

This explanation was added in July 2026 to remedy confusion about the elements of a valid nominating petition.

1. The most basic requirement for a valid petition is that it must contain a simple signed statement that the member signing it is nominating the Candidate for inclusion on the ballot mailed to the membership for election of directors. The wording of this statement may vary, but see below for a sample that would be acceptable.
2. All 25 signatures need not appear on the same document. More than one document can be submitted in support of a Candidate so long as the total number of names on them adds up to 25 or more.
3. The signatures must be actual signatures, signed onto an actual document. They cannot be photocopies of signatures. Because signatures can be illegible, they must be accompanied by a legible printed version of the signer's name.
4. The petitions must be actually submitted to the ABCA office via postal mail, messenger, or other physical delivery. Emailed petitions are not acceptable.
5. Petitions must be received in the ABCA office prior to July 1 of the year in which the election is to take place.
6. To be eligible for nomination by petition, a Candidate must be a member of the ABCA, and must have been an active member in good standing on January 1 of the year in which the election is to take place. A member is classed as an active member in good standing if s/he is current in dues, is not under suspension, and has the right to vote in elections. In order to have the right to vote, a member must have transacted business with the ABCA (registered, transferred or notated a dog) at some point within the previous 5 years. (This requirement to maintain active voting status is contained in the ABCA's Certificate of Incorporation.) Should there be any question about the membership status of a Candidate, please contact the ABCA office by phone or email. The ABCA registrar has access to the most up-to-date information regarding membership status.
7. To be eligible to sign a nominating petition, the signer must likewise be an active member in good standing both on January 1 of the year in which the petition is submitted and at the time s/he signs the petition. Should there be any question about the membership status of a petitioner please contact the ABCA office by phone or email. The ABCA registrar has access to the most up-to-date information regarding membership status.
8. The petition can include a statement by the Candidate that s/he will accept nomination, but it need not do so. If a valid petition containing the required 25 signatures is received, the office will contact the Candidate to ask if s/he is willing to serve.
9. Any member organizing a nomination petition can contact the ABCA office at any stage to show the form of the petition they are using, to make sure it is valid in form.
10. The following is an example of a valid nominating petition:

PETITION FOR NOMINATION TO THE ABCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We, the undersigned, hereby petition to have John Leader's name placed on the ballot for election of ABCA directors in 2026.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Printed Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

