



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

March 28, 2016

**FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-INCUMBENT  
JUDICIAL CANDIDATES**

*Appeals Court Judge  
Circuit Court Judge*

*District Court Judge  
Probate Court Judge*

**\*\* IMPORTANT NOTE \*\***

This document will be revised as changes occur, especially with regard to pending legislation on court reorganization. **Updates** will be posted on the Bureau of Elections' website  
[www.michigan.gov/elections](http://www.michigan.gov/elections)

**ELECTION DATES:** The primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2016. The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

**FILING DEADLINE:** Non-incumbent judicial candidates are required to file nonpartisan nominating petitions containing the requisite number of valid signatures, an Affidavit of Identity (two copies) and an Affidavit of Constitutional Qualification (one copy) no later than **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2016.**

**FILING LOCATION:** Candidates for Court of Appeals Judge, Circuit Court Judge and District Court Judge file with the Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections, P.O. Box 20126, Lansing, MI 48901-0726. Office location: Richard H. Austin Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918. Candidates for Probate Court Judge file with the local county clerk's office.

**PETITION FORM:** All non-incumbent judicial candidates are required to use the *nonpartisan nominating petition form* prescribed by the Secretary of State when collecting signatures. There are two versions of the form: 1.) A "city/township" version and 2.) a "countywide" version. The "city/township" version of the form is designed for circulation within a single city or township; the "countywide" version of the form can be signed by anyone registered to vote in a city or township that falls within the boundaries of the listed county. All judicial candidates may use the "city/township" nonpartisan nominating petition form or the "countywide" nonpartisan nominating petition form as convenient.

**REQUIRED AFFIDAVITS:** Non-incumbent candidates who file for the office of Appeals Court Judge, Circuit Court Judge, District Court Judge or Probate Court Judge are required to file an Affidavit of Identity (in duplicate) and an Affidavit of Constitutional Qualification (one copy). The required affidavits can be obtained from the Michigan Department of State’s Bureau of Elections in Lansing or on the Bureau’s website: [www.michigan.gov/elections](http://www.michigan.gov/elections). A candidate who fails to file the required documents by the filing deadline is ineligible to appear on the ballot.

Michigan election law requires any candidate filing an Affidavit of Identity to state on the form that on the date 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 the Michigan Campaign Finance Act ... have been filed or paid”. All judicial candidates are subject to the Campaign Finance Compliance Statement requirement. This remains true even if the candidate maintains a “Reporting Waiver.”

**AFFIXING OFFICE DESIGNATION ON PETITION:** Petitions for a judicial office must bear the appropriate designation listed below to indicate the particular office sought by the candidate. Note that “incumbent” position means a position held by a judicial officer who is seeking reelection to his or her seat; “non-incumbent” position means a position held by a judicial officer who is not seeking reelection to his or her seat.

- Regular Term – Incumbent Position
- Regular Term – Non-Incumbent Position
- Partial Term – Incumbent Position\*
- Partial Term – Non-Incumbent Position\*
- New Judgeship

\* Add expiration date of term if more than one partial term will be filled in judicial district. The terms “vacancy,” “partial term” and “unexpired term” are interchangeably used to reference a judicial position which will be filled at an election for less than the full term.

**OBTAINING INFORMATION ON APPROPRIATE OFFICE DESIGNATION:** Michigan election law stipulates that in instances where a candidate for Court of Appeals Judge, Circuit Court Judge, District Court Judge, or Probate Court Judge seeks election in a district where there are a combination of “new” positions, “incumbent” positions and/or “non-incumbent” positions to fill, the candidate must “apply to the Bureau of Elections for a written statement of office designation to correspond to the judgeship sought by the candidate.” The designations listed in the following charts are provided to fulfill this information requirement. (See *Petition Signature Requirements and Office Designations* below.)

Michigan election law directs the Bureau of Elections to designate a judicial position as an “incumbent” position in any instance where 1.) there is an incumbent judge eligible to seek reelection to the position and 2.) the deadline for filing the Affidavit of Candidacy has not yet elapsed. If the incumbent judge does not file for reelection by the deadline for submitting an Affidavit of Candidacy, the amendment directs the Bureau of Elections to 1.) redesignate the position as a “non-incumbent” position and 2.) notify all candidates seeking election in the judicial district that a “non-incumbent” position exists. The law further stipulates that in such instances, 1.) nominating petition sheets circulated for the “non-incumbent” position

after the Affidavit of Candidacy filing deadline shall bear an office designation of “non-incumbent” position and 2.) signatures collected prior to the Affidavit of Candidacy filing deadline with “incumbent” office designation may be filed with the “non-incumbent” nominating petitions. The Affidavit of Candidacy filing deadline established for the August 2, 2016 primary elapses at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2016.

**WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE:** Judicial candidates who file for the August 2, 2016 primary ballot with a petition who wish to withdraw from the election must submit a written notice of withdrawal to the filing official no later than **5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 22, 2016.**

**SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS:** The petition signature requirements imposed on candidates who seek the office of Appeals Court Judge, Circuit Court Judge, District Court Judge and Probate Court Judge are listed below (MCL 168.544f). The Bureau of Elections has made every effort to ensure that the signature requirements listed below are correct. If a conflict exists between this memorandum and MCL 168.544f, the statute controls.

*- - Petition Signature Requirements and Office Designations - -*

**JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS**

District	Min. Sig. Required	Max. Sig. Required	<u>Number To Be Elected</u>		Term Ending January 1, of
			Term	Designation	
1	6,200	12,000	2 Regular Terms	Incumbent	2023
2	6,200	12,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
3	6,200	12,000	2 Regular Terms	Incumbent	2023
4	6,200	12,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023

**JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

Circuit	Min. Sig. Required	Max. Sig. Required	<u>Number To Be Elected</u>		Term Ending January 1, of
			Term	Designation	
2	600	1,000	2 Regular Terms	Incumbent	2023
3	4,000	8,000	16 Regular Terms	Incumbent	2023
3	4,000	8,000	4 Regular Terms	Non-Incumbent <sup>1</sup>	2023
3	4,000	8,000	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2019
4	600	1,000	2 Regular Terms	Incumbent	2023
6	4,000	8,000	4 Regular Terms	Incumbent	2023
6	4,000	8,000	1 Regular Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>10</sup>	2023
6	4,000	8,000	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2021
7	1,000	2,000	3 Regular Terms	Incumbent	2023
8	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent <sup>9</sup>	2023

Circuit	Min. Sig. Required	Max. Sig. Required	Number To Be Elected		Term Ending January 1, of
			Term	Designation	
9	1,000	2,000	2 Regular Terms	Incumbent	2023
9	1,000	2,000	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2019
10	1,000	2,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
10	1,000	2,000	1 Regular Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>1</sup>	2023
13	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
14	600	1,000	2 Regular Terms	Incumbent	2023
16	2,000	4,000	2 Regular Terms	Incumbent	2023
16	2,000	4,000	2 Regular Terms	Non-Incumbent <sup>11</sup>	2023
16	2,000	4,000	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2021
16	2,000	4,000	New Judgeship <sup>3</sup>		2023
17	2,000	4,000	2 Regular Terms	Incumbent	2023
17	2,000	4,000	New Judgeship <sup>4</sup>		2023
17	2,000	4,000	1 Regular Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>1</sup>	2023
18	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
20	1,000	2,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
20	1,000	2,000	1 Regular Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>12</sup>	2023
21	200	400	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
22	1,000	2,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
23	200	400	1 Regular Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>13</sup>	2023
<del>25</del>	<del>200</del>	<del>400</del>	<del>1 Regular Term</del>	<del>ELIMINATED<sup>14</sup></del>	<del>2023</del>
29	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
30	1,000	2,000	2 Regular Terms	Incumbent	2023
31	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
32	40	100	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2021
34	100	200	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
37	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
37	600	1,000	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2019
37	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>1</sup>	2023
38	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
38	600	1,000	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2019
39	400	800	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2019
40	400	800	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
41	200	400	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
43	200	400	1 Regular Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>1</sup>	2023
44	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
46	200	400	1 Regular Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>15</sup>	2023
47	100	200	1 Regular Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>16</sup>	2023

Circuit	Min. Sig. Required	Max. Sig. Required	<u>Number To Be Elected</u>		Term Ending January 1, of
			Term	Designation	
48	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
53	100	200	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023

**JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT**

District	Min. Sig. Required	Max. Sig. Required	<u>Number To Be Elected</u>		Term Ending January 1, of
			Term	Designation	
1	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
2A	400	800	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
5	600	1,000	2 Regular Terms	Incumbent	2023
7	400	800	1 Regular Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>17</sup>	2023
8	1,000	2,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
8	1,000	2,000	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2019
10	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
10	600	1,000	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2019
10	600	1,000	1 Partial Term	Incumbent <sup>21</sup>	2021
12	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
14A	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
15	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
15	600	1,000	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2021
17	100	200	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
19	400	800	1 Regular Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>1</sup>	2023
24	100	200	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
25	200	400	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
30	40	100	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
33	400	800	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
34	400	800	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
35	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
36	2,000	4,000	8 Regular Terms	Incumbent	2023
36	2,000	4,000	2 Regular Terms	Non-Incumbent <sup>18</sup>	2023
36	2,000	4,000	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2021
37	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
39	200	400	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
41A	1,000	2,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
41B	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
43	200	400	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023

District	Min. Sig. Required	Max. Sig. Required	<u>Number To Be Elected</u>		Term Ending January 1, of
			Term	Designation	
46	400	800	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
47	400	800	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
48	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
50	200	400	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
51	200	400	1 Partial Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>6</sup>	2019
52-1	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
52-2	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
52-3	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
52-4	400	800	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
53	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
54A	600	1,000	2 Regular Terms	Incumbent	2023
54B	100	200	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
55	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
56A	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>19</sup>	2023
58	1,000	2,000	1 Regular Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>1</sup>	2023
59	100	200	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
60	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>1</sup>	2023
60	600	1,000	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2019
61	600	1,000	2 Regular Terms	Incumbent <sup>8</sup>	2023
61	600	1,000	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2019
67-2	400	800	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
<del>67-5</del>	<del>600</del>	<del>1,000</del>	<del>1 Regular Term</del>	<del>ELIMINATED</del> <sup>20</sup>	<del>2023</del>
70-1	400	800	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
72	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
74	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
86	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
96	200	400	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023

**JUDGE OF THE PROBATE COURT**

Probate	Min. Sig. Required	Max. Sig. Required	<u>Number To Be Elected</u>		Term Ending January 1, of
			Term	Designation	
Bay	600	1,000	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2019
Berrien	600	1,000	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2019

Probate	Min. Sig. Required	Max. Sig. Required	<u>Number To Be Elected</u>		Term Ending January 1, of
			Term	Designation	
Calhoun	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
Kalamazoo	1,000	2,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
Kent	2,000	4,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
Menominee	40	100	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2019
Muskegon	600	1,000	1 Regular Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>1</sup>	2023
Oakland	4,000	8,000	1 Regular Term	Incumbent	2023
Oakland	4,000	8,000	1 Regular Term	Non-Incumbent <sup>1</sup>	2023
Van Buren	400	800	1 Partial Term	Incumbent	2019
Wayne	4,000	8,000	2 Regular Terms	Incumbent	2023

<sup>1</sup>Judge is scheduled to retire at the end of the term due to age.

<sup>2</sup>Position is vacant.

<sup>3</sup>New Judgeship created October 22, 2015.

<sup>4</sup>New Judgeship created December 17, 2015.

<sup>5</sup>Position vacant effective December 29, 2015.

<sup>6</sup>Position vacant effective January 31, 2016.

<sup>7</sup>Position vacant effective February 16, 2016.

<sup>8</sup>Governor made an appointment effective February 22, 2016.

<sup>9</sup>Governor made an appointment effective March 17, 2016.

<sup>10</sup>Judge Joan Young did not file Affidavit of Candidacy by March 21, 2016 deadline. Position is designated as “Non-Incumbent” effective March 22, 2016.

<sup>11</sup>Judge Mary Chrzanowski did not file Affidavit of Candidacy by March 21, 2016 deadline. Position is designated as “Non-Incumbent” effective March 22, 2016.

<sup>12</sup>Judge Edward Post did not file Affidavit of Candidacy by March 21, 2016 deadline. Position is designated as “Non-Incumbent” effective March 22, 2016.

<sup>13</sup>Judge William Myles did not file Affidavit of Candidacy by March 21, 2016 deadline. Position is designated as “Non-Incumbent” effective March 22, 2016.

<sup>14</sup>Judge Thomas Solka did not file Affidavit of Candidacy by March 21, 2016 deadline. Section 526 of the Revised Judicature Act, 1961, PA 236, MCL 600.526 statute eliminates this position.

<sup>15</sup>Judge Janet Allen did not file Affidavit of Candidacy by March 21, 2016 deadline. Position is designated as “Non-Incumbent” effective March 22, 2016.

<sup>16</sup>Judge Stephen Davis did not file Affidavit of Candidacy by March 21, 2016 deadline. Position is designated as “Non-Incumbent” effective March 22, 2016.

<sup>17</sup>Judge Robert Hentchel did not file Affidavit of Candidacy by March 21, 2016 deadline. Position is designated as “Non-Incumbent” effective March 22, 2016.

<sup>18</sup>Judge Katherine Hansen and Judge Leonia Lloyd did not file Affidavit of Candidacy by March 21, 2016 deadline. Position is designated as “Non-Incumbent” effective March 22, 2016.

<sup>19</sup>Judge Harvey Hoffman did not file Affidavit of Candidacy by March 21, 2016 deadline. Position is designated as “Non-Incumbent” effective March 22, 2016.

<sup>20</sup>Judge Mary Dowd did not file Affidavit of Candidacy by March 21, 2016 deadline. Section 8134 of the Revised Judicature Act, 1961, PA 236, MCL 600.8134 statute eliminates this position.

<sup>21</sup>Governor made an appointment effective March 28, 2016.