

## RUNNING FOR THE NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE

### STATE SENATOR | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### QUALIFICATIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

Candidates for State Senator and House of Representatives must:

- Be a qualified elector in the district from which they are running on the day of the election
- Have been a resident of the state for one year preceding their election

The 4-year terms of State Senators and House of Representatives begin December 1<sup>st</sup> following the election.

[North Dakota Constitution, Article IV, Section 4, 5 and 10](#)

#### RUNNING IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION

Candidates may gain access to place their names on the June 9, 2026, Primary Election ballot using one of the following methods:

- Petition/Certificate of Nomination:** Candidates must file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination with the Office of the Secretary of State containing signatures equal to 1% of the total population of the legislative district. However, no more than 300 signatures are required ([NDCC § 16.1-11-11](#)).
  - Certificate of Endorsement:** Candidates endorsed by established political parties must file a Certificate of Endorsement with the Office of the Secretary of State ([NDCC § 16.1-11-11](#)).
- 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 signatures equal to 1% of the total population of the legislative district **OR** a [Certificate of Endorsement \(SFN 17196\)](#);
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**. Thresholds for signature requirements can be found in the [Statistics & Legislative Petition Signature Requirements for North Dakota's Legislative Districts](#).

## 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 Office of the Secretary of State by the filing deadline.

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

A person who intends to be a write-in candidate shall file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Secretary of State. The Certificate of Write-In Candidacy must contain the complete address of the candidate ([NDCC § 16.1-12-02.2](#)).

- 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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## OPTIONS FOR OTHER NATIONAL PARTIES

A party may endorse candidates for legislative office for inclusion on the June 9, 2026, Primary Election Ballot. To do so, the party must establish itself and gain ballot access by the 64<sup>th</sup> day prior to the June 9, 2026, Primary Election. The filing deadline with the **Secretary of State is 4:00 p.m. Central Time on April 6, 2026**.

A party that has failed to establish itself by the deadline may only nominate candidates for inclusion on the November 3, 2026, General Election ballot as independents ([NDCC §§ 16.1-11-30](#) and [16.1-12](#)).

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## RUNNING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

Candidates who receive the highest number of votes within their political party designation at the June 9, 2026, Primary Election will automatically be placed on the November 3, 2026, General Election ballot. 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, or would have been required had the candidate not had their name placed on the ballot through a Certificate of Endorsement, on a petition to have a candidate's name for that office placed on the primary ballot ([NDCC § 16.1-11-36](#)).

## RUNNING AS AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

A party that has failed to establish itself according to NDCC §16.1-11-30 of the North Dakota Century Code by the April 6, 2026, deadline, or any other entity or individual, may nominate candidates for inclusion on the November 3, 2026, General Election ballot as independents. Independent candidates will be designated on the general election ballot as "independent nominations" and will not carry a specific party designation or affiliation ([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. [Petition/Certificate of Nomination \(SFN 2704\)](#) containing the signatures equal to 2% of the total population of the legislative district. However, no more than 300 signatures are required.
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 more than 150 days before the date the petition must be filed with the Secretary of State. Candidates may not circulate or have a Petition/Certificate of Nomination signed before **April 3, 2026**, for inclusion on the General Election ballot. Thresholds for signature requirements can be found in the [Statistics & Legislative Petition Signature Requirements for North Dakota's Legislative Districts](#).

### WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE

Independent candidates must file by **4:00 p.m. Central Time on August 31, 2026**. Filings must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State's office by the filing deadline.

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

A person who intends to be a write-in candidate shall file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Office of the Secretary of State. 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**. Filings must be in the physical possession of the Office of the Secretary of State by the filing deadline.

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND DISCLOSURE

Candidates are subject to the campaign finance and disclosure requirements found in ([NDCC § 16.1-08.1](#)).

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## 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](http://www.Vote.ND.gov).

## CONTACT

For more information, please contact:



## MICHAEL HOWE | SECRETARY OF STATE

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### ELECTIONS DIVISION

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