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**Crawford County  
Election & Voter Services Office**  
903 DIAMOND PARK  
COURTHOUSE  
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

**REQUIREMENTS FOR WRITE IN CANDIDATES**

- Please notify the Election Office at least 2 weeks before an election that you will be running an active write-in campaign. This will insure that we will accumulate your votes.
- A Declaration form stating that you will accept votes under the names of.....

**i.e.** - Joseph P. Smith  
Joe Smith  
Joseph Peter Smith  
Joe Smyth  
Etc.

These names have to be within reason... ..... we will not accept J. Smith if there is more than one J. Smith (we don't know whether it is Joseph, James, Jean, Jane, etc.) within a municipality or voting district. Also, if you are a Jr. or Sr. and you both reside within the same district we will not accumulate those votes unless they specifically state Jr. or Sr. We cannot guess at the voter's intent, it must be clear.

- During a **Primary Election**, as a write-in candidate to win the nomination and move onto the November Election, you must have as many votes as signatures required to get your name on the ballot. For example, if you are running for Township Supervisor and are running a write-in campaign you must have at least 10 votes **and** more than anyone else on the ballot. Anyone who gets their name on the ballot is required to have a certain number of signatures on their petition and you are required to have the same amount of votes. In November it is the candidate(s) with the most votes who are declared a winner, whether it is 1 vote or 100 votes.
  - **Office required to get 100 signatures (votes) Primary**
    - All County Wide Offices
    - City of Meadville and Titusville Offices
  - **Offices required to get 10 signatures (votes) Primary**
    - School Directors
    - Borough Council
    - Township and Borough Auditors
    - Borough Mayor
      - Township Supervisors
      - Tax Collectors
      - Constables

- You can ask both Democrats and Republicans to write you in regardless of your party affiliation.
- Write-in candidates are required to adhere to Campaign Finance Laws. If you spend or receive over \$250.00 in a reporting period you are required to file a Campaign Finance Report. Further information is available at the Election Office.
- If you are successful in your write-in campaign you will be required to file paper work and pay a filing fee, if applicable, (Purdon's title 25 §2938.1), to this office before a specified date. If you fail to do so your name **will not** appear on the November ballot if you won in the Primary or if you won in the November election and fail to file your paper work you **will not** be issued a Certificate of Election and will not be able to take office.
- Please be aware that if you run a write-in campaign that it takes us several weeks to accumulate write-in votes. We do not start the accumulation until approximately the Friday after the election and depending on the number of write-ins could take up to a week or ten days to finish them. You can however, go to the polls and look at the report posted there to see approximately how many votes you received. Remember, these are unofficial totals until we certify the election which is generally 3 weeks after an election.
- As always the Election Office is here to answer any other questions you may have, please do not hesitate to contact us at: 814-333-7307 or by e-mail: [voterservices@co.crawford.pa.us](mailto:voterservices@co.crawford.pa.us)

## VOTER SERVICES

The information provided above does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice. All information provided in this document is intended for general informational purposes only. The information provided above may not constitute the most up-to-date legal or other information available. All candidates should contact their attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular legal matter. No reader of this information should act or refrain from acting on the basis of information in this document without first seeking legal advice from counsel experienced in election matters. Only your individual attorney can provide assurances that the information contained herein – and your interpretation of it – is applicable or appropriate to your particular situation. All liability with respect to actions taken or not taken based on the contents of this document is hereby expressly disclaimed. No representation is made that the information provided herein is error-free.