

LISA POLITO NICOLAY
Commissioner

PETER D ELDER
Deputy



JACKIE ORTIZ
Commissioner

NATALIE SHEPPARD
Deputy

Monroe County Board of Elections

Notice to Candidates Regarding "Candidate Change of Name" Requests

Please take notice that the Monroe County Board of Elections will no longer accept or process "Candidate Change of Name Requests."

- Petitions and other ballot access documents are legal documents signed by voters, notarized or witnessed, and filed with a government agency. It is illegal for anyone to alter or request that anyone else alter such a document, particularly after it has been filed.
- By law, candidates' names must appear on the ballot exactly as spelled on the petition or other ballot access document. Only a court of law can order that a different name be substituted on the ballot in place of the name on the petition.
- It is a common misconception that a candidate must petition using their "legal" or "official name," or the name with which they are registered to vote. This is simply not the law in New York State. An individual may petition under any name that does not confuse or intend to confuse voters, and that does not contain any titles (such as "Doctor," "Pastor," or "Mayor") or descriptive words ("the best").

39 WEST MAIN STREET, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14614

☎ 585-753-1550 ☎ FAX 585-753-1511 ☎ TTY 585-753-1544

EMAIL: mcboc@monroecounty.gov