



## A MESSAGE FOR 2026 CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

Dear Candidate,

Congratulations on taking this step towards serving your community and making a difference through public office. Your decision to run is commendable, and we wish you the very best in your campaign. This message is intended to provide useful information as you begin your campaign efforts.

There are many laws that affect candidates and office holders. The Office of the Secretary of State provides a number of resources and tools to help you understand and navigate these laws. Please take a moment to review the information below as you begin your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Howe".

Secretary of State  
North Dakota Office of the Secretary of State

### **RESOURCES WHEN CONSIDERING A RUN FOR OFFICE**

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Understanding what is required to become a candidate is an important first step. The elections area of our website – [vote.nd.gov](https://vote.nd.gov) – has many helpful resources. Check out the **Running for Office in North Dakota** flyer to learn more about candidate requirements. Learn more about filing deadlines for candidates and important election dates in the **North Dakota Election & Candidate Filing Information** Guide.

- [Become a Candidate – vote.nd.gov](https://vote.nd.gov)
- [Running For Office in North Dakota](#)
- [North Dakota Election & Candidate Filing Information](#)

The **North Dakota Campaign Practices Guide** provides helpful information about what is and isn't allowed as you begin your campaign efforts. It includes helpful information on campaign finance requirements, rules around signage and advertising, as well as many answers to common questions we receive from candidates. We encourage you to download and read this handy resource.

- [North Dakota Campaign Practices Guide](#)

## PETITIONS OF NOMINATION

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Depending on your path to candidacy for office, you may be circulating a Petition of Nomination. This message is intended to provide helpful information to ensure your Petition of Nomination includes all information needed to ensure the validity of signatures collected.

Petitions require a printed name and signature for each signer, as well as their complete residential address. "Complete Residential Address" was defined to provide clarity in law during the 2025 Legislative Session to include "a house or unit number, street, city, state, zip code, general delivery, or rural route address" (NDCC § 16.1-01-00.1(b)). It is important that signature gatherers for Petitions of Nomination seek a complete residential address as required in law from each petition signer.

In accordance with NDCC 16.1-01-09, signatures that do not meet the criteria for a complete residential address will be deemed invalid. **Therefore, it is important that you review petitions sheets prior to submission to the Office of the Secretary of State to ensure that each signer provides the full and accurate residential address information, which includes both the city and STATE, along with the zip code.** We realize that some signers assume that city and zip is enough, so we encourage you to review signatures to ensure that "ND" is appearing along with the city for each signer prior to turning in petitions for review.

Adhering to these guidelines not only aligns with our current review practices for petition review but also helps to prevent any potential discrepancies or challenges that may arise from incomplete address information. Check out the Running for Office in North Dakota – Petition Signature Gathering guidance for examples of what petition signature sheets should include.

- [Running For Office in North Dakota – Petition Signature Gathering](#)

## WE ARE HERE TO HELP

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Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Elections Division.

NORTH DAKOTA  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**

### ELECTIONS DIVISION

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