party
2 convention, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall certify as
3 to whether such candidate has included with his [affidavit]
4 statement required under section 910 the statement provided for
5 in section 911 of this act and in cases where such candidate has
6 committed himself to a particular presidential preference, the
7 name of the presidential candidate to whom he is committed.

8 Section 951. Nominations by Political Bodies.--* * *

9 (e) There shall be appended to each nomination paper offered
10 for filing [an affidavit] a statement, subject to the penalties
11 of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904, of each candidate nominated therein,
12 stating--(1) the election district in which he resides; (2) the
13 name of the office for which he consents to be a candidate; (3)
14 that he is eligible for such office; (4) that he will not
15 knowingly violate any provision of this act, or of any law
16 regulating and limiting election expenses, and prohibiting
17 corrupt practices in connection therewith; (5) that his name has
18 not been presented as a candidate by nomination petitions for
19 any public office to be voted for at the ensuing primary
20 election, nor has he been nominated by any other nomination
21 papers filed for any such office; (6) that in the case where he
22 is a candidate for election at a general or municipal election,
23 he was not a registered and enrolled member of a party thirty
24 (30) days before the primary held prior to the general or
25 municipal election in that same year; (7) that, in the case
26 where he is a candidate for election at a special election, he
27 is not a registered and enrolled member of a party; and (8) that
28 he is not a candidate for an office which he already holds, the
29 term of which is not set to expire in the same year as the
30 office subject to the [affidavit] statement.

1 Section 976. Examination of Nomination Petitions,
2 Certificates and Papers; Return of Rejected Nomination
3 Petitions, Certificates and Papers.--When any nomination
4 petition, nomination certificate or nomination paper is
5 presented in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth or
6 of any county board of elections for filing within the period
7 limited by this act, it shall be the duty of the said officer or
8 board to examine the same. No nomination petition, nomination
9 paper or nomination certificate shall be permitted to be filed
10 if--(a) it contains material errors or defects apparent on the
11 face thereof, or on the face of the appended or accompanying
12 [affidavits] statements; or (b) it contains material alterations
13 made after signing without the consent of the signers; or (c) it
14 does not contain a sufficient number of signatures as required
15 by law; Provided, however, That the Secretary of the
16 Commonwealth or the county board of elections, although not
17 hereby required so to do, may question the genuineness of any
18 signature or signatures appearing thereon, and if he or it shall
19 thereupon find that any such signature or signatures are not
20 genuine, such signature or signatures shall be disregarded in
21 determining whether the nomination petition, nomination paper or
22 nomination certificate contains a sufficient number of
23 signatures as required by law; or (d) in the case of nomination
24 petitions, if nomination petitions have been filed for printing
25 the name of the same person for the same office, except the
26 office of judge of a court of common pleas, the Philadelphia
27 Municipal Court or the office of school director in districts
28 where that office is elective or the office of justice of the
29 peace upon the official ballot of more than one political party;
30 or (e) in the case of nomination papers, if the candidate named

1 therein has filed a nomination petition for any public office
2 for the ensuing primary, or has been nominated for any such
3 office by nomination papers previously filed; or (f) if the
4 nomination petitions or papers are not accompanied by the filing
5 fee or certified check required for said office; or (g) in the
6 case of nomination papers, the appellation set forth therein is
7 identical with or deceptively similar to the words used by any
8 existing party or by any political body which has already filed
9 nomination papers for the same office, or if the appellation set
10 forth therein contains part of the name, or an abbreviation of
11 the name or part of the name of an existing political party, or
12 of a political body which has already filed nomination papers
13 for the same office. The invalidity of any sheet of a nomination
14 petition or nomination paper shall not affect the validity of
15 such petition or paper if a sufficient petition or paper remains
16 after eliminating such invalid sheet. The action of said officer
17 or board in refusing to receive and file any such nomination
18 petition, certificate or paper, may be reviewed by the court
19 upon an application to compel its reception as of the date when
20 it was presented to the office of such officer or board:

21 Provided, however, That said officer or board shall be entitled
22 to a reasonable time in which to examine any petitions,
23 certificates or papers, and to summon and interrogate the
24 candidates named therein, or the persons presenting said
25 petitions, certificates or papers, and his or their retention of
26 same for the purpose of making such examination or interrogation
27 shall not be construed as an acceptance or filing.

28 Upon completion of any examination, if any nomination
29 petition, certificate or paper is found to be defective, it
30 shall forthwith be rejected and returned to the candidate or one

1 of the candidates named therein, together with a statement of
2 the reasons for such rejection:

3 Provided further, That no nomination petition, nomination
4 paper or nomination certificate shall be permitted to be filed,
5 if the political party or political body referred to therein
6 shall be composed of a group of electors whose purposes or aims,
7 or one of whose purposes or aims, is the establishment, control,
8 conduct, seizure or overthrow of the Government of the
9 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the United States of America by
10 the use of force, violence, military measure or threats of one
11 or more of the foregoing. The authority to reject such
12 nomination petition, paper or certificate for this reason shall,
13 when filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, be vested in
14 a committee composed of the Governor, the Attorney General and
15 the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and when filed with any
16 county board of elections shall be vested in such board. If in
17 such case the committee or board, as the case may be, shall
18 conclude that the acceptance of such nomination petition, paper
19 or certificate should be refused, it shall within two days of
20 the filing of such nomination petition, paper or certificate fix
21 a place and a time five days in advance for hearing the matter,
22 and notice thereof shall be given to all parties affected
23 thereby. At the time and place so fixed the committee or board,
24 as the case may be, shall hear testimony, but shall not be bound
25 by technical rules of evidence. The testimony presented shall be
26 stenographically recorded and made a part of the record of the
27 committee or board. Within two days after such hearing the
28 committee or board, if satisfied upon competent evidence that
29 the said nomination petition, paper or certificate is not
30 entitled to be accepted and filed, it shall announce its

1 decision and immediately notify the parties affected thereby.
2 Failure to announce decision within two days after such hearing
3 shall be conclusive that such nomination petition, paper or
4 certificate has been accepted and filed. The decision of said
5 committee or board in refusing to accept and file such
6 nomination petition, paper or certificate may be reviewed by the
7 court upon an application to compel its reception as of the date
8 when presented to the Secretary of the Commonwealth or such
9 board. The application shall be made within two days of the time
10 when such decision is announced. If the application is properly
11 made, any judge of said court may fix a time and place for
12 hearing the matter in dispute, of which notice shall be served
13 with a copy of said application upon the Secretary of the
14 Commonwealth or the county board of elections, as the case may
15 be. At the time so fixed, the court, or any judge thereof
16 assigned for the purpose, shall hear the case de novo. If after
17 such hearing the said court shall find that the decision of the
18 committee or the board was erroneous, it shall issue its mandate
19 to the committee or board to correct its decision and to accept
20 and file the nomination paper, petition or certificate. From any
21 decision of the court an appeal may be taken within two days
22 after the entry thereof. It shall be the duty of the said court
23 to fix the hearing and to announce its decision within such
24 period of time as will permit the Secretary of the Commonwealth
25 or the county board of elections to permit the names of the
26 candidates affected by the court's decision to be printed on the
27 ballot, if the court should so determine.

28 Section 981.1. [Affidavits] Statement of Candidates.--Each
29 candidate for any State, county, city, borough, incorporated
30 town, township, ward, school district, poor district or election

1 district office, or for the office of United States Senator or
2 Representative in Congress, selected as provided in sections 979
3 and 980 of this act, shall file with the substituted nomination
4 certificate [an affidavit] a statement, subject to the penalties
5 of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to
6 authorities), stating--(a) his residence, with street and
7 number, if any, and his post-office address; (b) his election
8 district, giving city, borough, town or township; (c) the name
9 of the office for which he consents to be a candidate; (d) that
10 he is eligible for such office; (e) that he will not knowingly
11 violate any provision of this act, or of any law regulating and
12 limiting election expenses and prohibiting corrupt practices in
13 connection therewith; (f) unless he is a candidate for judge of
14 a court of common pleas, the Philadelphia Municipal Court or for
15 the office of school board in a district where that office is
16 elective or for the office of justice of the peace, that he is
17 not a candidate for the same office of any party or political
18 body other than the one designated in such certificate; (g) that
19 he is aware of the provisions of section 1626 of this act
20 requiring election and post-election reporting of campaign
21 contributions and expenditures; and (h) that he is not a
22 candidate for an office which he already holds, the term of
23 which is not set to expire in the same year as the office
24 subject to the [affidavit] statement.

25 Section 1802.1. False [Affidavits] Statements of
26 Candidates.--Any candidate for State, county, city, borough,
27 incorporated town, township or school district office or for the
28 office of United States Senator or Representative in Congress or
29 any other elective public office who knowingly makes a false
30 statement regarding his eligibility or qualifications for such

1 office in his candidate's [affidavit] statement shall, in
2 litigation which results in the removal of the candidate from
3 the ballot, be liable for court costs, including filing fees,
4 attorney fees, investigation fees and similar costs, in an
5 amount up to ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars.

6 Section 1813. False Signatures and Statements in Nomination
7 Petitions and Papers.--If any person shall knowingly make a
8 false statement in any affidavit or statement required by the
9 provisions of this act, to be appended to or to accompany a
10 nomination petition or a nomination paper, or if any person
11 shall fraudulently sign any name not his own to any nomination
12 petition or nomination paper, or if any person shall
13 fraudulently alter any nomination petition or nomination paper
14 without the consent of the signers, he shall be guilty of a
15 misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to
16 pay a fine not exceeding five hundred (\$500) dollars, or to
17 undergo imprisonment of not more than one (1) year, or both, in
18 the discretion of the court.

19 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.