Minnesota Votes

Guide for Candidates

2012

Major Party for Partisan Office
All Candidates for Nonpartisan Office

Qualifications For Candidates Seeking Election November 6, 2012

This brochure summarizes filing requirements under Minnesota law for candidates (*Minnesota Statutes sections 204B.03; 204B.06; 204B.09; 204B.11; 204B.12; 205.13; 205A.06; 211A.02*).

Qualifications for federal and state elected office:

President and Vice President: Must be a natural born citizen, at least 35 years old and a resident of the United States for 14 years. Candidates for president and vice president must be residents of different states.

U.S. Senator: Must live in Minnesota when elected, have not filed for more than one office for the upcoming primary or general election, and be at least 30 years old, and a U.S. citizen for at least nine years on January 3, 2013.

U.S. Representative: Must live in Minnesota when elected, have not filed for more than one office for the upcoming primary or general election, and be at least 25 years old and a U.S. citizen for at least seven years on January 3, 2013.

State Senator or Representative: Must be eligible to vote in Minnesota, have not filed for more than one office for the upcoming primary or general election, and be at least 21 years old on January 3, 2013, a resident of Minnesota for at least one year, and of the legislative district for at least six months before November 6, 2012.

State Judicial Officers: Must be eligible to vote in Minnesota, have not filed for more than one office for the upcoming primary or general election, and be at least 21 years old on January 3, 2013 and be licensed to practice law in Minnesota.

Information about county, municipal, and school district office elections is available from county auditors, municipal clerks or school district clerks, respectively.

Filing Period:

The filing period for federal, state, and county offices to be elected in the November 6, 2012 general election opens May 22, 2012. Filing closes at 5:00 p.m. on June 5, 2012.

Filing dates for municipal, school district, and other local offices vary. Contact the appropriate local election official for additional filing information and requirements.

Filing Location:

- Candidates for federal offices must file with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State.
- Candidates for state and judicial offices may file with either the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State or with the county auditor of the county in which they reside.
- Candidates for county offices must file with the county auditor.
- Candidates for municipal offices must file with the municipal clerk.
- Candidates for school district offices must file with the school district clerk.

Filing Fee:

Candidates must pay a filing fee or submit a petition in place of the filing fee when filing their affidavits of candidacy. Sample forms and information about the number of required signatures on a petition are available from the filing officer. Candidates who provide the filing fee by check or other instrument for which sufficient funds are not available will have their names removed from the ballot and are liable for all costs incurred by election officials in removing their names from the ballot.

Filing Fee Amounts:

U.S. Senator: $400
U.S. Representative: $300
State Senator or Representative: $100
Judicial Officer: $300
County Office: $50
Soil and Water Conservation Dist. Supervisor: $20
Municipal Office: check with the filing officer
School District Office: $2

Affidavit of Candidacy:

All candidates must file an affidavit of candidacy for office except for president and vice president. A candidate must state that the name listed on their affidavit is the true name by which they are commonly known in the community.

Candidates seeking the nomination of a major political party must state that they participated in the party's most recent precinct caucus or that they intend to vote for a majority of the party's candidates at the next state general election.

Affidavits of candidacy for federal, state, and county offices may be completed between March 23 and June 5, 2012. A properly completed affidavit and filing fee *(or a petition in place of filing fee)* must be submitted by mail or by hand and received by the filing officer between May 22 and June 5, 2012.

Affidavits must be signed in the presence of a notary or an individual authorized to administer oaths. Secretary of State or county auditor staff, if delegated, may witness affidavits of candidacy. Candidates for judicial and county attorney offices must submit a copy of a current Minnesota law license. Sheriff candidates must submit a copy of a current Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Board license.

Note: Candidates for any office who will be out of the state during the filing period may file an affidavit of candidacy and pay any required filing fee *(or submit a petition, in place of the filing fee)* during the seven days immediately preceding their absence from the state. Candidates for federal, state, county and special district office who must unexpectedly leave the state during the filing period may submit their affidavits of candidacy by fax or as a scanned attachment to an e-mail. Contact the proper filing officer for more information.

Withdrawal:

Affidavits of withdrawal from candidates for federal, state, and county offices must be submitted to the filing officer by 5:00 p.m. on June 7, 2012. The withdrawal dates for municipal and school district candidates vary based upon the filing period dates, but are always due within 48 hours of the close of filing. The filing fee is not refundable.

Primaries:

Candidates of a major political party (Republican, Democratic-Farmer-Labor and Independence) for partisan office and certain candidates for nonpartisan office must win a primary to have their names placed on the general election ballot.

Candidates of minor parties or independent candidates are nominated by petition. See GUIDE FOR CANDIDATES 2012 RUNNING FOR PARTISAN OFFICE AS A MINOR PARTY OR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE brochure for additional information.

Secretary of State's Website:

The OSS's website will provide a list of candidates who have filed for state or federal office. The OSS will publish the website address (if submitted) of every candidate who files for federal or state office in Minnesota.

Campaign Expenditure Reporting:

Information about financial reporting requirements is available from the following sources.

Federal Offices: Reports must be filed with the Federal Election Commission (FEC). Candidates for federal office whose reports are published on the FEC website are not required to file with the Minnesota Secretary of State. FEC contact information:

Federal Election Commission
999 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20463
1-800-424-9530
www.fec.gov

State Offices (includes all judicial offices): Reports must be filed with the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board *(Minnesota Statutes 10A)*. Board contact information:

Minnesota Campaign Finance and
Public Disclosure Board
190 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5148
www.cfboard.state.mn.us

County Offices: Candidates must file reports with the county auditor.

Municipal Offices: Candidates must file reports with the municipal clerk.

School District Offices: Candidates must file reports with the school district clerk.