

Petitioning is the first step in the democratic process

The 2024 election cycle is already in full swing at the national level, with the New York state April 2 presidential primary quickly approaching. However, this is not the only primary election this year; state and local candidates seeking office will also face a primary on June 25. But an important step precedes these primaries: potential candidates must gather enough signatures just to get their names on the ballot through a process called petitioning.

Starting in March, democratic committee members will begin knocking on doors in our community to ask for your signature on nominating petitions for candidates as well as local committee members. Petitioning is an essential part of our democratic process in New York state. Without the required signatures, candidates cannot appear on ballots, and local party representation for election districts in Clarence would be vacant. Fortunately, we have a dedicated team of democrats who volunteer their time and effort year after year to meet the petitioning requirement, but their efforts are only

as good as your participation in the process. We need your signature. It is important to note that by signing the petition you are not endorsing any candidate. You are simply acknowledging their right to run for office or to fill a seat on the local democratic party committee.

In Clarence, democratic candidates typically collect between 350 and 500 signatures. This is no small task for our committee members who brave the often-blustery March weather as they walk from house to house to ask for your participation in the petitioning process. By answering your door and jotting down your signature, you will not only make their jobs easier, but you will also become an important contributor to the democratic process.

Signing petitions is just one way that you can have a say in local and regional elections. Consider joining the Clarence Democratic Committee. Clarence Democratic Committee

members represent both the Clarence Democratic Committee and Erie County Democratic Committee and have a voice at each level. Our current term ends in October of this year, with the upcoming term running from late 2024 to late 2026. There are currently open seats, and we welcome and assist any registered democrat who is interested in formally joining the committee.

As we face what is anticipated to be a contentious November election, there's no better time than now to get involved and make your voice heard. If you miss a volunteer at your door and are interested in signing a petition or want to know more about joining the Clarence Democratic Committee, you can reach out by email at info@clarencenydems.com. You can also at-

tend our next meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, at the Clarence Center American Legion Hall.



**Alexander
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**CLARENCE
DEMOCRATIC
COMMITTEE MEMBER**