



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

**Filing Requirements: Office of U.S. Senator
-- 2012 Election Cycle --**

Office qualifications: To be eligible for the office of U.S. Senator, a person must be a citizen of the United States for nine years, at least 30 years of age and when elected, an inhabitant of the State of Michigan. (Art. I, Sec 3, of the United States Constitution)

Filing requirements for candidates seeking the Republican Party or Democratic Party nomination: A candidate who wishes to seek the Republican Party or Democratic Party nomination to the office of U.S. Senator must file an Affidavit of Identity and a partisan nominating petition bearing a minimum of 15,000 valid signatures no later than **4:00 p.m. on May 15, 2012**. Up to 30,000 signatures can be filed to cover the minimum signature requirement. The petition must be signed by at least 100 registered electors in each of at least ½ of the congressional districts in the state. (The Affidavit of Identity filing requirement is explained in greater detail below.) (MCL 168.93; 544f)

Such candidates will appear on the August 7, 2012 primary ballot; the winning nominees will appear on the November 6, 2012 general election ballot.

Filing requirements for “independent” candidates: A candidate without political party affiliation (i.e., an “independent” candidate) who wishes to seek the office of U.S. Senator must file an Affidavit of Identity and a qualifying petition bearing a minimum of 30,000 valid signatures no later than **4:00 p.m. on July 19, 2012**. Up to 60,000 signatures can be filed to cover the minimum signature requirement. The petition must be signed by at least 100 registered electors in each of at least ½ of the congressional districts in the state. (The Affidavit of Identity filing requirement is explained in greater detail below.) (MCL 168.590c; 544f)

All signatures submitted on a 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 November 6, 2012 general election ballot.

Filing requirements for minor party candidates: A candidate who wishes to seek the office of U.S. Senator as a minor party candidate must receive nomination to the office at the party’s nominating convention. The party’s convention must be held no later than August 7, 2012. The minor party must have ballot status in Michigan. (MCL 168.686a(2))

Within one business day after the conduct of the nominating convention, the party officials must submit a Certificate of Nomination to document the individual's nomination to the office, an Affidavit of Identity (completed by the candidate) and a Certificate of Acceptance (completed by the candidate).

The Affidavit of Identity filing requirement is explained in greater detail below. The Certificate of Acceptance form is available on the Michigan Department of State's Bureau's Web site: www.Michigan.gov/elections.

Such candidates will appear on the November 6, 2012 general election ballot.

Filing requirements for write-in candidates: A candidate who wishes to seek the Republican Party or Democratic Party nomination to the office of U.S. Senator with write-in votes must file a Declaration of Intent no later than **4:00 pm. on July 27, 2012.**

A candidate who wishes to seek election to the office of U.S. Senator with write-in votes must file a Declaration of Intent no later than **4:00 p.m. on October 26, 2012.**

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

Filing official: All filings for the office of Senator must be submitted to the following office:

Michigan Department of State
Bureau of Elections
Richard H. Austin Building – 1st Floor
430 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan 48918

Phone: (517) 373-2540
Fax: (517) 373-0941
Email: 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. Petition forms 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 petition forms used by candidates who wish to seek the office of U.S. Senator are listed below:

- **Countywide Partisan Nominating Petition:** Used by candidates who wish to seek the Republican Party or the Democratic Party nomination to the office of U.S. Senator.
- **Countywide Qualifying Petition:** Used by candidates without political party affiliation (i.e., "independent" candidates) who wish to seek the office of U.S. Senator.

Affidavit of Identity required: All candidates (excluding U.S. Presidential candidates) 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 (MCL 168.558)

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

Financial disclosure: U.S. Senate candidates are required to comply with the financial disclosure requirements provided under federal law. For further information contact the Federal Election Commission, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Toll free line: (800) 424-9530.

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.)