Running for Town Supervisor

A Candidate Information Guide for Delaware County, New York

Are you considering serving your community as Town Supervisor? This guide will walk you through what the role involves, what qualifications are required, and the steps to get your name on the ballot in Delaware County, New York.

The Role of Town Supervisor

The Town Supervisor is the chief executive officer and chief fiscal officer of the town, as well as a member and presiding officer of the Town Board. This is a critical local government position with broad responsibilities.

Executive & Administrative Duties

- Serves as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the town
- Presides over all Town Board meetings and votes on matters before the Board
- Oversees the daily administration and operations of town government
- Supervises town employees and department heads
- Enforces town laws, ordinances, and resolutions
- Represents the town in intergovernmental affairs and with the public

Financial Responsibilities

- Serves as the chief fiscal officer of the town
- Prepares and presents the annual town budget to the Town Board
- Oversees the management of town funds and accounts
- Signs checks and authorizes expenditures on behalf of the town
- Submits annual financial reports to the New York State Comptroller
- Ensures proper financial controls and accountability

Legislative Role

- Votes on local laws, resolutions, and town policies as a Town Board member
- Introduces legislation and policy proposals
- Works with the Town Board to adopt and amend local ordinances

Additional Responsibilities

- Signs contracts and legal documents on behalf of the town
- Issues building permits and other approvals (in some towns, depending on local law)
- Coordinates emergency management and disaster response
- Appoints members to town committees and boards (subject to Board approval)
- Serves as a liaison with Delaware County government and state agencies

At a Glance: Key Facts

Term Length	4 years (elected in odd-numbered years, takes office January 1)
Compensation	Varies by town; set by the Town Board (see your town's local laws)
Governing Body	Town Board (Supervisor + 2 or 4 Councilpersons, depending on town population)
State Authority	New York State Town Law governs the powers and duties of Town Supervisors

Eligibility Requirements

To run for Town Supervisor in New York State, candidates must meet the following requirements under state law:

- **Residency:** Be a registered voter in the town where you seek election
- **Age:** Be at least 18 years of age
- **Residency Duration:** Have been a resident of the town for at least 30 days prior to the election
- **Legal Status:** Not be currently under any legal disability that would bar you from holding public office

Note: Some towns may have additional requirements set by local law. Contact your Town Clerk or the Delaware County Board of Elections to confirm requirements specific to your town.

Steps to Run for Town Supervisor

Running for office involves several key steps. Here is a general roadmap for candidates in Delaware County, New York:

1. **Step 1: Confirm Your Eligibility** Determine your eligibility and review your town's local laws to confirm any additional requirements.
2. **Step 2: Contact the Board of Elections & Your Town Clerk** Contact the Delaware County Board of Elections (607-832-5321) and your Town Clerk early in the process. They can provide critical guidance, deadlines, and the correct petition forms.
3. **Step 3: Decide on Party Affiliation or Independent Run** Most candidates run on a party line (Democratic, Republican, etc.) or as an independent. To run on a party line, you will typically need to be designated at a party caucus or convention. Contact your local party committee for their process.
4. **Step 4: Gather Petition Signatures** To get on the ballot, you must collect a required number of valid signatures from registered voters in your town on a nominating petition. The number of signatures required depends on the number of enrolled voters in the town. Petitions must use official forms available from the Board of Elections.
5. **Step 5: File Your Nominating Petition** Completed petitions must be filed with the Delaware County Board of Elections by the statutory deadline. For general elections (November), petitions are typically due in late July or early August. Verify the exact date each year with the Board of Elections.
6. **Step 6: Complete Required Filings** Upon filing, you will need to file a Candidate Authorization form if nominated by a party. You may also need to designate a petition representative for any challenges.

7. **Step 7: Campaign Finance Compliance** If you raise or spend more than $1,000 (or in some cases any amount), you are required to file campaign finance disclosure reports with the New York State Board of Elections. Open a dedicated campaign bank account and keep detailed records.
8. **Step 8: Campaign!** Campaign in your community! Attend town events, knock on doors, send mailers, and use social media to share your vision for the town. Engage with local media and community organizations.
9. **Step 9: Election Day** The general election for Town Supervisor is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in odd-numbered years (e.g., 2025, 2027).
10. **Step 10: If Elected — Transition & Training** If elected, you will take office on January 1 following the election. Plan to attend orientations and training sessions offered by the New York State Association of Towns.

Important Contacts & Resources

Below are key contacts to help guide your candidacy:

Delaware County Board of Elections	3 Court Street, Delhi, NY 13753 | (607) 832-5321 co.delaware.ny.us/
Your Town Clerk	Contact your town's clerk for local petition requirements, filings, and deadlines
NY Assoc. of Towns	nytowns.org — Training, resources, and guidance for town officials
NYS Town Law	Available at nysenate.gov — the governing law for all New York towns
NYS BOE Campaign Finance	elections.ny.gov — Campaign finance filing requirements and forms

This handout is intended as a general guide. Always verify current deadlines and requirements with the Delaware County Board of Elections and your Town Clerk. The creation of this handout was AI-assisted.

2026 Key Dates for Town Supervisor Candidates

EARLY STEPS — PARTY PRIMARY ROUTE (June 23, 2026 Primary)	
Feb 24	First day to hold a town caucus • First day to circulate Designating Petitions (party route)
Mar 30	First day to FILE Designating Petitions at Delaware County Board of Elections
Apr 2	Last day to CIRCULATE Designating Petitions
Apr 6	DEADLINE: Last day to FILE Designating Petitions (9 am–5 pm)
Apr 10	Last day to authorize designation • Last day to accept or decline a designation
Apr 14	Last day to fill a vacancy caused by a declination of designation
⚠ *Signature requirements vary by town size — confirm the exact number with the Delaware County Board of Elections before circulating.*	
~May 22	Campaign Finance: Pre-Primary report due (32 days before the June 23 Primary — if raising/spending over $1,000)
Jun 13	Voter registration & absentee application deadline for Primary Election

GENERAL ELECTION ROUTE — Independent & Party Nominees (November 3, 2026)	
Apr 14	First day to circulate Independent Nominating Petitions for the General Election
May 19	First day to FILE Independent Nominating Petitions at Delaware County Board of Elections
May 26	DEADLINE: Last day to circulate AND file Independent Nominating Petitions
May 29	Last day to accept or decline an independent nomination
Jun 2	Last day to fill a vacancy caused by a declination of nomination
Apr 14	First day to circulate Independent Nominating Petitions for the General Election

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING (NYS Board of Elections)	
⚠ *Most Delaware County towns have fewer than 10,000 residents. If you raise or spend $1,000 or less total, you may file a Claim of Exemption (CF-05) instead of full reports. If you exceed $1,000 at any point, you must register and file all applicable reports.*	
ASAP	Register your campaign committee at elections.ny.gov • Open a dedicated campaign bank account
~Oct 2	Pre-General Election report due (32 days before Election Day — November 3)
Oct 4–Nov 3	24-hour notice required for any single contribution or loan over $1,000
~Nov 30	Post-General Election report due (27 days after Election Day)

FINAL STRETCH — General Election	
Oct 19	Change of Address deadline for General Election — address change must be received by Board of Elections
Oct 24	Voter registration deadline for General Election • Last day to apply by mail or online for absentee ballot
Oct 24–Nov 1	Early Voting period for General Election
Nov 2	Last day to apply in person for a General Election absentee ballot
Nov 3	★ GENERAL ELECTION DAY — Polls open 6 am to 9 pm

Delaware County Board of Elections
3 Court Street, Delhi, NY 13753
(607) 832-5321 • elections.ny.gov

Dates based on 2025 NYS Political Calendar. Verify all deadlines directly with the Delaware County Board of Elections.
For campaign finance: elections.ny.gov/candidate-information

Delaware County Board of Elections petition data for 2025

Just to give you an idea of approximately how many signatures you'll need to get on the ballot, here's a breakdown of the required signatures for **town supervisor** by town, organized by party (the "Sigs" column reflects the minimum required signatures for each party's designating petition).

The signature requirement is based on 5% of enrolled party voters in the town (not the specific office). Ask the Delaware County Board of Elections for the exact number you need.

Town	Party	Signatures Required	Up for election in 2026?
Andes	Democrat	20	yes
Andes	Republican	19	
Bovina	Democrat	13	yes
Bovina	Republican	9	
Colchester	Republican	37	yes
Colchester	Independent (SUP/EXP)	44	
Davenport	Republican	43	yes
Delhi	Democrat	39	yes
Delhi	Republican	47	
Delhi	Independent (DEL)	73	
Franklin	Republican	38	yes
Hamden	Democrat	13	yes
Hancock	Republican	51	yes
Hancock	Independent (FOC/INT)	59	
Kortright	Republican	25	yes
~~Masonville~~	~~Republican~~	~~22~~	~~no~~
Meredith	Republican	24	yes
Meredith	Independent (MER)	39	
Middletown	Democrat	46	yes

Middletown	Independent (COM)	80	
Roxbury	Republican	33	yes
Roxbury	Independent (PEO)	59	
~~Sidney~~	~~Democrat~~	~~47~~	~~no~~
~~Sidney~~	~~Republican~~	~~71~~	
~~Sidney~~	~~Independent (SID/LOC)~~	~~99~~	
Stamford	Republican	28	yes
~~Tompkins~~	~~Democrat~~	~~11~~	~~no~~
Walton	Republican	85	yes

A few notes:

- These figures are from the **2025 election cycle** as reported by the Delaware County Board of Elections.
- The higher signature counts listed under independent/third-party labels (e.g., "COM," "SID," "MER") are for independent nominating petitions, which require more signatures than major party designating petitions.
- The number of required signatures is set at **5% of enrolled party voters** in the town under New York State Election Law §6-136, which is why the numbers vary significantly by town size.
- Not every town had candidates from both major parties file in 2025 — some towns appear to only have had one party active.

This informational overview was AI-assisted.