

Nomination to Office:

Candidates of a major political party (Republican, Democratic-Farmer-Labor and Independence) for partisan office and certain candidates for nonpartisan office are nominated in a primary.

Candidates of minor parties or independent candidates are nominated by petition. See: *Guide for Candidates Running for Partisan Office as a Minor Party or Independent Candidate* brochure for additional information.

Web Site Availability:

The Secretary of State will publish on its Web site a list of all federal and state candidates. The office will also publish local candidates if information is provided to this office by local election officials.

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 Web site are not required to file with the Minnesota Secretary of State. (*FEC Advisory Opinion 1999-7*). The FEC may be contacted as follows:

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*). The Board may be contacted as follows:

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.

THE OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA Secretary of State

Guide for Candidates

This guide provides information on qualifications to hold office, filing to be a candidate and important deadlines in the 2010 election year.

Office of the
Minnesota Secretary of State
180 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-215-1440
Toll free: 1-877-600-8683
Minnesota Relay Service: 711
Web sites: mnvotes.org
www.sos.state.mn.us
E-mail: elections.dept@state.mn.us



*This document is available
in alternative formats.*

mnvotes.org
www.sos.state.mn.us

Guide for Candidates

Qualifications For Candidates Seeking Election November 2, 2010

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:

U.S. Representative: Must live in Minnesota when elected, not filed for more than one office for the upcoming primary or general election, be at least 25 years old, and a U.S. citizen for at least seven years on January 3, 2011.

Governor and Lt. Governor: Must be eligible to vote in Minnesota, not filed for more than one office for the upcoming primary or general election, be 25 years old by January 3, 2011, and a resident of Minnesota for at least one year on November 2, 2010.

Attorney General, State Auditor and Secretary of State: Must be eligible to vote in Minnesota, have not filed for more than one office for the upcoming primary or general election, be at least 21 years old by January 3, 2011 and a resident of Minnesota for at least 30 days before November 2, 2010.

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, be at least 21 years old on January 3, 2011, a resident of Minnesota for at least one year, and of the legislative district for at least six months before November 2, 2010.

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, be at least 21 years old on January 3, 2011, 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 2, 2010 general election opens May 18, 2010. Filing closes at 5:00 p.m. on June 1, 2010.

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 Minnesota Secretary of State.

Candidates for state and judicial offices may file with either 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. Representative: \$300
Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General,
State Auditor and Secretary of State: \$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. 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 starting April 2 through June 1, 2010. A properly completed affidavit, filing fee, (or a petition in place of filing fee) must be submitted by mail or by hand and received by the filing officer during the dates May 18—June 1.

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 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 are due within 48 hours of the close of filing. 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 3, 2010. The withdrawal dates for municipal and school district candidates vary based upon the filing period dates. The filing fee is not refundable.