



# Information for Independent, Minor Party, and Indigent Candidates

Montana Secretary of State

[sosmt.gov](http://sosmt.gov) • [soselections@mt.gov](mailto:soselections@mt.gov)

## ◆ Filing Deadlines ([13-10-503](#) MCA)\*

- **May 26, 2020** Deadline to submit signed [petitions](#) and [affidavits](#) of signature gatherers to [county election administrators](#)
- **June 1, 2020** Deadline to file [Declaration and Oath of Candidacy](#), and pay filing fee (unless indigent) with appropriate filing officer
- Note: Candidate ballot access is dependent on filing of required campaign finance forms. Contact the Commissioner of Political Practices, <http://politicalpractices.mt.gov>, at (406) 444-2942 for campaign finance information.
- \*For Independent/Minor Party Presidential candidates see [13-10-504](#) MCA for filing deadlines.

## ◆ Links (the first link is a PDF filing form for candidates to print, complete, sign in front of a notary, and submit with the filing fee in person or via mail, fax or email to the appropriate filing office):

- [Independent, Minor Party, or Indigent Candidate Declaration, Oath and Petition Affidavit of Signature Gatherer](#)
- [2020 Offices, Qualifications, and Fees](#)
- [2020 Election Calendar](#)
- [Title 13 Election Laws](#)

## ◆ Where to file

- Candidates submit signed petitions and the affidavits of signature gatherers to county election administrators; and:
  - Candidates for federal, statewide, state district, and legislative offices file their Declaration and Oath of Candidacy and filing fee with the [Secretary of State](#).
  - Candidates for local offices file their Declaration and Oath of Candidacy and filing fee with the [county election administrator](#).

## ◆ Signature Requirements ([13-10-502](#), MCA)

- 5% or more of the total votes cast for the successful candidate for the same office at the last general election:

2020 Offices	Votes Cast for Successful Candidate for the Same Office at the Last General Election	Certified Petition Signatures Required (5% of Votes Cast for Last Successful Candidate)
✓ President of the United States	279,240	5,000*
✓ United States Senator, 6-year term	253,876	12,694
✓ United States Representative, 2-year term	256,661	12,834
✓ Governor	255,933	12,797
✓ Attorney General	332,766	16,639
✓ Secretary of State	277,473	13,874
✓ Superintendent of Public Instruction	253,790	12,690
✓ Auditor	262,045	13,103
✓ Public Service Commissioner #2	76,142	3,808
✓ Public Service Commissioner #3	54,981	2,750
✓ Public Service Commissioner #4	54,705	2,736
✓ State Senator, 4-year term	Varies	See chart on page 3
✓ State Representative, 2-year term	Varies	See chart on page 4

\*See [13-10-504\(3\)](#) MCA

## ◆ Other Important Candidate Information

- There is **no earliest date** to gather candidate petition signatures or to submit signed candidate petitions to county election administrators. (However, the candidate declaration form cannot be filed with the appropriate filing officer before **January 9, 2020.**)
- Independent Candidates:
  - ✓ Under [13-10-507](#), MCA, a person seeking office as an independent candidate may **not** be associated with a political party for 1 year prior to the submission of the person's nomination petition.
    - For the purposes of the law, "associated with a political party" means having run for office in Montana as a partisan candidate or having held a public office in Montana or a precinct committee representative office in Montana with a political party designation.
  - ✓ Individuals cannot file as independent candidates (or as party candidates) for nonpartisan offices.
- Qualified independent and minor party candidates appear on the **general election** ballot only.
- Under [13-10-602](#), MCA, a political party and its regularly nominated candidates, members, and officers have the sole and exclusive right to the use of the party name. A candidate for office may not use any word of the name of any other political party or organization other than that by which the candidate is nominated in a manner that indicates or implies the individual is a candidate of the nonnominating party. An independent or nonpartisan candidate may not use any word of the name of any existing political party or organization in the candidacy in a manner that indicates or implies that the individual is a candidate of that party or organization.
- An individual who files as an **indigent** candidate is not required to pay a filing fee and must submit the same total number of signatures as an independent or minor party candidate. A candidate who files as an indigent-independent candidate or as an indigent-minor party candidate is only required to file one set of petition signatures.
  - ✓ An individual who files as an **indigent major party** candidate must submit signatures to county election officials by March 2, 2020, one week before the March 9 deadline to file the major party declaration for nomination.
  - ✓ An individual who files as an **indigent independent or minor party** candidate must submit signatures to county election officials by May 25, 2020, one week before the June 1 deadline to file the independent/minor party declaration for nomination.
  - ✓ An individual who files as an **indigent write-in** candidate:
    - For the **primary** election, candidates must submit signatures to county election officials by March 30, 2020, one week before the April 8, 2020 deadline to file the write-in declaration for nomination.
    - For the **general** election, candidates must submit signatures to county election officials by August 31, 2020, one week before the September 9, 2020 deadline to file the write-in declaration for nomination.



## Signatures Required in 2020 for Independent, Minor Party, or Indigent Candidates for State Senator

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Senate Dist.	Last Successful State Senator Candidate	Votes for Last Successful State Senator Candidate	Certified Petition Signatures Required (5% of Votes Cast for Last Successful State Senator Candidate)
<b>2</b>	Dee L. Brown	7,961	<b>399</b>
<b>3</b>	Keith Regier	6,511	<b>326</b>
<b>6</b>	Albert D. Olszewski	7,370	<b>369</b>
<b>7</b>	Jennifer Fielder	6,761	<b>339</b>
<b>10</b>	Steve Fitzpatrick	7,851	<b>393</b>
<b>15</b>	Ryan Osmundson	7,806	<b>391</b>
<b>16</b>	Frank J. Smith	3,752	<b>188</b>
<b>17</b>	Mike Lang	7,732	<b>387</b>
<b>18</b>	Steve Hinebauch	8,531	<b>427</b>
<b>21</b>	Jason D. Small	3,277	<b>164</b>
<b>23</b>	Roger Webb	6,652	<b>333</b>
<b>25</b>	Jen Gross	3,591	<b>180</b>
<b>26</b>	Margie McDonald	7,658	<b>383</b>
<b>28</b>	Tom Richmond	5,743	<b>288</b>
<b>31</b>	Mike Phillips	10,295	<b>515</b>
<b>35</b>	Scott Sales	9,408	<b>471</b>
<b>36</b>	Jeff Welborn	9,785	<b>490</b>
<b>37</b>	Jon C. Sesso	7,244	<b>363</b>
<b>38</b>	Edith (Edie) McClafferty	6,113	<b>306</b>
<b>39</b>	Gene Vuckovich	4,686	<b>235</b>
<b>40</b>	Terry J. Gauthier	6,135	<b>307</b>
<b>44</b>	Fred Thomas	7,614	<b>381</b>
<b>45</b>	Dick Barrett	6,372	<b>319</b>
<b>46</b>	Sue Malek	7,003	<b>351</b>
<b>47</b>	Daniel R. Salomon	4,836	<b>242</b>



# Signatures Required in 2020 for Independent, Minor Party, or Indigent Candidates for State Representative

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House Dist.	Last Successful State Representative Candidate	Votes for Last Successful State Representative Candidate	Petition Signatures Required (5% of Votes Cast for Last Successful State Representative Candidate)	House Dist.	Last Successful State Representative Candidate	Votes for Last Successful State Representative Candidate	Petition Signatures Required (5% of Votes Cast for Last Successful State Representative Candidate)
1	Steve Gunderson	3,014	151	51	Frank Fleming	1,838	92
2	Neil A. Duram	4,325	217	52	Rodney Garcia	1,858	93
3	Zac Perry	2,300	115	53	Dennis Lenz	5,240	262
4	Matt Regier	4,100	205	54	Terry Moore	3,187	160
5	Dave Fern	3,882	195	55	Vince Ricci	3,070	154
6	Carl Glimm	3,837	192	56	Sue Vinton	2,822	142
7	Frank Garner	2,519	126	57	Forrest J. Mandeville	4,466	224
8	John Fuller	3,153	158	58	Seth Berglee	3,540	177
9	David Dunn	2,626	132	59	Alan Redfield	4,041	203
10	Mark Noland	4,324	217	60	Laurie Bishop	3,232	162
11	Derek Skees	3,667	184	61	Jim Hamilton	4,906	246
12	Greg Hertz	3,296	165	62	Tom Woods	5,391	270
13	Bob Brown	4,064	204	63	Zach Brown	3,077	154
14	Denley M. Loge	3,590	180	64	Kerry E. White	3,607	181
15	Marvin R. Weatherwax Jr.	2,529	127	65	Christopher R. Pope	4,024	202
16	Tyson T. Runningwolf	2,039	102	66	Denise Hayman	4,382	220
17	Ross H. Fitzgerald	3,595	180	67	Tom Burnett	2,682	135
18	Llew Jones	3,232	162	68	Bruce Grubbs	3,386	170
19	Wendy McKamey	3,212	161	69	Walt Sales	4,333	217
20	Fred Anderson	3,826	192	70	Julie Dooling	4,693	235
21	Ed Buttrey	2,432	122	71	Ray L. Shaw	3,662	184
22	Lola Sheldon-Galloway	1,882	95	72	Tom Welch	4,132	207
23	Brad Hamlett	1,849	93	73	Jim Keane	3,622	182
24	Barbara Bessette	2,014	101	74	Derek J. Harvey	3,018	151
25	Jasmine Krotkov	1,907	96	75	Greg Devries	3,344	168
26	Casey Schreiner	1,397	70	76	Ryan Lynch	4,570	229
27	Joshua J. Kassmier	3,434	172	77	Mark Sweeney	2,980	149
28	Jacob D. Bachmeier	2,269	114	78	Gordon Pierson Jr.	2,598	130
29	Dan Bartel	3,497	175	79	Robert Farris-Olsen	4,149	208
30	E. Wylie Galt	3,990	200	80	Becky Beard	4,200	210
31	Bridget Smith	2,360	118	81	Mary M. Caferro	3,794	190
32	Jonathan Windy Boy	2,355	118	82	Moffie Funk	3,892	195
33	Casey Knudsen	3,819	191	83	Kim Abbott	3,454	173
34	Rhonda Knudsen	4,231	212	84	Mary Ann Dunwell	3,638	182
35	Joel G. Krautter	3,688	185	85	Theresa Manzella	4,170	209
36	Alan Doane	3,765	189	86	David Bedey	3,502	176
37	Frederick (Eric) Moore	4,746	238	87	Nancy Balance	4,371	219
38	Kenneth Holmlund	2,576	129	88	Sharon Greef	3,669	184
39	Geraldine Custer	4,165	209	89	Katie Sullivan	3,121	157
40	Barry Usher	3,826	192	90	Marilyn Marler	3,575	179
41	Rae Peppers	2,001	101	91	Connie Keogh	5,285	265
42	Sharon Stewart Peregoy	2,748	138	92	Mike Hopkins	2,667	134
43	Peggy Webb	2,785	140	93	Joe Read	2,421	122
44	Dale Mortensen	2,229	112	94	Kimberly P. Dudik	2,922	147
45	Daniel Zolnikov	3,150	158	95	Shane A. Morigeau	3,608	181
46	Bill Mercer	3,386	170	96	Thomas Winter	2,869	144
47	Kathy Kelker	2,352	118	97	Bradley E. Tschida	3,125	157
48	Jessica L. Karjala	2,465	124	98	Willis Curdy	3,210	161
49	Emma Kerr-Carpenter	1,953	98	99	Marilyn Ryan	3,357	168
50	Jade Bahr	1,898	95	100	Andrea Olsen	5,104	256