



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

DATE: March 24, 2026
TO: Judicial Candidates
FROM: Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections
SUBJECT: **The Redesignation of Certain Judicial Positions**

*** * * IMPORTANT NOTICE * * ***

This memo provides notice of those “incumbent” judicial positions which have been redesignated as “non-incumbent” positions due to the incumbent’s failure to file for reelection by 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 23, 2026 – the filing deadline imposed on judicial incumbents who wish to gain access to the August 4, 2026 primary ballot through the submission of an Incumbent Affidavit of Identity and Affidavit of Candidacy. This notice is provided in compliance with Michigan election law.

Background – Redesignated Positions

Michigan election law stipulates that in instances where a candidate for Court of Appeals Judge, Circuit Court Judge, District Court Judge, and Probate Court Judge seeks election in a district where there are a combination of “new” positions, “incumbent” positions and/or “nonincumbent” 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.”

Michigan election law further directs the Bureau of Elections to designate a judicial position as an “incumbent” position in any instance where there is an incumbent judge eligible to seek reelection to the position, and the deadline for filing the Incumbent Affidavit of Identity and Affidavit of Candidacy has not yet elapsed. The Incumbent Affidavit of Identity and Affidavit of Candidacy filing deadline established for the August 4, 2026 primary elapsed at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2026.

If the incumbent judge does not file for reelection by the filing deadline, Michigan election law directs the Bureau of Elections to redesignate the position as a “non-incumbent” position and notify all candidates seeking election in the judicial district that a “non-incumbent” position exists. Michigan election law further stipulates that in such instances, (1) nominating petition sheets circulated for the “non-incumbent” position after the March 23, 2026 filing deadline “shall

bear an office designation of non-incumbent position” and (2) signatures collected prior to the March 23, 2026 filing deadline “may be filed with the non-incumbent nominating petitions.”

In accordance with these provisions, the Bureau of Elections issues this notice of redesignated positions. The redesignations listed below are effective March 24, 2026. **As of this date, candidates are required to place into circulation nominating petitions that include the redesignated position in the heading of the petition.** Signatures collected prior to the March 23, 2026 filing deadline on nominating petitions bearing the initial designation may be filed along with nominating petitions that include the redesignated position.

Listing of Redesignated Judicial Positions

The “incumbent” judicial positions which have been redesignated as “non-incumbent” positions are shown below. In each case, *all* positions available are listed to avoid any confusion over the position or positions which have been redesignated.

Initial Designation	Redesignation Effective 3/24/2026
8th Circuit Court 1 Regular Term – Incumbent Position	8th Circuit Court 1 Regular Term – Non-Incumbent Position
36th Circuit Court 1 Regular Term – Incumbent Position	36th Circuit Court 1 Regular Term – Non-Incumbent Position
49th Circuit Court 1 Regular Term – Incumbent Position	49th Circuit Court 1 Regular Term – Non-Incumbent Position
5th District Court 2 Regular Term – Incumbent Positions	5th District Court 1 Regular Term – Incumbent Position 1 Regular Term – Non-Incumbent Position
36th District Court 7 Regular Term – Incumbent Positions 2 Regular Term – Non-Incumbent Positions 3 Partial Term – Incumbent Positions	36th District Court 6 Regular Term – Incumbent Positions 3 Regular Term – Non-Incumbent Positions 3 Partial Term – Incumbent Positions
51st District Court 1 Regular Term – Incumbent Position	51st District Court 1 Regular Term – Non-Incumbent Position
95A District Court 1 Regular Term – Incumbent Position	95A District Court 1 Regular Term – Non-Incumbent Position
Probate Judge – Washtenaw County 1 Regular Term – Incumbent Position	Probate Judge – Washtenaw County 1 Regular Term – Non-Incumbent Position