



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

**Filing Requirements: Supreme Court Justice  
-- 2016 Election Cycle --**

**Office qualifications:** To be eligible for the office of Supreme Court Justice a person must be a registered and qualified elector of the State of Michigan by the filing deadline; licensed to practice law in the State of Michigan; and less than 70 years of age on November 8, 2016. In addition, as of January 1, 2017, the individual must have been admitted to the practice of law for at least 5 years. (Art. VI, Sec. 19, of the State Constitution; MCL 168.391)

**Ballot access by affidavit:** An incumbent Supreme Court Justice who wishes to seek reelection can gain ballot access by filing an Affidavit of Candidacy and an Affidavit of Identity no later than **5:00 p.m. on July 5, 2016**. (The Affidavit of Identity filing requirement is explained in greater detail below.) (Art. VI, Sec. 2, of the State Constitution; MCL 168.392a)

Such candidates will appear on the nonpartisan section of the November 8, 2016 general election ballot.

**Nomination by convention:** A candidate who wishes to seek the office of Supreme Court Justice can gain access to the ballot by receiving nomination to the office at the Republican Party convention, the Democratic Party convention or a minor party convention. (The minor party must have ballot status in Michigan.)

The Republican Party and Democratic Party conventions must be held no later than September 9, 2016; minor party conventions must be held no later than August 2, 2016. (MCL 168.591; 686a)

Within one business day after the conclusion of the nominating convention, party officials must submit a Certificate of Nomination to document the individual's nomination to the office, an Affidavit of Identity (in duplicate completed by the candidate) and an Affidavit of Constitutional Qualification (completed by the candidate). If the candidate receives nomination at a minor party convention, the party officials must also submit a Certificate of Acceptance (completed by the candidate). (MCL 168.686; 686a). The Affidavit of Identity filing requirement is explained in greater detail below. The Affidavit of Constitutional Qualification and Certificate of Acceptance forms are available on the Michigan Department of State's Bureau's Web site: [www.Michigan.gov/elections](http://www.Michigan.gov/elections).

Such candidates will appear on the nonpartisan section of the November 8, 2016 general election ballot.

**Withdrawal:** Candidates nominated and certified via convention shall not be permitted to withdraw. (MCL 168.686a)

**Ballot access by petition:** A candidate without political party affiliation who wishes to seek the office of Supreme Court Justice can gain access to the ballot by filing an Affidavit of Identity, an Affidavit of Constitutional Qualification and a qualifying petition bearing a minimum of 30,000 valid signatures no later than **4:00 p.m. on July 21, 2016**. Up to 60,000 signatures can be filed to cover the minimum signature requirement. A filing fee option is not available. (MCL 168.590c; 544f)

The Affidavit of Identity filing requirement is explained in greater detail below. The Affidavit of Constitutional Qualification is available on the Michigan Department of State's Bureau's Web site: [www.Michigan.gov/elections](http://www.Michigan.gov/elections).

The qualifying petition must be signed by at least 100 registered electors in each of at least ½ of the congressional districts in the state.

In addition to the above, signatures submitted on the qualifying petition must have been collected within the preceding 180-day period; signatures which are dated more than 180 days prior to the date the petition is filed are invalid. (MCL 168.590b(3))

Such candidates will appear on the nonpartisan section of the November 8, 2016 general election ballot.

**Withdrawal:** The deadline for withdrawing a no party affiliation candidate filing is **4:00 p.m. on July 25, 2016**. The withdrawal must be in writing and must be filed with the Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections.

**Filing requirements for write-in candidates:** A candidate who wishes to seek election to the office of Supreme Court Justice with write-in votes must file a Declaration of Intent no later than **4:00 p.m. on October 28, 2016**.

The Declaration of Intent form is available on the Michigan Department of State's Bureau's Web site: [www.Michigan.gov/elections](http://www.Michigan.gov/elections). (MCL 168.737a)

**Filing official:** All filings for the office of Supreme Court Justice must be submitted to the following office:

Michigan Department of State  
Bureau of Elections  
Richard H. Austin Building – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
430 West Allegan  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Phone: (517) 373-2540  
Fax: (517) 373-0941  
Email: [elections@michigan.gov](mailto:elections@michigan.gov)

**Petition forms:** All petitions used by candidates must be in the form required under Michigan election law. Petition forms can be obtained through any county clerk's office or may also be purchased from commercial suppliers that produce election materials. Petition form samples can be obtained through the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections.

The Countywide Qualifying Petition is used by candidates who seek the office of Supreme Court Justice and wish to gain ballot access by petition.

***Affidavit of Identity required:*** All candidates who seek the office of Supreme Court Justice must submit an Affidavit of Identity in duplicate when filing for office. Affidavit of Identity forms can be obtained through any county clerk's office or from the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections in Lansing. The Affidavit of Identity form is also available on the Michigan Department of State's Bureau's Web site: [www.Michigan.gov/elections](http://www.Michigan.gov/elections). (MCL 168.558)

Candidates who fail to comply with the Affidavit of Identity filing requirement are ineligible to appear on the ballot.

Michigan election law requires any candidate filing an Affidavit of Identity to state on the form that at the date of the affidavit was executed, all statements, reports, late filing fees and fines required of the candidate or any Candidate Committee organized to support the candidate's election under Michigan's Campaign Finance Act have been filed or paid. **Therefore, a candidate may not have any outstanding notices of Failure to File or late filing fees with any filing official in the State.**

***Financial disclosure:*** State and local candidates are required to comply with the financial disclosure requirements provided under Michigan's Campaign Finance Act, P.A. 377 of 1976.

An individual becomes a candidate under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act as soon as he or she:

- Files an affidavit, fee or nominating petition **OR**
- Is certified as the nominee of his or her political party **OR**
- Receives a contribution (**includes contributions from the candidate's own personal funds**), makes an expenditure, or authorizes someone else to do so on his or her behalf **OR**
- Is the subject of a recall vote **OR**
- Was elected to an elective office and can seek re-election.

Once any of the conditions above has been met, you have:

- 10 days to form a Candidate Committee
- 10 additional days to file the Statement of Organization
- **Example: On May 1<sup>st</sup> an individual pays for copies of petitions to be made; the last day a candidate committee can be formed is May 11<sup>th</sup>, the statement of organization is due within 10 days of the committee's formation.**

For further information, contact the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections, Campaign Finance Division.

***Questions:*** If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections. (Contact information is provided above.)