

RUNNING FOR COUNTY & MULTI-COUNTY OFFICE

COUNTY COMMISSIONER | STATE'S ATTORNEY | SHERIFF | COUNTY AUDITOR | TREASURER
RECORDER | CLERK OF COURT | DIRECTOR, GARRISON DIVERSION CONSERVANCY
DIRECTOR, SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY | SUPERVISOR, SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

QUALIFICATIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

County Officers: County officers must be, at the time of election, a qualified elector in the jurisdiction in which the candidate is to serve. Some exceptions may apply depending on the form of county government ([NDCC § 11-10-04](#)).

The 4-year terms for county commissioners begin on the first Monday in December following the election.

The 4-year terms for state's attorney, sheriff, clerk of court, and county recorder begin on the first of January following the election.

The 4-year terms for county auditor begin on the first of April following the election.

The 4-year terms for county treasurer begin on the first of May following the election.

Director, Garrison Diversion Conservancy: Directors of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District must be qualified voters residing in the county where the officer is chosen ([NDCC § 61-24-03](#)).

The 4-year terms of office for directors begin on January 1st following the election.

Director, Southwest Water Authority: Directors of the Southwest Water Authority must be qualified voters residing in the county where the officer is chosen ([NDCC § 61-24.5-06](#)).

Directors are elected at the June election. The 4-year terms of office begin on the first Monday in July following the date of election.

Supervisor, Soil Conservation District: Supervisors of the Soil Conservation District must be qualified voters residing in the district where the officer is chosen ([NDCC § 4.1-20-18](#)).

Supervisors are elected directly at the general election without a primary election.

The 6-year terms of office for Supervisors begin on January 1st following the election.

RUNNING IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION

County and multi-county district offices are all nonpartisan offices. Candidates for these offices must file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination with their county auditor containing the required number of signatures as described below.

County Offices: Candidates must file a Petition/ Certificate of Nomination containing signatures of not less than 2% of the votes cast for the same offices in the last general election that the office appeared on the ballot. However, no more than 300 signatures are required ([NDCC § 16.1-11-11](#)).

Director, Garrison Conversion Conservancy District: Candidates must file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination containing signatures of not less than 50 nor more than 300 qualified voters of the county ([NDCC § 61-24-03](#)).

Director, Southwest Water Authority: Candidates for county directors must file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination containing signatures of qualified voters equal to not less than 2% of the qualified electors of the county as determined by the number of votes cast in the county for that office at the most recent election at which the office appeared on the ballot ([NDCC § 61-24.5.06](#)).

Candidates for city directors must file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination containing signatures of qualified voters equal to not less than 10% of the qualified electors of the city as determined by the number of votes cast in the city for that office at the most recent election at which the office appeared on the ballot ([NDCC § 61-24.5.07](#)).

COMPLETE FILING INCLUDES:

1. [Petition/Certificate of Nomination \(SFN 2704\)](#) containing the required number of signatures of qualified electors of the district;
2. [Affidavit of Candidacy \(SFN 2703\)](#);
3. [Statement of Interests \(SFN 10172\)](#).

CIRCULATING A PETITION/CERTIFICATE OF NOMINATION

A Petition/Certificate of Nomination may not be circulated or signed prior to **January 1, 2026**.

WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE

Candidates may not file earlier than January 2, 2026, or later than **4:00 p.m. Central Time on April 6, 2026**. Filings must be in the physical possession of the county auditor's office by the filing deadline.

RUNNING AS A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION

A person who intends to be a write-in candidate for a county or multi-county district office in the June 9, 2026, Primary Election is not required to file anything in order for the candidate's write-in votes to be counted ([NDCC § 16.1-12](#)).

RUNNING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

Candidates for county office and Garrison Diversion Conservancy Director with the highest number of votes in the June 9, 2026, Primary Election and who total twice the number of available positions for the office will automatically have their names placed on the November 3, 2026, General Election. No person may be deemed nominated as a candidate for any office at any primary election unless the candidate receives a number of votes equal to the number of signatures required on a petition to have a candidate's name for that office placed on the primary ballot ([NDCC § 16.1-11-36](#)).

Supervisor, Soil Conservation District: Candidates must file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination that contains signatures of not less than 25 nor more than 300 qualified electors of the county ([NDCC § 4.1-20-16](#)).

COMPLETE FILING INCLUDES:

1. [Petition/Certificate of Nomination \(SFN 2704\)](#) containing the required number of signatures of qualified electors of the district;
2. [Affidavit of Candidacy \(SFN 2703\)](#);
3. [Statement of Interests \(SFN 10172\)](#).

CIRCULATING A PETITION/CERTIFICATE OF NOMINATION

A Petition/Certificate of Nomination may not be circulated or signed prior to **January 1, 2026**.

WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE

Candidates may not file earlier than January 2, 2026, or later than **4:00 p.m. on August 31, 2026**. Complete filings must be in the physical possession of the county auditor's office by the filing deadline.

No person may file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination to place their name on the general election ballot as an independent for a nonpartisan office ([NDCC §§ 16.1-12-02](#) and [16.1-12-09](#)).

RUNNING AS A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

A write-in candidate for county or multi-county district office at the November 3, 2026, General Election is not required to file a certificate of write-in candidacy ([NDCC § 16.1-12](#)).

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND DISCLOSURE

Candidates for county offices must file financial disclosure statements pursuant to [Subsection 6 of NDCC §16.1-08.1-02.3](#).

FORMS

The state forms (SFNs) listed above are available from the Office of the Secretary of State and county auditors' offices and may also be accessed at www.Vote.ND.gov.

CONTACT

For more information, please contact:



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