



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

**Filing Requirements**  
**State Board of Education**  
**University of Michigan Regent**  
**Michigan State University Trustee**  
**Wayne State University Governor**  
**-- 2016 Election Cycle --**

**Office qualifications:** To be eligible for any of the above named offices a person must be a registered and qualified elector of the State of Michigan on the date he or she is nominated for the office. (MCL 168.281)

**Filing requirements for Republican Party and Democratic Party candidates:** A candidate who wishes to seek any of the above named offices as a Republican Party candidate or a Democratic Party candidate must receive nomination to the office at the party's nominating convention. The party's convention must be held no later than September 9, 2016. (MCL 168.591)

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 and an Affidavit of Identity (in duplicate completed by the candidate). (The Affidavit of Identity filing is explained in greater detail below.) (MCL 168.686)

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

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

**Filing requirements for "no party affiliation" candidates:** A candidate without political party affiliation (i.e., a "no party affiliation" candidate) who wishes to seek any of the above named offices 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 21, 2016**. Up to 60,000 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)

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 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 Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections.

**Filing requirements for minor party candidates:** A candidate who wishes to seek any of the above named offices 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 2, 2016. The minor party must have ballot status in Michigan. (MCL 168.686a(2))

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 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](http://www.Michigan.gov/elections).

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

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

**Filing requirements for write-in candidates:** A candidate who wishes to seek election to any of the above named offices 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 above named offices must be submitted to:

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

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 without political party affiliation (i.e., "no party affiliation" candidates) who wish to seek any of the above named offices.

**Affidavit of Identity required:** All candidates for the offices identified above 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.)