



# Filing for Office: State Representative

Michigan election law governs the ballot access procedures for candidates seeking the office of State Representative. As these procedures are subject to change by the State Legislature, candidates interested in participating in Michigan's August primary election or November general election are encouraged to consult our website, [Michigan.gov/Elections](https://Michigan.gov/Elections), for updates.

## General requirements

Certain requirements of Michigan election law are applicable to all candidates seeking the office of State Representative regardless of political party affiliation.

**Office Qualifications:** To be eligible for the office of state representative 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.

**Affidavit of Identity:** Except for write-in candidates, all candidates for state representative must submit an [Affidavit of Identity](#) 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 "[Ballot Access](#)." MCL 168.558.

Candidates who fail to comply with the Affidavit of Identity filing requirement are ineligible to appear on the ballot.

**2024 Redistricting:** Candidates that filed for the 2024 elections prior to March 27, 2024 and now reside in a district with a new district number must withdraw and refile in the new district they reside. Some districts also must file at the county level instead of the state level. See *Filing Official* section.

**Campaign finance reports:** State and local candidates are required to comply with the campaign finance requirements provided under Michigan's Campaign Finance Act, Public Act (PA) 388 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, a candidate has:

- 10 days to form a candidate committee
- 10 additional days to file the Statement of Organization online
- **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>.**

Michigan election law requires any candidate filing an Affidavit of Identity to 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 to support the candidate's election under Michigan's Campaign Finance Act have been filed or paid. **Candidates that have any outstanding notices of Failure to File or outstanding late filing fees with any filing official in Michigan are ineligible to appear on the ballot.** MCL 168.558.

**Personal financial disclosure:** Certain state public office holders and candidates are required to comply with the Public Official Financial Disclosure Act (PA 281 of 2023) and the Candidate for Office Financial Disclosure Act (PA 282 of 2023) respectively.

Public officials and candidates are subject to personal financial disclosure, when holding or running for the following offices:

- Governor
- Lt. Governor
- Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- State Senator
- State Representative

Individuals are subject to financial disclosure when they become a candidate as described in the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. Reports are due in 2024 according to the following schedule:

- Current public officials must submit a personal financial disclosure report by April 15, 2024.
- Candidates for public office must submit a personal financial disclosure report by May 15, 2024, **OR**
- The candidate for office files a statement of organization for that candidate's candidate committee after May 15, 2024, to be nominated by a political party at the political party's nominating convention, the personal financial disclosure report must be filed no later than 15 days after that candidate files the statement of organization for that candidate's candidate committee.



Michigan election law requires a candidate for office to file the personal financial disclosure report with the department of state before that candidate can assume office. MCL 168.847a.

## Major party candidates

Michigan's August 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 previous even year November 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. See MCL 168.532).

**Filing requirements:** A candidate seeking the Democratic Party or Republican Party nomination to the office of state representative must file an Affidavit of Identity. In lieu of filing nominating petitions, a nonrefundable filing fee of \$100 and filing fee or partisan nominating petitions no later than 4 p.m. of the fifteenth Tuesday before the August primary. **Please see the Election Date chart on page 6 at the end of the document for the current election cycle filing deadlines.**

**Withdrawal:** The deadline to withdraw a candidate filing for party nomination is 4 p.m. of the third day after the filing deadline. MCL 168.134. The withdrawal must be in writing and must be filed with 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 sheets may be purchased from commercial suppliers that produce election materials.

Candidates seeking the Democratic Party or Republican Party nomination must use the **Partisan Nominating Petition**. Candidates are strongly encouraged to use the **Partisan Nominating Petition (countywide) form** when filing for state-level offices. A minimum of 200 valid signatures must be submitted to qualify for placement on the ballot. Up to 400 signatures can be filed to cover the minimum signature requirement. **A \$100 filing fee may be submitted in lieu of a petition.** MCL 168.133; 544f.

Candidates seeking Major Party nomination who choose to file by submitting petitions should review the [Petition Manual](#) for those seeking Statewide Partisan Office. This can be found under Ballot Access at [Michigan.gov/election](http://Michigan.gov/election).

## Minor party candidates



In addition to the Democratic and Republican parties, other political parties are qualified<sup>1</sup> to appear on Michigan's November General Election ballot. (Based on the greatest number of votes received by *any* candidate whose name appeared in the party's column on the last preceding General Election ballot)

**Convention deadline:** A candidate seeking the office of state representative 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 the August primary. 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 and a [Certificate of Acceptance](#) completed by the candidate. The Certificate of Acceptance form is available on the Bureau's website: [Michigan.gov/Elections](https://Michigan.gov/Elections).

**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 state representative may do so without political party affiliation. These candidates are only eligible to appear on the November General Election ballot and will be listed as "No Party Affiliation."

**Filing requirements:** A candidate without political party affiliation seeking the office of state representative must file an [Affidavit of Identity](#) and qualifying petitions no later than 4 p.m. of the 110th day before the General Election. MCL 168.590c(2). **Please see the Election Date chart on page 6 at the end of the document for the current election cycle filing deadlines**

**Withdrawal:** The deadline to withdraw a no party affiliation candidate is 4 p.m. of the third day after the last day for filing a qualifying petition. The withdrawal must be in writing and must be filed with the appropriate filing official. MCL 168.590c.

**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. Forms may be purchased from commercial suppliers that produce election materials.

Candidates seeking nomination without political party affiliation must use the **Qualifying petition form**. A minimum of 600 valid signatures must be submitted

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<sup>1</sup> The minor political parties currently qualified to appear on the November General Election ballot are: Libertarian, U.S. Taxpayers, Green, Natural Law, and Working Class parties. MCL 168.703.



to qualify for placement on the ballot. Up to 1,200 signatures can be filed to cover the minimum signature requirement. A filing fee option is **not** available. MCL 168.590b(4); 544f.

**Candidates seeking office without party nomination should review the Qualifying Petition Manual. This can be found under Ballot Access at Michigan.gov/election.**

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:** A candidate seeking election to the office of state representative with write-in votes must file a [Declaration of Intent](#) with the Bureau of Elections no later than 4 p.m. on the second Friday immediately before the election. MCL 168.737a.

The Declaration of Intent form is available on the Bureau's website: [Michigan.gov/Elections](https://Michigan.gov/Elections).



## Filing official

A candidate seeking the office of state representative 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 St  
 Lansing, Michigan 48933

Phone: (517) 335-3234  
 Fax: (517) 335-3235  
 Email: [MDOS-File-Canvass@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDOS-File-Canvass@Michigan.gov)

On March 27, 2024, the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission received approval of district changes to the following State House of Representative Districts: 1 through 14 and 16.

As a result, three districts that previously filed at the state, now file with their county. This includes districts 6, 7 and 10. Candidates that filed for the 2024 elections prior to March 27, 2024 and now reside in a district with a new district number must withdraw and refile in the new district they reside.

	Files with county	Files with state
<b>State House of Representatives Prior to March 27, 2024</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 32, 33, 34, 40, 41, 44, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 69, 70, 73, 74, 76, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 87, 90, 94, and 96	5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 28, 29, 30, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 57, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 77, 78, 79, 86, 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 95, 97, 98, 99, 100-110
<b>State House of Representatives Following Redistricting/March 27, 2024</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 32, 33, 34, 40, 41, 44, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 69, 70, 73, 74, 76, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 87, 90, 94, and 96	5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 28, 29, 30, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 57, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 77, 78, 79, 86, 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 95, 97, 98, 99, 100-110



## 2024 Election dates

Primary Election	Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024
General Election	Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024

Category	Filing method	Signatures needed	Filing location	Filing deadline	Withdrawal deadline
<b>Major party candidates</b>	\$100 or partisan nominating	200 – 400	BOE or county clerk	4/23/2024 4 p.m.	4/26/2024 4 p.m.
<b>Minor party candidates</b>	Convention	N/A	BOE or county clerk	1 business day after convention	N/A
<b>No party affiliation</b>	Qualifying petitions	600 – 1,200	BOE or county clerk	7/18/2024 4 p.m.	7/22/2024 4 p.m.
<b>Write-in candidates</b>	Write-in declaration	N/A	BOE or county clerk	7/26/24, 10/25/24 Primary, General 4 p.m.	N/A

