



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

Filing Requirements: Office of U.S. Senator
-- 2020 Election Cycle --

Michigan Election Law governs the ballot access procedures for candidates seeking the office of U.S. Senator. As these procedures are subject to change by the State Legislature, candidates for U.S. Senator interested in participating in Michigan's August 4, 2020 primary election or November 3, 2020 general election are encouraged to consult our website, Michigan.gov/Elections, for updates.

UNIFORM GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Certain requirements of Michigan Election Law and federal law are applicable to all candidates seeking the office of U.S. Senator regardless of political party affiliation.

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

AFFIDAVIT OF IDENTITY REQUIRED: Except for write-in candidates, all candidates for U.S. Senator must submit an Affidavit of Identity in duplicate (one copy & one original or two originals) when filing for office. Affidavit of Identity forms can be obtained through any county clerk's office or from the Bureau of Elections (Bureau). The Affidavit of Identity form is also available on the Bureau's website under "Information for Candidates." 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. Senator candidates are required to comply with the financial disclosure requirements provided under federal law. For further information contact the Federal Election Commission, 1050 First Street NE Washington, D.C. 20463. Toll free line: (800) 424-9530. FEC.gov

Additionally, Michigan Election Law requires any candidate running for U.S. Senator filing an Affidavit of Identity state on the form that at the date the affidavit was executed, all statements, reports, late filing fees and fines required of the candidate or any candidate committee organized under the Campaign Finance Act to support the candidate's election have been paid or filed. **Candidates that have any outstanding notices of Failure to File or outstanding late filing fees with any filing official in the State are ineligible to appear on the ballot.** MCL 168.558.

FILING OFFICIAL: All candidates seeking the office of U.S. Senator shall file their petitions with the Bureau of Elections. The contact information for the Bureau is located below.

MAJOR PARTY CANDIDATES

Michigan's August 4, 2020 primary is limited to eligible candidates who affiliate with the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. (Based on the number of votes received by the candidate whose name appeared nearest the top of the party's column on the November 6, 2018 general election ballot. That candidate must have received at least 5% of the total number of votes cast for the office of Secretary of State; computes to 209,202 votes. See MCL 168.532.)

FILING DEADLINE: A candidate seeking the Democratic Party or Republican Party nomination to the office of U.S. Senator must file an Affidavit of Identity and a partisan nominating petition no later than **4:00 p.m. on April 21, 2020** with the Bureau of Elections.

Such candidates will appear on the August 4, 2020 primary ballot; the winning nominees will appear on the November 3, 2020 general election ballot.

WITHDRAWAL: The deadline to withdraw a candidate filing for party nomination is **4:00 p.m. on April 24, 2020**. MCL 168.94. The withdrawal must be in writing and must be filed with the Bureau of Elections.

PETITION REQUIREMENTS: All petitions used by candidates must be in the form required under Michigan Election Law. Sample petition forms can be obtained through the Bureau or any county clerk's office. Petition sheets may be purchased from commercial suppliers that produce election materials.

Candidates seeking the Democratic Party or Republican Party nomination must use the **Countywide Partisan Nominating Petition form**. A minimum of 15,000 valid signatures are required to be submitted. 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. A filing fee option is **not** available. MCL 168.93; 544f.

MINOR PARTY CANDIDATES

In addition to the Democratic and Republican parties, other political parties are qualified¹ to appear on Michigan's November 3, 2020 general election ballot. (Based on the greatest number of votes received by *any* candidate whose name appeared in the party's column on the November 6, 2018 general election ballot. Candidate had to have received at least 1% of the total number of votes cast for the winning candidate for the office of Secretary of State; computes to 22,133 votes. See MCL 168.685(6)).

¹ The minor political parties currently qualified to appear on the November 2020 General Election ballot are: Libertarian, U.S. Taxpayers, Green, Natural Law, and Working Class parties.

CONVENTION DEADLINE: A candidate seeking 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 4, 2020. The minor party must have ballot status in Michigan. MCL 168.686a.

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 completed by the candidate in duplicate (one copy & one original or two originals) and a Certificate of Acceptance (completed by the candidate). The Certificate of Acceptance form is available on the Bureau's website: Michigan.gov/Elections.

Such candidates will appear on the November 3, 2020 general election ballot.

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

CANDIDATES WITHOUT POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION

Candidates seeking the office of U.S. Senator may do so without political party affiliation. These candidates are only eligible to appear on the November 3, 2020 general election ballot and will be listed as "No Party Affiliation."

FILING DEADLINES: A candidate without political party affiliation seeking the office of U.S. Senator must file an Affidavit of Identity and a qualifying petition no later than **4:00 p.m. on July 16, 2020**. MCL 168.590c(2).

WITHDRAWAL: The deadline to withdraw a no party affiliation candidate filing is **4:00 p.m. on July 20, 2020**. The withdrawal must be in writing and must be filed with the Bureau of Elections. MCL 168.590c(3).

PETITION REQUIREMENTS: All petitions used by candidates must be in the form required under Michigan Election Law. Sample petition forms can be obtained through the Bureau or any county clerk's office. Petition sheets may be purchased from commercial suppliers that produce election materials.

Candidates seeking nomination without political party affiliation must use the **Countywide Qualifying Petition form**. A minimum of 30,000 valid signatures must be submitted to the Bureau of Elections. 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. MCL 168.590b(4); 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).

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR WRITE-IN CANDIDATES: A candidate who wishes to run in the August 4, 2020 primary seeking the Democratic Party or Republican Party nomination to the office of U.S. Senator with write-in votes must file a Declaration of Intent with the Bureau of Elections no later than **4:00 pm. on July 24, 2020.**

A candidate seeking election to the office of U.S. Senator in the November 3, 2020 general election with write-in votes must file a Declaration of Intent with the Bureau of Elections no later than **4:00 p.m. on October 23, 2020.** MCL 168.737a.

The Declaration of Intent form is available on the Bureau's website: Michigan.gov/Elections.

FILING OFFICIAL

All filings for the office of U.S. Senator must be submitted to the Bureau of Elections at the following address:

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

Phone: (517) 335-3234
Fax: (517) 335-3235
Email: Elections@Michigan.gov

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions regarding the information presented here, please contact this office. Answers to your questions will also be found in the Michigan election law, which may be viewed at legislature.mi.gov.

Michigan Department of State
Bureau of Elections
PO Box 20126
Lansing, Michigan 48901-0726
Phone: (517) 335-3234 or (800) 292-5973
Fax: (517) 335-3235
Email: Elections@Michigan.gov
Web: Michigan.gov/Elections