



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

**Filing Requirements: Office of Governor
-- 2018 Election Cycle --**

Office qualifications: To be eligible for the office of Governor “a person must have attained the age of 30 years, and have been a registered elector in this state for four years next preceding his election.” (Art. V, Sec. 22, of State Constitution; MCL 168.51)

Filing requirements for candidates seeking the Republican Party, Democratic Party or Libertarian Party nomination: A candidate who wishes to seek the Republican Party, Democratic or Libertarian Party nomination to the office of Governor 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 April 24, 2018**. 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 168.53; 544f)

Such candidates will appear on the August 7, 2018 primary ballot; the winning nominees will appear on the November 6, 2018 general election ballot with the candidates nominated to the office of Lieutenant Governor by their respective parties.

Filing requirements for “no party affiliation” candidates: A candidate without political party affiliation (i.e., an “no party affiliation” candidate) who wishes to seek the office of Governor 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, 2018**. 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))

In addition to the above filing requirements, a candidate who wishes to seek the office of Governor without political party affiliation must submit the name of his or her running mate (candidate for Lieutenant Governor) no later than **September 1, 2018**. (MCL 168.590d(1))

Such candidates will appear on the November 6, 2018 general election ballot with their running mates.

Filing requirements for minor party candidates: A candidate who wishes to seek the office of Governor 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, 2018. 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 Web site: www.Michigan.gov/sos.

Such candidates will appear on the November 6, 2018 general election ballot with the candidates nominated to the office of Lieutenant Governor by their respective parties.

Filing requirements for write-in candidates: A candidate who wishes to seek the Republican Party, Democratic Party or Libertarian Party nomination to the office of Governor with write-in votes must file a Declaration of Intent no later than **4:00 pm. on July 27, 2018.**

A candidate who wishes to seek election to the office of Governor with write-in votes must file a Declaration of Intent no later than **4:00 p.m. on October 26, 2018.**

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

Filing official: All filings for the office of Governor 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 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 petition forms used by candidates who wish to seek the office of Governor are listed below:

- **Countywide Partisan Nominating Petition:** Used by candidates who wish to seek the Republican Party, Democratic Party or the Libertarian Party nomination to the office of Governor.
- **Countywide Qualifying Petition:** Used by candidates without political party affiliation (i.e., “no party affiliation” candidates) who wish to seek the office of Governor.

Affidavit of Identity required: All candidates for Governor must submit an Affidavit of Identity in duplicate (two originals) 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. **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 1st an individual pays for copies of petitions to be made; the last day a candidate committee can be formed is May 11th, 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.)