

RUNNING FOR OFFICE in North Dakota



FEDERAL, STATEWIDE, LEGISLATIVE & JUDICIAL CONTESTS

Filing Officer: North Dakota Secretary of State

PARTISAN CANDIDATES

2026 CONTESTS: U.S. House of Representatives, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Ag Commissioner, Tax Commissioner, Public Service Commissioner, odd numbered legislative districts

HOW TO GET ON THE BALLOT:

Political Party Endorsement: Certificate of Endorsement (SFN 17196)

- Statewide offices: endorsed at statewide convention
- Legislative offices: endorsed at legislative district meeting

Petition Process: Petition/Certificate of Nomination (SFN 2704)

- Statewide offices: 3% of total votes cast for same office/party affiliation in last General Election (maximum 300 signatures)
- Legislative offices: 1% of legislative district population (maximum 300 signatures)
- Petitions cannot be circulated before Jan. 1st of an election year

REQUIRED FORMS FOR COMPLETE FILING:

- Certificate of Endorsement (SFN 17196) OR Petition/Certificate of Nomination (SFN 2704)
- Affidavit of Candidacy (SFN 2703)
- Statement of Interests (SFN 10172)

NON-PARTISAN CANDIDATES

2026 CONTESTS: Justice of the Supreme Court, District Court Judges

HOW TO GET ON THE BALLOT:

Petition Required: Petition/Certificate of Nomination (SFN 2704)

- Minimum 300 signatures from qualified North Dakota voters

REQUIRED FORMS FOR COMPLETE FILING:

- Petition/Certificate of Nomination (SFN 2704)
- Affidavit of Candidacy (SFN 2703)
- Statement of Interests (SFN 10172)

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All candidates must:



Be a qualified elector of North Dakota



Reside in the jurisdiction in which they seek office



Meet age and residency requirements

IMPORTANT FILING DEADLINES



Primary Filing Deadline:
4:00 p.m.
Monday, April 6



General Filing Deadline:
4:00 p.m.
Monday, Aug. 31



Find candidate information, calendars, and forms on our website.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTESTS

COUNTY OFFICES *All county contests are non-partisan*

Filing Officer: County Auditor

2026 CONTESTS: County Commissioners, Garrison Conservancy District Supervisor, Soil Conservation Districts Director, Southwest Water Authority

HOW TO GET ON THE BALLOT:

Petition required to get on the ballot: Petition/Certificate of Nomination (SFN 2704)

- County offices: 2% of votes cast for same office in last general election (maximum 300 signatures)
- Garrison Conversion Conservancy District Director: 50-300 signatures
- Soil Conservation District Supervisor: 25-300 signatures
- Southwest Water Authority County Director: 2% of qualified county voters

REQUIRED FORMS FOR COMPLETE FILING:

- Petition/Certificate of Nomination (SFN 2704)
- Affidavit of Candidacy (SFN 2703)
- Statement of Interests (SFN 10172)

CITY OFFICES *All city contests are non-partisan*

Filing Officer: City Auditor

2026 CONTESTS: Mayor, Council Members or Commissioners, Municipal Judges

HOW TO GET ON THE BALLOT:

Petition required to get on the ballot: Petition/Certificate of Nomination (SFN 2704)

- City offices: 10% of qualified voters who voted for that office in last city election

REQUIRED FORMS FOR COMPLETE FILING:

- Petition/Certificate of Nomination (SFN 2704)
- Statement of Interests (SFN 10172)

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES *All school contests are non-partisan*

Filing Officer: School Business Manager

2026 CONTESTS: School Board Members

NO PETITION REQUIREMENT FOR SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

REQUIRED FORMS FOR COMPLETE FILING:

- File statement with candidate's name and position sought
- Statement of Interests (SFN 10172)