

Write-in candidates:

Candidates for state or federal office who want their write-in votes counted must file a written request with the filing office no later than the fifth day before the general election. (*Minnesota Statutes 204B.09*).

Filing fee:

A filing fee must be paid at the time of filing the Affidavit of Candidacy. A petition may be filed in place of the filing fee. Sample forms and information about the number of signatures required on a petition in place of filing fee are available from the filing officer (*Minnesota Statutes 204B.11*). Candidates who provide the filing fee by a 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 (*Minnesota Statutes 204B.11*).

Amounts:

U.S. Senator: \$400

U.S. Representative: \$300

State Representative: \$100

Judicial Officer: \$300

County Office: \$50

Soil and Water Conservation District

Supervisor: \$20

Municipal Office: check with the filing officer

School District Office: \$2

Withdrawal:

Candidates for state, federal, county, municipalities with a possible primary, or school district offices may withdraw by filing Affidavits of Withdrawal with their filing officer by July 17, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. (*Minnesota Statutes 204B.12, 205.13, 205A.06*). The filing fee cannot be refunded (*Minnesota Statutes 204B.11*).

Web site availability:

The Secretary of State will provide a list of candidates filed with the office and a web site address of every candidate who files for federal or state office in Minnesota and provides the address (FEC Advisory Opinion 1999-7). Voluntary candidate statements submitted with Affidavits of Candidacy will be posted at www.sos.state.mn.us.

Campaign expenditure reporting:

Information about required financial reporting is available from the sources listed below.

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

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

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

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board
190 Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-5148

County Offices: Reports must be filed with the county auditor (*Minnesota Statutes 211A.02*).

Municipal Offices: Reports must be filed with the municipal clerk.

School District Offices: Reports must be filed with the school district clerk.

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

180 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Phone: (651) 215-1440

Toll Free: 1-877-600-8683

Minnesota Relay Service: 1-800-627-3529

Web site: www.sos.state.mn.us

E-mail: elections.dept@state.mn.us

This document is available in alternate formats for individuals with disabilities.

FILING FOR OFFICE IN MINNESOTA 2008

President & Vice President
U.S. Senator
U.S. Representatives
State Representatives
Judicial Offices
County Offices
City Offices
Township Offices
School District Offices

Produced by the
Office of Minnesota
Secretary of State

Filing for office in Minnesota 2008:

This document summarizes selected filing provisions under Minnesota election law. For complete information, please refer to the statutes noted. Home rule charters may affect filing requirements for county and city elections.

Officers to be elected:

State and federal officers to be elected at the November 4, 2008 general election include:

- President and Vice-President
- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Representatives
- State Representatives
- State Judicial Officers

Information about county, municipal, and school district officers to be elected is available from county auditors, municipal clerks, or school district clerks, respectively.

Qualifications for office:

All candidates must state on their Affidavit of Candidacy that they are eligible voters, will be at least 21 years of age when assuming office, will have been residents of their districts for at least 30 days before the general election, and have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the primary or ensuing general election (exception: soil and water conservation district supervisor) (*Minnesota Statutes 204B.06*).

In addition, candidates for particular offices **must** meet the following requirements:

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

U.S. Senator: Candidate will be an inhabitant of Minnesota when elected and at least 30 years old and a U.S. citizen for at least nine years on January 3, 2009, or if filled at a special election, within 21 days after the election.

U.S. Representative: Candidate will be an inhabitant of Minnesota when elected and at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen for at least seven years on January 3, 2009, or if filled at a special election, within 21 days after the election.

State Legislator: Eligible to vote in Minnesota, have not filed for the same or any other office at the upcoming primary or general election, a resident of Minnesota for at least one year and of the legislative district for at least six months as of November 7, 2008.

State Judicial Officers or County Attorney: Licensed to practice law in Minnesota.

County Sheriff: Licensed peace officer in Minnesota.

Methods of nomination for office:

Candidates of a major political party for partisan office (except for president and vice-president) and certain candidates for nonpartisan office are nominated in a primary (*Minnesota Statutes 204B.03*).

Candidates for minor parties or independent candidates are nominated by petition. All candidates must file an Affidavit of Candidacy. See *RUNNING FOR OFFICE AS AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE* brochure for additional information.

Filing period:

The filing period for federal, state, county, and school offices to be elected at the November 4, 2008, general election will open July 1, 2008, and close at 5 p.m. on July 15, 2008. Nominating petitions may be circulated and signed beginning on July 1st. Filing dates for municipal and local offices vary. Contact the appropriate local election official for additional filing information.

Filing location:

Candidates for federal, state, and judicial offices to be voted on in more than one county (multi-county districts) file with the Secretary of State.

Candidates for state and judicial offices voted on in only one county (single-county districts) and candidates for county offices file with the county auditor (*Minnesota Statutes 204B.09*).

Candidates for municipal offices file with the municipal clerk (*Minnesota Statutes 205.13*). Candidates for school district offices file with the school district clerk (*Minnesota Statutes 205A.06*).

Affidavit of candidacy:

Candidates for president and vice-president are the only candidates that are not required to file affidavits of candidacy when filing for office. The remaining candidates must file an affidavit of candidacy when filing for office. The candidates must meet the qualifications for the office being filed for. They must also state that the name listed on their affidavit is their true name by which they are commonly known in the community.

The candidates who seek 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 (*Minnesota Statutes 204B.06*).

Affidavits of Candidacy for federal, state, and county offices may be completed starting 60 days before and during the filing period. The properly completed affidavit, filing fee, and petition (if required) must be received by the filing officer during the filing period by no later than 5:00 p.m. on the last day for filing (*Minnesota Statutes 204B.09*). Affidavits of candidacy for municipal and school district candidates must be filed during the filing period.

Affidavits must be signed in the presence of a notary or an individual authorized to administer oaths. Secretary of State and county auditor staff members, if delegated, may witness affidavits of candidacy. Judicial and county attorney candidates must submit proof that the candidate is licensed to practice law in Minnesota at the time of filing (*Minnesota Statutes 204B.06*). Candidates for county sheriff must submit proof that they are a licensed police officer in Minnesota. Candidates for federal, state, or county, municipal, and school district offices who will be out of the state during the filing period may file Affidavits of Candidacy and any required filing fees or petitions during the seven days immediately preceding their absence from the state (*Minnesota Statutes 204B.09, 205.13, 205A.06*). The proper filing officer should be contacted for more specific information.