

RUNNING FOR STATEWIDE OFFICE

PARTISAN OFFICES

GOVERNOR & LT. GOVERNOR | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE AUDITOR | STATE TREASURER
ATTORNEY GENERAL | INSURANCE COMMISSIONER | AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER |
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER | TAX COMMISSIONER

QUALIFICATIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

Statewide Officers must:

- Be at least 25 years of age
- Qualified North Dakota voters
- Citizens of the United States
- Have resided in North Dakota for the five years preceding the next election

[North Dakota Constitution, Article V, Section 4](#)

The 4-year term of office begins on December 1 following the election. However, the term of office for governor and lieutenant governor begins on December 15 following the election.

The 6-year term of office for Public Service Commissioners begins on December 1 following the election.

RUNNING IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION

Candidates may choose one of two methods for placing their names on the ballot:

- A. Petition/Certificate of Nomination:** Candidates must file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination with the Office of the Secretary of State containing signatures equal to 3% of the total votes cast for the candidates for the same office and carrying the same political party affiliation at the last general election. However, no more than 300 signatures are required. If the office sought did not have a candidate with the same political party affiliation in the preceding general election, at least 300 signatures are required. [NDCC § 16.1-11-06](#)
- B. Certificate of Endorsement:** Candidates endorsed by established political parties must file a Certificate of Endorsement with the Secretary of State. [NDCC § 16.1-11-06](#)

COMPLETE FILING INCLUDES:

1. [Petition/Certificate of Nomination \(SFN 2704\)](#) or [Certificate of Endorsement \(SFN 17196\)](#)
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 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 must 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](#)

COMPLETE FILING INCLUDES:

1. [Certificate of Write-In Candidacy \(SFN 50599\)](#)
2. [Statement of Interests \(SFN 10172\)](#)

WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE

Certificates of Write-In Candidacy must be filed by 4:00 p.m. Central Time on the 21st day before the June 9, 2026, Primary Election.

The filing deadline with the Office of the **Secretary of State is 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.

OPTIONS FOR OTHER NATIONAL PARTIES

A party may endorse candidates for statewide 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 64th day before the June 9, 2026, Primary Election. The filing deadline with the Office of the **Secretary of State is 4:00 p.m. Central Time on April 6, 2026**.

A party that has failed to establish itself and gain ballot access by the April 6, 2026, deadline, may only nominate candidates for inclusion on the November 3, 2026, General Election ballot as independents. [NDCC § 16.1-11-30](#) and [NDCC § 16.1-12](#)

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 which would have been required had the candidate not had his or her name placed on the ballot through a Certificate of Endorsement, or a petition. [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](#) 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](#)

COMPLETE FILING INCLUDES:

1. [Petition/Certificate of Nomination \(SFN 2704\)](#) containing the signatures of 1,000 qualified North Dakota electors;
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 before **April 3, 2026**, for inclusion on the General Election ballot.

WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE

Independent candidates must file by 4:00 p.m. Central Time on the 64th day before the November 3, 2026, General Election.

The filing deadline with the Office of the **Secretary of State is 4:00 p.m. Central Time on August 31, 2026**. Filings must be in the physical possession of the Office of the Secretary of State by the filing deadline.

NON-PARTISAN OFFICES

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

QUALIFICATIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

Justice of the Supreme Court:

- Be at least 25 years of age
- Qualified North Dakota voter
- Citizen of the United States
- Learned in the law
- Possess a certificate of admission to the bar of this state and an annual license from the State Board of Law Examiners
- Have resided in North Dakota for the five years preceding the election [North Dakota Constitution, Article VI, Section 10](#) and [NDCC §§ 27-11-01](#) and [27-11-22](#), and see applicable rules of judicial conduct
- May not engage in the practice of law, or hold any public office, not judicial in nature

The 10-year terms of office for Justices of the Supreme Court begin on December 1st following the date of election.

Superintendent of Public Instruction:

- Be at least 25 years of age
- Qualified North Dakota voter
- Citizen of the United States
- Have resided in North Dakota for the five years preceding the next election

The 4-year terms of office for Superintendent of Public Instruction begins on December 1st following the election.

RUNNING IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION

The office of Justice of the Supreme Court and Superintendent of Public Instruction only have the option of filing a Petition/Certificate of Nomination with the Secretary of State containing at least 300 signatures.

COMPLETE FILING INCLUDES:

1. [Petition/Certificate of Nomination \(SFN 2704\)](#)
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 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 must 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 § 16.1-12-12.2](#)

COMPLETE FILING INCLUDES:

1. [Certificate of Write-In Candidacy \(SFN 50599\)](#)
2. [Statement of Interests \(SFN 10172\)](#)

WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE

Certificates of Write-In Candidacy must be filed by 4:00 p.m. Central Time on the 21st day before the June 9, 2026, Primary Election.

The filing deadline with the Office of the **Secretary of State is 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.

RUNNING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

The two candidates 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 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](#)).

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](#)).

RUNNING AS A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

A person who intends to be a write-in candidate at the November 3, 2026, General Election must file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Office of the Secretary of State by 4:00 p.m. on the 21st day before the General Election. The Certificate of Write-In Candidacy must contain the complete address of the candidate. [NDCC § 16.1-12-02.2](#)

COMPLETE FILING INCLUDES:

1. [Certificate of Write-In Candidacy \(SFN 50599\)](#);
2. [Statement of Interests \(SFN 10172\)](#).

WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE

The filing deadline is **4:00 p.m. Central Time on October 13, 2026**. Complete 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 registration and campaign finance and disclosure requirements found in [NDCC § 16.1-08.1](#).

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.

CONTACT

For more information, please contact:



MICHAEL HOWE | SECRETARY OF STATE

600 E BOULEVARD AVE, DEPT. 108, BISMARCK, ND 58505-0500

ELECTIONS DIVISION

600 East Boulevard Avenue Dept 108
Bismarck ND 58505-0500

Phone: (701) 328-4146

Toll-Free: (800) 352-0867

Email: seselect@nd.gov

Vote.ND.Gov