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## **RUNNING FOR JUDICIAL DISTRICT OFFICE**

### **JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT**

#### QUALIFICATIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

Judges of the District Court must be citizens of the United States, residents of North Dakota, learned in the law, and possess any additional qualifications as prescribed by law. A Judge of the District Court shall not engage in the practice of law. They also may not hold any elected or appointed public office other than judicial in nature. Judges of the District Court must possess a certificate of admission to the bar of this state and an annual license from the state board of law examiners ([North Dakota Constitution, Article VI, Section 10](#), [NDCC §§ 27-11-01](#) and [27-11-22](#), and see applicable rules of judicial conduct).

The 6-year terms of office for Judges of the District Court begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> following the date of election.

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#### RUNNING IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION

The office of Judge of the District Court is a non-partisan office. Candidates must file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination with the Secretary of State containing at least 300 signatures ([NDCC § 16.1-11-06](#)).

- Candidates are required to file their Statement of Interests in the [Statement of Interests](#) system.
- Candidates are encouraged to upload their remaining candidacy paperwork into the [Statement of Interests](#) system with their Statement of Interests filing. Candidates may still submit a hard copy of the additional candidacy paperwork by the deadline if that is their preference.

#### COMPLETE FILING INCLUDES:

1. [Petition/Certificate of Nomination \(SFN 2704\)](#) containing the signatures of at least 300 qualified North Dakota electors;
2. [Affidavit of Candidacy \(SFN 2703\)](#);
3. [Statement of Interests](#).
  - a. Must be filed in the [Statement of Interests](#) system.

#### 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 Secretary of State'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 Judge of the District Court shall file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Office of the Secretary of State by 4:00 p.m. Central Time on the 21<sup>st</sup> day before the Primary Election. The Certificate of Write-In Candidacy must contain the complete address of the candidate ([NDCC Ch. 16.1-12](#)).

- Candidates are required to file their Statement of Interests in the [Statement of Interests](#) system.
- Candidates are encouraged to upload their remaining candidacy paperwork into the [Statement of Interests](#) system with their Statement of Interests filing. Candidates may still submit a hard copy of the additional candidacy paperwork by the deadline if that is their preference.

### COMPLETE FILING INCLUDES:

1. [Certificate of Write-In Candidacy \(SFN 50599\)](#);
2. [Statement of Interests](#).
  - a. Must be filed in the [Statement of Interests](#) system.

### WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE

Certificates of Write-In Candidacy must be filed by 4:00 p.m. Central Time on May 19, 2026. Filings must be in the physical possession of the Office of the Secretary of State by the filing deadline.

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## RUNNING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

The two candidates for Judge of the District Court receiving the highest number of votes at the June 9, 2026, Primary Election will automatically be placed on the General Election ballot. No person may be deemed nominated 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 their name, for that office, placed on the primary ballot ([NDCC § 16.1-11-36](#)).

No person may file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination to place their name on the General Election ballot as an independent for a non-partisan office as is the case with partisan offices ([NDCC §§ 16.1-12-02](#) and [16.1-12-09](#)).

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## RUNNING AS A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

A person who intends to be a write-in candidate for Judge of the District Court at the November 3, 2026, General Election shall file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Office of the Secretary of State by 4:00 p.m. Central Time on the 21<sup>st</sup> day before the General Election. The Certificate of Write-In Candidacy must contain the complete address of the candidate ([NDCC § 16.1-12](#)).

- Candidates are required to file their Statement of Interests in the [Statement of Interests](#) system.
- Candidates are encouraged to upload their remaining candidacy paperwork into the [Statement of Interests](#) system with their Statement of Interests filing. Candidates may still submit a hard copy of the additional candidacy paperwork by the deadline if that is their preference.

### COMPLETE FILING INCLUDES:

1. [Certificate of Write-In Candidacy \(SFN 50599\)](#);
2. [Statement of Interests](#).
  - a. Must be filed in the [Statement of Interests](#) system.

## WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE

Certificates of Write-In Candidacy must be filed by 4:00 p.m. Central Time on October 13, 2026. Complete filings must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State's office by the filing deadline.

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## CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND DISCLOSURE

Candidates for Judge of the District Court are subject to the registration and campaign finance and disclosure requirements found in ([NDCC § 16.1-08.1](#)).

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## FORMS

The state forms (SFN's) listed above are available from the Office of the Secretary of State and may also be accessed at [www.Vote.nd.gov](http://www.Vote.nd.gov).

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## CONTACT

For more information, please contact:



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### ELECTIONS DIVISION

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[Vote.ND.Gov](http://Vote.ND.Gov)