



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

**Filing Requirements: Office of State Senator  
-- 2018 Election Cycle --**

**Office qualifications:** To be eligible for the office of State Senator a person must be a citizen of the United States, at least 21 years of age and a registered and qualified elector of the district he or she wishes to represent by the filing deadline. (Art. IV, Sec. 7, of State Constitution; MCL 168.161)

**Filing requirements for candidates seeking the Republican Party, Democratic Party, or Libertarian Party nomination:** A candidate who wishes to seek the Republican Party, Democratic Party, or Libertarian Party nomination to the office of State Senator must file an Affidavit of Identity and a partisan nominating petition bearing a minimum of 500 valid signatures no later than **4:00 p.m. on April 24, 2018**. Up to 1,000 signatures can be filed to cover the minimum signature requirement. A \$100.00 filing fee may be submitted in lieu of a petition. (The Affidavit of Identity filing requirement is explained in greater detail below.) (MCL 168.163; 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.

**Withdrawal:** The deadline for withdrawing a candidate filing for party nomination is **4:00 p.m. on April 27, 2018**. The withdrawal must be in writing and must be filed with the appropriate filing official.

**Filing requirements for “no party affiliation” candidates:** A candidate without political party affiliation (i.e., a “no party affiliation” candidate) who wishes to seek the office of State Senator must file an Affidavit of Identity and a qualifying petition bearing a minimum of 1,500 valid signatures no later than **4:00 p.m. on July 19, 2018**. Up to 3,000 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)

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, 2018 general election ballot.

**Withdrawal:** The deadline for withdrawing a no party affiliation candidate filing is **4:00 p.m. on July 23, 2018**. The withdrawal must be in writing and must be filed with the appropriate filing official.

**Filing requirements for minor party candidates:** A candidate who wishes to seek the office of State 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, 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](http://www.Michigan.gov/sos).

Such candidates will appear on the November 6, 2018 general election ballot.

**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 State Senator with write-in votes must file a Declaration of Intent with the appropriate filing official no later than **4:00 pm. on July 27, 2018**.

A candidate who wishes to seek election to the office of State Senator with write-in votes must file a Declaration of Intent with the appropriate filing official 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](http://www.Michigan.gov/sos). (MCL 168.737a)

**Filing official:** A candidate who seeks the office of State Senator in a multi-county district must file with the following office:

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)

The multi-county State Senate Districts are listed below:

14	16	17	19	21	22	24	25	26
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	

A candidate who seeks the office of State Senator 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 candidates who wish to seek the office of State Senator are listed below:

- **Countywide Partisan Nominating Petition or City/Township Partisan Nominating Petition:** Used by candidates who wish to seek the Republican Party, Democratic Party, or Libertarian Party nomination to the office of State Senator.
- **Countywide Qualifying Petition or City/Township Qualifying Petition:** Used by candidates without political party affiliation (i.e., "no party affiliation" candidates) who wish to seek the office of State Senator.

**Affidavit of Identity required:** All 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](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.** The campaign finance compliance statement is not required of U.S. Senate, U.S. House or precinct delegate candidates.

**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**
- Are your party's certified nominee **OR**
- Receives a contribution (**includes personal contributions from the candidate him or herself**), makes an expenditure or authorize someone else to do so on your behalf **OR**
- are 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, a candidate has:

- Have 10 days to form a Candidate Committee
- 10 more days to file the Statement of Organization
- **Example: On May 1<sup>st</sup> an individual pays for copies of petitions to be made; formation date can be no later than May 10<sup>th</sup> and the Statement of Organization is due in the appropriate filing official's office on or before May 20<sup>th</sup>**

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.)