

MEDIA RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 16, 2021

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Erie County Bureau of Elections Hosts Candidacy Q&A Event

Have you decided to run for public office and need direction? The Erie County Bureau of Elections will host a virtual question and answer event Thursday, February 18th from 4:00pm to 6:00pm for all Erie County 2021 primary election candidates.

Election Clerk Doug Smith & Election Supervisor Tonia Fernandez will present information especially helpful to new candidates, including petitions, campaign finance obligations, and Election Code requirements. Smith and Fernandez will also open the floor to answer any questions candidates may have regarding the process. The Board of Elections has conducted this type of training for over 10 years. Board Chairwoman Mary Rennie “Good government begins with informed candidates and their willingness to serve others. This Q & A event is one of the best learning opportunities anywhere for Erie County residents who are considering running for office in 2021.”

Today February 16, 2021, is first day a candidate may circulate petitions. Petitions indicate a particular candidate wishes to run for a specific office in a geographical area. They must be signed by a number of registered voters in the area. If successfully submitted the candidate is placed on the ballot for one of the two major parties. The last day to circulate petitions is March 9, 2021. All of this information will be discussed at Thursday’s virtual meeting, and may also be found at the County Election Office Website:

<https://eriecountypa.gov/departments/elections-voting/running-for-office/>.

If a candidate is unable to attend the meeting, it is encouraged that candidates review the information provided on the county website, and contact the office at 814-451-6275 before petitioning. Candidates who wish to attend the virtual Zoom meeting may visit:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86344158347?pwd=K0k5dnBONWkxM1M1WTU2MnNBWjNNdz09> or

Call-in: +1 929 205 6099, please use **Meeting ID: 863 4415 8347** and **Passcode: 021821**.

Contact the office with any additional questions for the event.