Running for Office in Tompkins County in 2025

Prepared by the Tompkins County Board of Elections

Running for Office

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

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 in the caucus.

- All party nominations for village elections are made at a caucus.
- Democratic Party nominations for town elections are made at a caucus in the Towns of Dryden, Groton, and Newfield.
- Republican Party nominations for town elections are made at a caucus in the Towns of Dryden and Ithaca.

Party Nominations

- Party Nominations for all other elected positions in Tompkins 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 <u>only one candidate</u> 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 4.
 - 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 24 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 4.
 - If <u>no candidate</u> 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 4.

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 15 - after the Designating Petition process has completed.

Petitions

 Petitions and related certificates are legal documents and should be treated as such.

 Failure to comply with the rules and regulations surrounding petitions may invalidate the petition and prevent you from becoming a candidate.

Form of Petition

- Election Law requires that all petitions be substantially in the form set forth in the law. Deviations or slight rearrangements of the form of the petition are not fatal defects, provided that the petition contains all of the required information. Each petition sheet must correctly set forth:
 - The date of the election.
 - The name of the candidate.
 - The name of the party or independent body.
 - The office or position sought including the municipality, ward or district number if any.
 - The candidate's residence address, and if different, their mailing or post office address.
 - Information about the signer: date of signing, residence address, and city or town
 - Information relating to the person who witnesses the signatures.

Designating Petition

Following is a link to a sample Designating Petition Form:

Designating Petition Sec. 6-132, Election Law

The Board of Elections will be happy to work with you, to make sure your petition meets all of the necessary specifications.

Democratic Party Designating Petition

I, the undersigned, do hereby state that I am a duly enrolled voter of the DEMOCRATIC Party and entitled to vote at the next primary election of such party, to be held on June 27, 2023; that my place of residence is truly stated opposite my signature hereto, and I do hereby designate the following named persons as candidates for the nomination of such party for public office.

Name of Candidate	Public Office in the Town of Ithaca	Place of Residence (also Post Office address if not identical)
Rod Howe	Supervisor	126A Judd Falls Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850
Pamela Bleiwas	Councilperson	20 Orchard Hill Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850
Eric Levine	Councilperson	672 Coddington Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850
Susie Gutenberger Fitzpatrick	Councilperson	301 Winthrop Dr.,, Ithaca, NY 14850
Kathleen A. Bergin	Town Justice	328 Winthrop Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850

I do hereby appoint: Ammitai Worob, 1212 Trumansburg Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850, Christopher Sinton, 12 Dove Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850, Jeffrey Silber, 20 Orchard Hill Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850 and Elizabeth Hartman, 929 Coddington Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850 as a committee to fill vacancies in accordance with the provisions of the election law

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand the day and year placed opposite my signature:

	Date	Name of Signer Signature Required (Printed name may be added)	Residence	Town
1	/ / 202	3		ITHACA
2	/ / 202	3		ITHACA
3	/ / 202	3		ITHACA
4	/ / 202	3		ITHACA
5	/ / 202	3		ITHACA
6	/ / 202	3		ITHACA
7	/ / 202	3		ITHACA
8	/ / 202	3		ITHACA
9	/ / 202	3		ITHACA
10	/ / 202	3		ITHACA

STATEMENT OF WITNESS state that I am a duly qualified voter of the State of New York and am an enrolled voter of the DEMOCRATIC Party. I now reside at Each of the individuals whose names are subscribed to this petition sheet containing ___ subscribed the same in my presence, on the dates above indicated, and identified himself to be the individual who signed this sheet I understand that this statement will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit and, if it contains a materia false statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn (Signature of Witness) WITNESS IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION: The following information must be completed prior to filing with the board of elections in order for the petition sheet to be valid. TOWN OR CITY COUNTY Sheet No.: _

TOMPKINS

Form of Petition

Committee to Fill Vacancies:

- This is an optional item on the petition. If there is no Committee to Fill Vacancies listed on the petition and the designation becomes vacant, the vacancy cannot be filled.
- If a Committee to Fill Vacancies is used on a Designating Petition, the committee must contain a <u>minimum of three enrolled members of the party</u>. The committee is empowered to fill a vacancy in the nomination if the candidate declines their designation prior to or on the last date that a declination of the designation can be filed (April 7). If the candidate dies or is disqualified, the committee is empowered to act as late as the date of the Primary Election (June 24) providing the Committee acts within timelines as specified in Election Law.
- If a Committee to Fill Vacancies is used on an Independent Nominating Petition, the committee must contain a minimum of three registered voters. The committee is empowered to fill a vacancy in the nomination if the candidate declines their nomination prior to or on the last date that a declination of the nomination can be filed (May 30). If the candidate dies or is disqualified, the committee is empowered to act as late as 12 PM on October 28 providing the Committee acts within timelines as specified in Election Law.
- Members of the Committee to Fill Vacancies can reside anywhere in New York State.

Obtaining Signatures on a Designating Petition

- The witness (person obtaining the signatures) to a Designating Petition must:
 - Be a qualified voter of the State of New York
 - Be enrolled in the same party as the persons qualified to sign the petition
 - Have not previously signed any petition for another candidate for the same office
 - The witness must actually see the voter sign their name on the petition.
- The **signer** of a Designating Petition petition must:
 - Be an enrolled member of the party living in the political jurisdiction of the office being sought
 - Have not signed a petition for another candidate for the same office OR in the case where there
 are two or more openings for the same position, the signer has not signed a petition for as many
 candidates as there are openings for that office
- The first day to sign a designating petition is February 25, 2025.
- The dates for filing the petition are March 31 April 3 inclusive.

Obtaining Signatures on an Independent Nominating Petition

- The witness (person obtaining the signatures) to an Independent Nominating Petition must:
 - Be a qualified voter of the State of New York
 - Has not previously signed any petition for another candidate for the same office
 - The witness must actually see the voter sign their name on the petition.
- The **signer** of an Independent Nominating Petition petition must:
 - Be a registered voter living in the political jurisdiction of the office being sought
 - Have not signed a petition for another candidate for the same office OR in the case where there are two or more openings for the same position, the signer has not signed a petition for as many candidates as there are openings for that office
- The first day to sign an Independent Nominating Petition is April 15, 2025.
- The dates for filing the petition are May 20 27, inclusive.

Obtaining Signatures on a Petition

- A Designating Petition must be signed by at least 5 % of the enrolled voters of the party as of February 21 (or the minimum established by election law – whichever is less) that live in the jurisdiction of the office being sought.
- An Independent Nominating Petition must be signed by at least 5 % of the number of voters that voted for Governor (in the last gubernatorial election), (or the minimum established by election law – whichever is less) that live in the jurisdiction of the office being sought.
- The voter needs only to sign his or her name on the appropriate line of the petition. The witness can fill in the other required information.
- The witness must actually see the voter sign their name on the petition.

2025 Offices to be Filled (Unofficial)

TOMPKINS COUNTY

Legislator District 1 Travis Brooks (D)

Legislator District 2 Veronica Pillar (D), Rich John (D)

Legislator District 3

Legislator District 4

Legislator District 5

Legislator District 6

Legislator District 7

Legislator District 7

Legislator District 8

Legislator District 9

Veromea T man (D), Reference T man (D), Reference T man (D)

No Incumbent

Shawna Black (D)

Deborah Dawson (D)

Michael Sigler (R)

Legislator District 9

Legislator District 9

Legislator District 10Michael E. Lane (D)Legislator District 11Greg Mezey (D)

Legislator District 12No IncumbentLegislator District 13Dan Klein (D)

Legislator District 14Amanda Champion (D)Legislator District 15Randolph Brown (R)Legislator District 16Anne Koreman (D)

CITY OF ITHACA

Alderperson 1st Ward 4 Year Term
Alderperson 2nd Ward 4 Year Term
Alderperson 3rd Ward 4 Year Term
Alderperson 4th Ward 4 Year Term
Alderperson 5th Ward 4 Year Term
Clyde Lederman (D)

TOWN OF CAROLINE

Supervisor Mark C Witmer (D)

Town Councilpersons Jonathan Bates (I)

Michele Brown (D)

Town Justice Gary Reinbolt (D)

2025 Offices to be Filled (Unofficial)

TOWN OF DANBY

SupervisorJoel P. Gagnon (D)Town ClerkMariah Dillon (D)Highway DeptKeith Shipman (D)Town CouncilpersonsPatricia Woodworth (D)H. Katherine Hunter (D)

Town Councilperson (2 year to Fill Term) Vacant

TOWN OF DRYDEN

SupervisorJason Leifer (D)Highway SuperintendentRichard Young Jr. (D)

Town Councilpersons Dan Lamb (D)

Leonardo Vargas-Mendez (D)

TOWN OF ENFIELD

Supervisor Stephanie Redmond (D)

Town Clerk Mary Cornell (D)

Highway SuperintendentBarry J. Rollins, Sr. (R)Town CouncilpersonsCassandra Hinkle (D)

Jude Lemke (D)

TOWN OF GROTON

SupervisorDonald F Scheffler (R)Town ClerkRobin Cargian (R)Highway SuperintendentEllard D. Keister (R)Town CouncilpersonsBrian Klumpp (R)Sheldon C. Clark (R)

Town Justice Paul J. Lang (R)

2025 Offices to be Filled (Unofficial)

TOWN OF ITHACA

Supervisor Rodney (Rod) Howe (D)

Town Councilpersons Rich DePaolo (D)

Margaret Johnson (D)

Rob Rosen (D)

Town Justice (s) Jim Salk (D)

TOWN OF LANSING

Town Councilpersons Joseph Wetmore(G)

Judy Drake (D)

Town Justice Peter Grossmann (D)

TOWN OF NEWFIELD

Supervisor Michael Allinger (D)

Town Clerk Karen M Miller-Kenerson (R)

Highway SuperintendentKevin Berggren (R)Town CouncilpersonsJoanne D. James (D)

Christine M. Laughlin (R)

TOWN OF ULYSSES

Supervisor Katelin Olsen (D)

Town Clerk Carissa M. Parlato (D)

Highway SuperintendentScott Stewart (D)Town CouncilpersonsMary Bouchard (D)

Mary Bouchard (D) Richard Goldman (D)



- Gather completed petition sheets from all those who circulated the petition.
- Have witness confirm that each signature on the petition is dated and that residence address is properly entered (no ditto marks).
- Be sure that the witness filled in all of the information on their witness statement before you accept the sheet(s) from them:
 - Name.
 - Street Address.
 - Number of Signatures on the page.
 - · Signature is dated.
 - Signature of Witness.
 - City/Town and County where the witness lives.
 - Make sure they don't fill in the Sheet Number

- If petition has 10 or more sheets, it needs a cover sheet.
- Cover sheet must include the following information:
 - Party Name.
 - Name of and Residence Address of Candidate(s)
 - Office with Municipality and District (if applicable)
 - An identification of the number of volumes comprising the petition and which volume number the particular cover sheet is for (each volume requires a cover sheet).
 - A statement that the petition contains the number or in excess of the number of signatures required by Election Law.
 - A place for the optional designation of a contact person to be notified if the cover sheet is not in compliance with regulations.

COVER SHEET

For Designating Petition

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

NAME OF CANDIDATE	RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Include Mailing Address if Different)	PUBLIC OFFICE in the Town of Ithaca
Rod Howe Pamela Bleiwas Eric Levine Susie Gutenberger Fitzpatrick	126 Judd Falls Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850 20 Orchard Hill Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850 672 Coddington Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850 301 Winthrop Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850 328 Winthrop Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850	Supervisor Councilperson Councilperson Councilperson Town Justice
Kathleen A. Bergin	520 Willimp Dr., linaca, 191 14650	Town Justice

The netition contains the number or in excess of the number of valid signatures, required by the Flortion Law

Total Number of Volumes in Petition:

	5.8
Contact Person to Correct Deficiencies:	
Name (Please Print):	
Residence Address (with City, State and Zip):	
Mailing Address (if different):	
Phone: () - Email address:	Fax: () - (include if notice by fax desired)
I hereby authorize that any notice of any determination made by the Bo named above. If an email address is provided, all notices or determinat that by not providing an email notice, notifications will be sent by mail w	ions shall be sent by email only. I understand
(Candidate or Agent)	

Following is a link to a sample Cover Sheet:

<u>Sample Cover Sheet - Designating and Independent Combined</u>

- Once you have all of the sheets of the petition and have made sure that they are ready to file, place the cover sheet on top of the petition sheets and properly bind them (in most cases, a single staple in the upper corner will suffice).
- Once the petitions are properly bound, number each sheet of the petition in numerical order (starting with the number 1) in the lower right hand corner of each sheet.
- If the petition is less than 10 pages, it does not need a cover sheet. It does need to be properly bound and each of the sheets of the petition must be numbered.

Filing the Petition

- Designating Petitions must be filed at the Board of Elections between March 31 and April 3, inclusive between the hours of <u>9AM and 5 PM</u>.
 You cannot file them at an earlier date.
- Independent Nominating Petitions must be filed at the Board of Elections between May 20 and May 27, inclusive between the hours of <u>9AM and 5 PM</u>. You cannot file them at an earlier date. Note that our office will be closed on May 24 -26.
- Petitions need to be filed as a whole. When filing sheets of a petition in piecemeal fashion, each filing stands on its own and the petition sheets cannot be added to previously filed petitions.

Acceptances and Authorizations

- When the candidate is not an enrolled member of the party for which a
 Designating Petition has been filed the following two Certificates <u>must</u> be filed
 with the Board of Elections no later than April 7. Failure to file each of the
 certificates will invalidate the petition.
- <u>Certificate of Acceptance</u>: Must be filled out by the candidate and be notarized. Essentially states that the candidate accepts the nomination of the party in question.

Sample Certificate Of Acceptance By Candidates Form

• <u>Certificate of Authorization</u>: 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.

Certificate of Authorization Sample

Acceptances (Independent Nominating Petitions)

- Any candidate that has an Independent Nominating Petition filed on their behalf must file a Certificate of Acceptance by May 30.
- <u>Certificate of Acceptance</u>: Must be filled out by the candidate and be notarized. Essentially states that the candidate accepts the nomination of the independent body in question. Following is a link to the form:

Sample Certificate Of Acceptance By Candidates Form

Campaign Finance

- All candidates (and /or their authorized committees) have Campaign filing obligations with the New York State Board of Elections.
- Candidates must file <u>one</u> of the following forms:
 - Form CF-04 where candidate will make all Campaign Financial Disclosures and does not have an authorized committee disclosing anything.
 - Form CF-05 where candidate is claiming an exemption from filing Campaign Financial Disclosure Reports.
 - Form CF-16 to authorize a Committee to make all Campaign Financial Disclosures.

Each of the above forms needs to be notarized

Form CF-04: Candidate Will Make All Campaign Financial Disclosures

- Uncommon.
- Candidate uses this form to register with the NYSBOE and to obtain a Filer ID# and PIN.
- The candidate does not have an authorized committee.
- Candidate is therefore required to disclose all of the financial activity of the campaign, including any use of their own money. Following is a link to the form:

CF-04 Candidate Registration

Form CF-05: Claim of Exemption from Filing

- Candidate files Form CF-05 with the New York State Board of Elections to claim an exemption from filing for one of the two following reasons:
 - Candidate has not/will not receive or spend more than \$50 for the campaign including their own personal funds.
 - Candidate for public office in a City, Town or Village having a population less than 10,000 where the candidate and/or their authorized committee does not raise or spend in excess of \$1,000 in the aggregate on the campaign. This includes the personal funds of the candidate. Following is a link to the form:

Candidate or Committee Claim of Exemption From Filing Campaign Financial Disclosure Reports

Form CF-16: Candidate Authorization for a Committee to Make All Campaign Financial Disclosures

- Candidate has an authorized committee that will make all of the candidate's required campaign financial disclosure filings.
- These filings will include all of the financial activities of the campaign, including the financial activity of the candidate. Following is a link to the form.

CF-16 Candidate Authorization for Committee

Authorized Single Candidate Committee

- Identify a Treasurer.
- Identify a Bank or Credit Union as a Depository for Campaign Funds.
- Treasurer files Form <u>CF-02 Type 1</u> with the New York State Board of Elections and obtains a Filer ID# and PIN: <u>Authorized Single Candidate Committee Campaign Finance Registration Form</u>
 - This form must be filed within five days of choosing a treasurer and depository and prior to receiving or expending any funds.
- Treasurer must file periodic Campaign Financial Disclosure Reports as stated in the Political Calendar.
- If Committee spends less than \$1000 in aggregate during an election cycle, it can file an "In Lieu Of" statement in order to avoid itemizing their revenue and expenditures.

Authorized Multi-Candidate Committee

- Identify a Treasurer.
- Identify a Bank or Credit Union as a Depository for Campaign Funds.
- Treasurer files <u>Form CF-02 Type 9</u> with the New York State Board of Elections and obtains a Filer ID# and PIN: <u>Authorized Multi-Candidate Committee Campaign Finance Registration Form</u>
 - This form must be filed within five days of choosing a treasurer and depository and prior to receiving or expending any funds.
- Treasurer must file periodic Campaign Financial Disclosure Reports as stated in the Political Calendar.
- If Committee spends less than \$1000 in aggregate during an election cycle, it **cannot** file an "In Lieu Of" statement in order to avoid itemizing their revenue and expenditures.

Constituted/Party Committee

- Identify a Treasurer.
- Identify a Bank or Credit Union as a Depository for Campaign Funds.
- Treasurer files Form <u>CF-02 Type 3-7</u> with the New York State Board of Elections and obtains a Filer ID# and PIN. Following is a link to the form:
 - CF-02 Form for Type 3-7, 3H-7H Committees
- This form must be filed within five days of choosing a treasurer and depository and <u>prior</u> to receiving or expending any funds.
- Treasurer must file periodic Campaign Financial Disclosure Reports as stated in the Political Calendar.

Opening a Bank Account

- Banks and Credit Unions will likely require one or both of the following in order to open a campaign account:
 - Proof of committee's registration with appropriate election bureau.
 - Once you identify a bank/credit union and a treasurer, file the appropriate CF-02 with the New York State Board of Elections (you do not actually have to open the bank account before you file this form). This form does not have to be notarized.
 - Once you receive your filer ID# and PIN from the New York State Board of Elections, present it to the bank/credit union and you will likely be able to open an account.
 - EIN (Employee Identification Number)
 - Go to the IRS web site and apply for an EIN.
 - The following ten slides will guide you through the process.

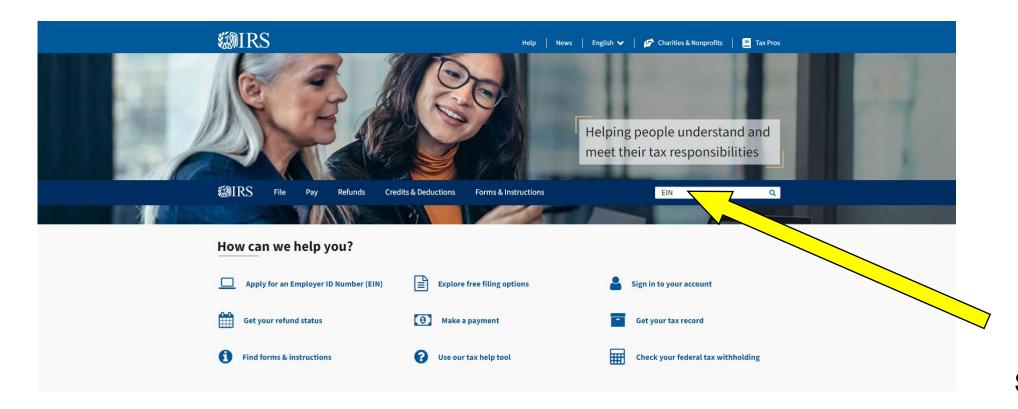
Campaign Finance Questions?

Contact:

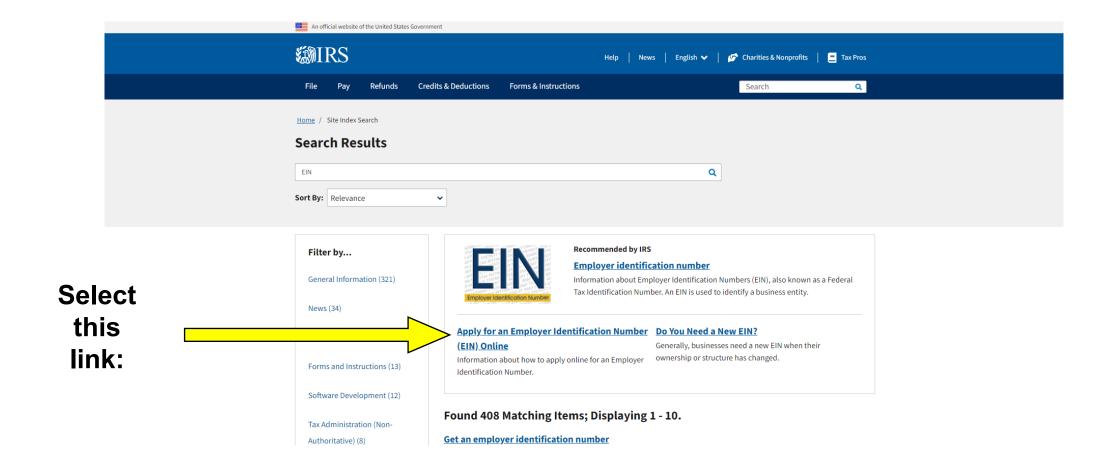
New York State Board of Elections

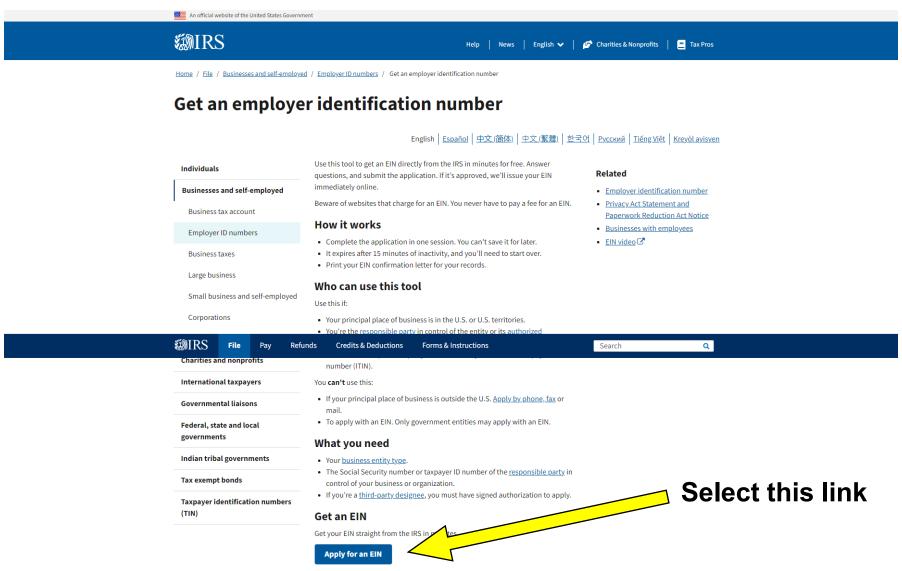
Campaign Finance Help Desk

(800) 458-3453 Option #2

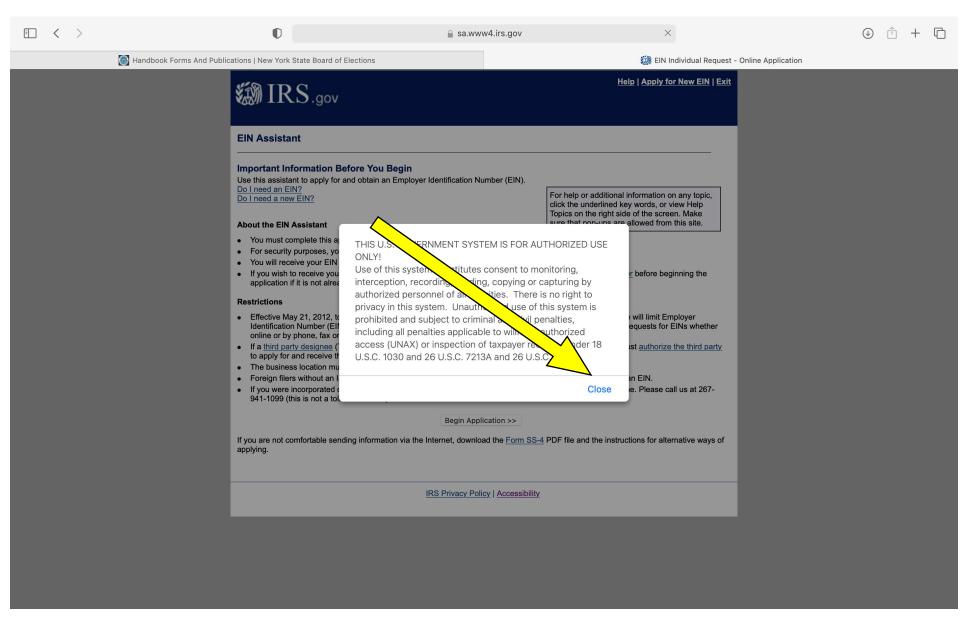


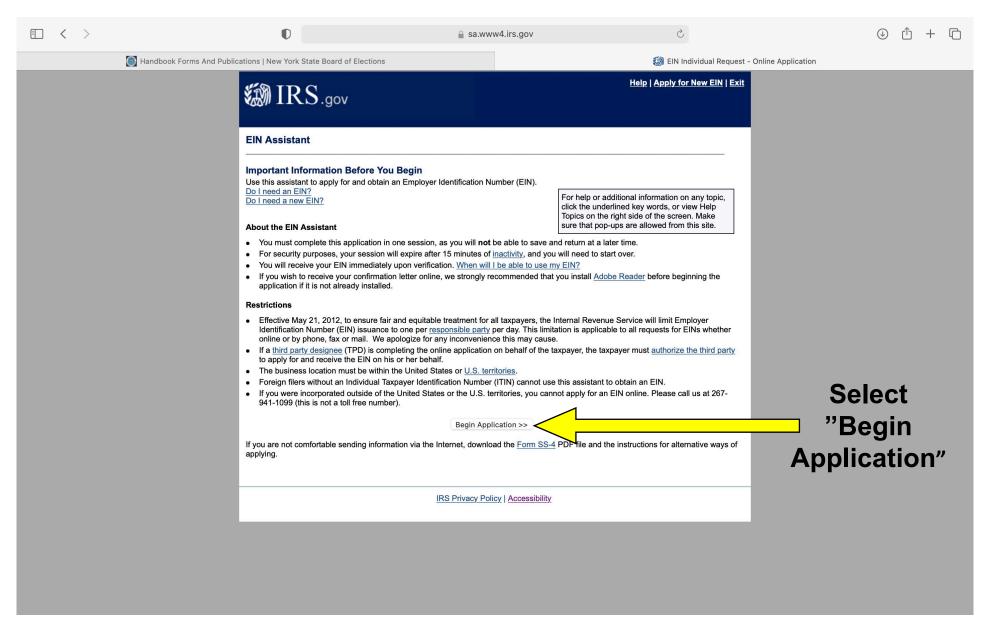
Go to www.irs.gov
Enter"EIN" in the
Search Box and hit
Enter

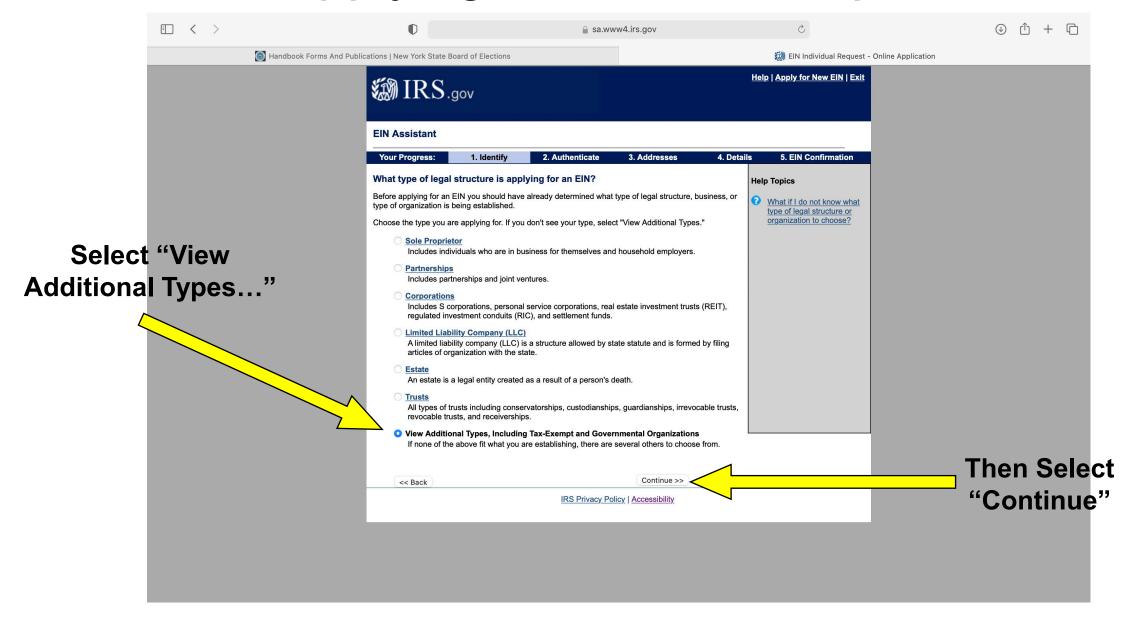


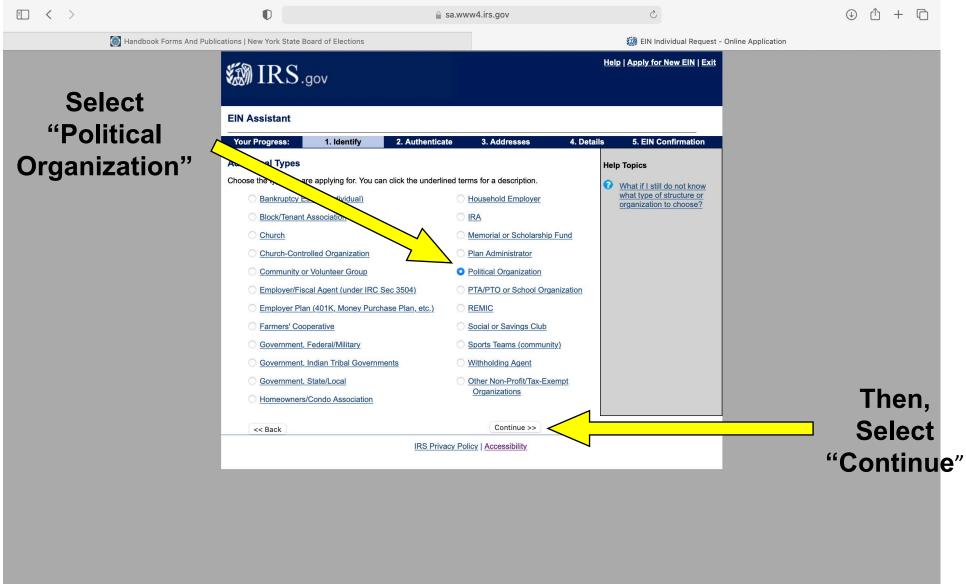


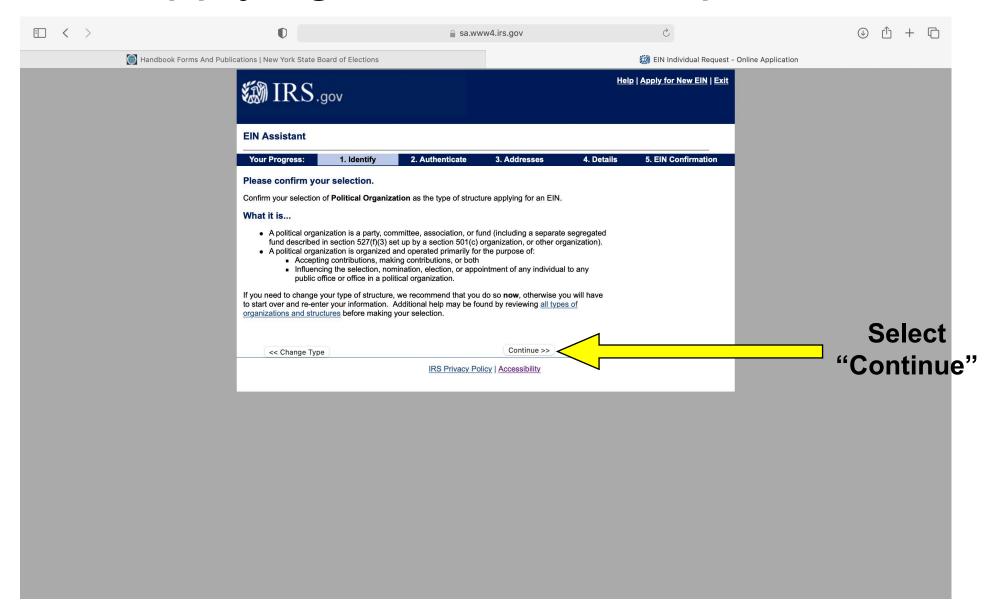
If this screen comes up, select "Close"





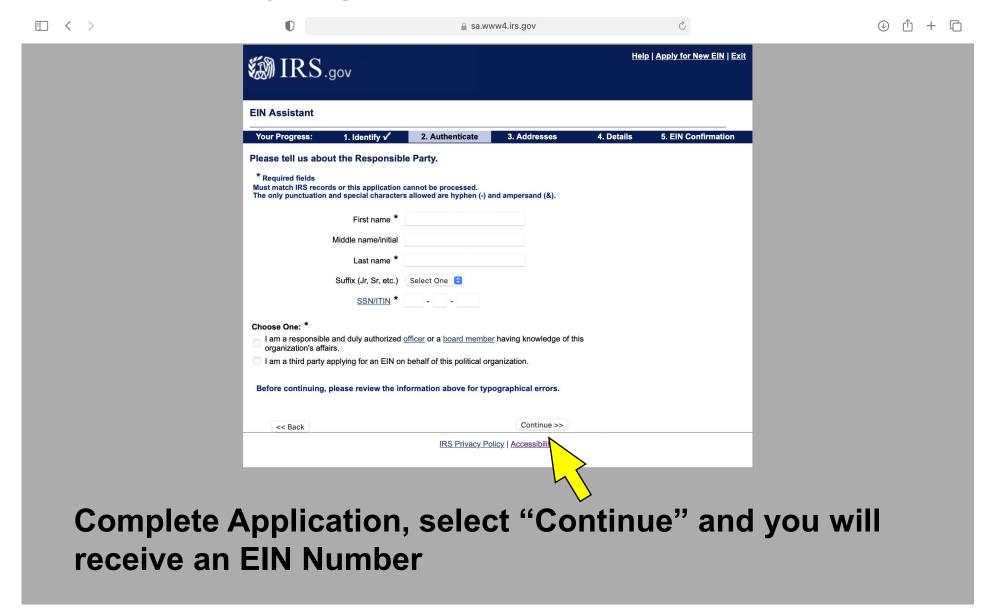






□ < > ⊕ ⊕ + □ a sa.www4.irs.gov Handbook Forms And Publications | New York State Board of Elections EIN Individual Request - Online Application Help | Apply for New EIN | Exit IRS.gov **EIN Assistant** 2. Authenticate 4. Details 5. EIN Confirmation Your Progress: 1. Identify 3. Addresses Why is the Political Organization requesting an EIN? **Help Topics** Choose one reason that best describes why you are applying for an EIN. l do not see my reason for applying here. What should I Started a new business Select this option if you are beginning a new business. What if more than one reason applies to me? Select this option if you already have a business and need to hire employees. Select this option if the reason for applying for the EIN is strictly to satisfy banking requirements or local law. Changed type of organization Select this option if you are changing the type of organization you currently operate, such as changing from a sole proprietor to a partnership, changing from a partnership to a corporation, Purchased active business Select this option if you are purchasing a business that is already in operation. Then Select Continue >> "Continue" IRS Privacy Policy | Accessibility

Select "Banking Purposes"



Important Dates in 2025

March 18 Village Election in Cayuga Heights, Dryden and Groton (Polls Open 12 PM to 9 PM)

April 22 Village Election in the Village of Lansing (Polls Open 12 PM to 9 PM)

June 14 - 22 Early Voting for Primary Election

June 24 Primary Election (Polls Opens 6 AM to 9 PM)

Oct 25 - Nov. 2 Early Voting for General Election

November 4 General Election (Polls Opens 6 AM to 9 PM)

February 25 First day to circulate Designating Petitions for June 24 Primary Election

February 25 First Day to hold a Party Caucus for making nominations for town offices for November 4 General

Election (if applicable)

Mar 31 - Apr 3 Dates for filing Designating Petitions

April 15 First day to circulate Independent Nominating Petitions for November 4 General Election

May 20 - 27 Dates for filing Independent Nominating Petitions

July 24 Last Day for filing Nominations made at a town caucus for November 4 General Election

Contact Information

Steve DeWitt
Democratic Commissioner
sdewitt@tompkins-co.org
(607) 274-5522 (office)
(607) 227-6017 (cell)

Alanna Congdon
Republican Commissioner

acongdon@tompkins-co.org

(607) 274-5521 (office)

(607) 339-5850 (cell)