

2026 November General and Special Elections **Local Office** **Independent** Candidate Ballot Access Quick Look One Pager



★ VIRGINIA ★
DEPARTMENT
of ELECTIONS

Additional information can be found in the Local Office General Election Candidate Bulletin found on ELECT's website:
<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/candidatepac-info/candidate-bulletins/>.

File the following with your **local general registrar** between **1/2/26** and **7:00 pm, 6/16/26**.

(Find your general registrar: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup>)

1. **Certificate of Candidate Qualification (Local Office)**

https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formswarehouse/campaign-finance/2018/candidates/SBE_501_4-rev7-18.pdf

**May be postmarked by 6/16/26 deadline if mailed registered or certified USPS mail. Be prepared to provide a copy of the receipt on 6/16/26.*

2. **Statement of Economic Interests (State and Local)**

http://ethics.dls.virginia.gov/SLSOEI_Fillable_FINAL_July2022.pdf

**Not required for incumbents or counties, cities, or towns with a population of 3,500 or less.*

**May be postmarked by 6/16/26 deadline if mailed registered or certified USPS mail. Be prepared to provide a copy of the receipt on 6/16/26.*

3. **Declaration of Candidacy**

[https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formswarehouse/ballot-access-candidate-qualification/sbe-505-520-declaration-of-candidacy/ELECT-505-520-Declaration-of-Candidacy-\(Rev-7-1-24\).pdf](https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formswarehouse/ballot-access-candidate-qualification/sbe-505-520-declaration-of-candidacy/ELECT-505-520-Declaration-of-Candidacy-(Rev-7-1-24).pdf)

**Must be filed with the first petition pages filed.*

4. **Petitions of Qualified Voters**

[https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formswarehouse/ballot-access-candidate-qualification/sbe-506-521-petition-of-qualified-voters/ELECT-506-521-Petition-of-Qualified-Voters-letter-size-\(rev-5-8-24\).pdf](https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formswarehouse/ballot-access-candidate-qualification/sbe-506-521-petition-of-qualified-voters/ELECT-506-521-Petition-of-Qualified-Voters-letter-size-(rev-5-8-24).pdf)

Effective July 1, 2024 (SB165) candidates may begin collecting petition signatures on **January first of the year in which the election is held.*

****Signature Requirement:** Outlined in the Candidate Bulletin or ask your local General Registrar how many signatures are required for the specific office you are seeking election.*

**While you do not need to file all petition pages at the same time, the first page filed must be filed with the Declaration of Candidacy.*

**Find more information on petitions in Virginia Administrative Code 1VAC20-50-20:*

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title1/agency20/chapter50/section20/>

Special Elections: The Local Office Special Election Candidate Bulletin can be found on ELECT's website:

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/candidatepac-info/candidate-bulletins/>.

- Candidates may begin filing the above documents when the election is ordered, but not before 1/2/26.
- If this is the **1st** November election after the office's vacancy, the filing deadline is 5:00 pm 8/14/26.
- If this is the **2nd** November election after the office's vacancy, the filing deadline is 7:00 pm 6/16/26.

Campaign Finance: While **not** part of ballot access, candidates must also ensure they comply with all campaign finance requirements. Contact the local general registrar with questions or visit ELECT's website:

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/candidatepac-info/campaign-finance/>.

Candidate Flow Chart

January 1st – Begin collecting petition signatures.

January 2nd – Begin filing required documents with your local general registrar.

June 16th, 7:00 pm – Deadline to file ballot access documents with general registrar.

The list of candidates that qualified for ballot access will be posted on ELECT's website (<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/candidate-list/>) within three weeks after the candidate filing deadline.

Contact your local General Registrar

(<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup>) to confirm your status before then.