



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

**Filing Requirements: U.S. Representative in Congress
-- 2020 Election Cycle --**

Michigan Election Law governs the ballot access procedures for candidates seeking the office of U.S. Representative in Congress. As these procedures are subject to change by the State Legislature, candidates for U.S. Representative in Congress 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. Representative in Congress regardless of political party affiliation.

OFFICE QUALIFICATIONS: To be eligible for the office of U.S. Representative in Congress, a person must be a citizen of the United States for seven years, at least 25 years of age and when elected, an inhabitant of the State of Michigan. (Art. I, Sec. 2, of the U.S. Constitution)

AFFIDAVIT OF IDENTITY REQUIRED: Except for write-in candidates, all candidates for U.S. Representative in Congress must submit an Affidavit of Identity in duplicate (one copy and 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) in Lansing. 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. MCL 168.558.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE: 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, 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. Representative in Congress 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.

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. Representative in Congress must file an Affidavit of Identity and a partisan nominating petition no later than **4:00 p.m. on April 21, 2020.**

WITHDRAWAL: The deadline to withdraw a candidate filing for party nomination is **4:00 p.m. on April 24, 2020.** MCL 168.134. The withdrawal must be in writing and must be filed with the appropriate filing official. See page 4 for the proper filing official.

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 forms may also 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.** A minimum of 1,000 valid signatures must be submitted to qualify for placement on the ballot. Up to 2,000 signatures can be filed to cover the minimum signature requirement. A filing fee option is not available. MCL 168.133; 544f.

Candidates with sufficient petitions will appear on the August 4, 2020 primary ballot; the winning nominees will appear on the November 3, 2020 general election ballot.

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)).

CONVENTION DEADLINE: A candidate seeking the office of U.S. Representative in Congress 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, two copies of an Affidavit of Identity completed by the candidate in duplicate (one copy & one

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.

original or two originals) and a Certificate of Acceptance (completed by the candidate). The Affidavit of Identity filing requirement is explained in greater detail above. 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. Representative in Congress 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. Representative in Congress 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 appropriate filing official. MCL 168.590c(3). See page 4 for the appropriate filing official.

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

Candidates seeking to be on the November general election ballot without party affiliation must use the **Countywide Qualifying Petition form**. A minimum of 3,000 valid signatures must be submitted to qualify for placement on the ballot. Up to 6,000 signatures can be filed to cover the minimum signature requirement. A filing fee option is not available. 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).

Candidates with sufficient petitions will appear on the November 3, 2020 general election ballot.

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. Representative in Congress with write-in votes must file a Declaration of Intent with the appropriate filing official no later than **4:00 pm. on July 24, 2020**.

A candidate who seeking election to the office of U.S. Representative in Congress in the November 3, 2020 general election with write-in votes must file a Declaration of Intent with the appropriate filing official 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

A candidate seeking the office of U.S. Representative in Congress in a multi-county district must file with the following office:

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

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 seeking the office of U.S. Representative in Congress in District 13 files with the Wayne County Clerk's office.

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