



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

**Filing Requirements
Independent Candidates
-- 2012 Election Cycle --**

Offices which can be sought by “independent” candidates in 2012: Candidates without political party affiliation (i.e., “independent” candidates) can file for the following federal and state elective offices during the 2012 election cycle: U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, State Board of Education, University of Michigan Regent, Michigan State University Trustee, Wayne State University Governor and Supreme Court Justice. Such candidates will appear on the November 6, 2012 general election ballot.

Filing requirements for statewide offices: An independent candidate who wishes to seek the office of U.S. Senator, State Board of Education, University of Michigan Regent, Michigan State University Trustee, Wayne State University Governor or Supreme Court Justice 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. A filing fee option is not available. 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 filings for the offices referenced above 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

Filing requirements for U.S. Representative in Congress: An independent candidate who wishes to seek the office of U.S. Representative in Congress must file an Affidavit of Identity and a qualifying petition bearing a minimum of 3,000 valid signatures no later than **4:00 p.m. on July 19, 2012**. Up to 6,000 signatures can be filed to cover the minimum signature requirement. A filing fee option is not available. (The Affidavit of Identity filing requirement is explained in greater detail below.) (MCL 168.590c; 544f)

A candidate who seeks the office of U.S. Representative in Congress in a multi-county district must file with the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections. (Contact information is provided above.) The multi-county U.S. House Districts are listed below:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	14	

A candidate who seeks the office of U.S. Representative in Congress in District 13 files with the Wayne County Clerk's office.

Filing requirements for State Representative: An independent candidate who wishes to seek the office of State Representative must file an Affidavit of Identity and a qualifying petition bearing a minimum of 600 valid signatures no later than **4:00 p.m. on July 19, 2012**. Up to 1,200 signatures can be filed to cover the minimum signature requirement. A filing fee option is not available. (The Affidavit of Identity filing requirement is explained in greater detail below.) (MCL 168.590c; 544f)

A candidate who seeks the office of State Representative in a multi-county district must file with the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections. (Contact information is provided above.) The multi-county State House Districts are listed below:

17	32	51	58	59	63	65	66	70	72
78	83	84	85	86	87	93	97	98	99
100	101	102	103	105	106	107	108	109	110

A candidate who seeks the office of State Representative in a district not listed above (single-county districts) must file with the local county clerk.

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 independent candidates are listed below:

- **Countywide Qualifying Petition:** Designed for circulation on a countywide basis.
- **City/Township Qualifying Petition:** Designed for circulation within a single city or township.

Circulation period: 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))

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.

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. The campaign finance compliance statement is not required of U.S. Senate, U.S. House or precinct delegate candidates.

Financial disclosure: All candidates (excluding U.S. House candidates) are required to comply with the financial disclosure requirements provided under Michigan's Campaign Finance Act, P.A. 377 of 1976. For further information contact the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections.

U.S. House 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.)