



DAUPHIN

COUNTY

BUREAU OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

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TO: School Director Candidates  
FROM: Christopher T. Spackman, Director  
SUBJ: Requirement for Proper Cross Filing

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Under Pennsylvania state election law, candidates who file nomination petitions with the Dauphin County Bureau of Registration and Elections to run for the office of School may choose to “cross-file” during municipal primaries. To cross-file, a candidate must properly circulate nomination petitions among both Democratic and Republican voters so that their name will appear on the primary ballot for both the Democratic and Republican nominations.

State law requires that those circulating nomination petitions for candidates seeking to cross-file for the office of School Director may only do so for the party in which the circulator is **enrolled**. In other words, petition circulators for School Director candidates may only circulate Democratic petitions if they are registered as Democratic and may only circulate Republican petitions if they are registered as a Republican.

Additionally, a statewide court ruling has impacted what is deemed a complete petition package for those candidates seeking to cross-file. Because of this ruling, the Bureau has modified what it will accept from candidates for School Director.

Specifically, on April 18, 2017, Commonwealth Court issued a ruling upholding a challenge to the cross-filed petitions of a York County MDJ candidate (Petition to Set Aside Nomination Petitions of Scott J. Gross for District Magistrate in the Judicial District of 19-3-09). The essence of the ruling is that Candidate Gross had his Democratic nomination petitions set aside because he failed to file two copies of his State Ethics Commission’s Statement of Financial Interest with both his Democratic and Republican nomination petitions.

While the Bureau does not give legal advice, taking this court ruling to its logical conclusion and to err on the side of the candidate, this office is requiring candidates running for School Director to comply with this same requirement: **if you cross-file, submit a copy of your State Ethics Commission’s Statement of Financial Interest with both the Democratic and Republican nomination petitions, and submit two original copies to the School Administration Office before the close of the deadline to file your nomination petitions.**

In addition to two copies of a candidate’s Statement of Financial Interest, the Bureau is requiring candidates running for School Director to submit two copies of their:

- Candidate Affidavit
- Waiver of Expense Account Reporting Affidavit Filing. If you do not plan to raise or spend more than \$250 during any campaign finance reporting period and you do not plan to create a candidate campaign committee
- Affidavit for Ballot Name Change (if applicable) with both their Democratic and Republican petitions.