



Information for Independent, Minor Party, and Indigent Candidates Montana Secretary of State

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

- **May 29, 2018** Deadline to submit signed [petitions](#) and [affidavits](#) of signature gatherers to [county election administrators](#)
- **June 4, 2018** 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.

◆ 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](#)
- [2018 Offices, Qualifications, and Fees](#)
- [Candidate 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:

2018 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)
✓ United States Senator, 6-year term	236,123	11,807
✓ United States Representative, 2-year term	285,358	14,268
✓ Public Service Commissioner District 1, 4-year term	49,228	2,462
✓ Public Service Commissioner District 5, 4-year term	44,818	2,241
✓ Clerk of the Supreme Court, 6-year term	244,454	12,223
✓ State Senator, 4-year term	<i>Varies</i>	See chart on page 3 below
✓ State Representative, 2-year term	<i>Varies</i>	See chart on page 4 below

◆ 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 11, 2018.**)
- 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, and [HB 103](#), 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 5, 2018, one week before the March 12 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 29, 2018, one week before the June 4 deadline to file the independent/minor party declaration for nomination.
 - ✓ An individual who files as an **indigent write-in** candidate:
 - For the **primary** election must submit signatures to county election officials by April 20, 2018, one week before the April 27, 2018 deadline to file the write-in declaration for nomination.
 - For the **general** election must submit signatures to county election officials by September 24, 2018, one week before the October 1, 2018 deadline to file the write-in declaration for nomination.



**Signatures Required in 2018 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)
1	Chas V. Vincent	5,583	280
4	Mark W. Blasdel	3,960	198
5	Bob Keenan	5,129	257
8	Lea Whitford	2,713	136
9	Llew Jones	5,647	283
11	Ed Buttrey	3,494	175
12	Mary Sheehy Moe	3,010	151
13	Brian Hoven	2,385	120
14	Kris Hansen	4,080	204
19	Frederick Davis Moore	5,222	262
20	Duane Ankney	6,279	314
22	Douglas "Doug" Kary	4,106	206
24	Mary McNally	3,581	180
27	Cary Smith	6,351	318
29	David Howard	5,605	281
30	Nels Swandal	5,861	294
32	Jedediah Hinkle	3,840	192
33	Jennifer "JP" Pomnichowski	4,012	201
34	Gordon (Gordy) Vance	4,518	226
41	Mary M. Caferro	5,888	295
42	Jill Cohenour	4,028	202
43	Patrick (Pat) Connell	5,929	297
48	Cynthia Wolken	3,528	177
49	Diane Sands	3,932	197
50	Tom Facey	6,020	301



Signatures Required in 2018 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	3,045	153	51	Adam Rosendale	2,049	103
2	Mike Cuffe	3,829	192	52	Jimmy Patelis	1,955	98
3	Zac Perry	2,474	124	53	Dennis Lenz	5,216	261
4	Matt Regier	3,955	198	54	Jeff Essmann	4,335	217
5	Dave Fern	3,257	163	55	Vince Ricci	3,387	170
6	Carl Glimm	3,770	189	56	Sue Vinton	2,940	147
7	Frank Garner	2,604	131	57	Forrest J. Mandeville	4,247	213
8	Steve Lavin	3,665	184	58	Seth Berglee	3,746	188
9	Randy Brodehl	2,804	141	59	Alan Redfield	4,225	212
10	Mark Ray Noland	4,102	206	60	Laurie Bishop	2,858	143
11	Derek Skees	3,752	188	61	Jim Hamilton	3,787	190
12	Greg Hertz	3,403	171	62	Tom Woods	5,251	263
13	Bob Brown	3,942	198	63	Zach Brown	2,885	145
14	Denley M. Loge	3,681	185	64	Kerry E White	3,873	194
15	George G. Kipp III	2,453	123	65	Jon A. Knokey	3,149	158
16	Susan A. Webber	2,983	150	66	Denise Hayman	4,425	222
17	Ross H. Fitzgerald	3,700	185	67	Tom Burnett	3,290	165
18	Rob Cook	3,670	184	68	Bruce Grubbs	3,700	185
19	Wendy McKamey	3,328	167	69	Walt Sales	4,266	214
20	Fred Anderson	3,985	200	70	Kelly Flynn	4,038	202
21	Tom Jacobson	3,448	173	71	Ray L. Shaw	5,088	255
22	Lola Sheldon-Galloway	2,100	105	72	Tom Welch	4,331	217
23	Brad Hamlett	1,817	91	73	Jim Keane	3,950	198
24	Jean Price	2,292	115	74	Amanda Curtis	3,461	174
25	Jeremy Trebas	1,971	99	75	Kirk B. Wagoner	3,389	170
26	Casey J. Schreiner	1,375	69	76	Ryan Lynch	4,798	240
27	James O'Hara	3,568	179	77	Kathy Swanson	2,977	149
28	Jacob Bachmeier	2,231	112	78	Gordon Pierson Jr	2,153	108
29	Dan Bartel	4,032	202	79	Jenny Eck	4,358	218
30	E. Wylie Galt	3,871	194	80	Becky Beard	4,040	202
31	Bridget Smith	2,608	131	81	Janet Ellis	3,933	197
32	Jonathan Windy Boy	2,499	125	82	Moffie Funk	4,013	201
33	Casey Knudsen	3,562	179	83	Kim Abbott	2,573	129
34	Austin Knudsen	4,278	214	84	Mary Ann Dunwell	2,462	124
35	Scott Staffanson	3,825	192	85	Theresa Manzella	4,321	217
36	Alan Doane	3,730	187	86	Ron Ehli	3,583	180
37	Bill Harris	4,831	242	87	Nancy Ballance	4,487	225
38	Kenneth Holmlund	2,255	113	88	Ed Greef	3,639	182
39	Geraldine Custer	3,908	196	89	Nate McConnell	2,801	141
40	Barry Usher	3,269	164	90	Ellie Hill Smith	3,113	156
41	Rae Peppers	2,054	103	91	Bryce Bennett	5,142	258
42	Sharon Stewart	2,496	125	92	Mike Hopkins	2,514	126
43	Peggy Webb	2,488	125	93	John Fleming	2,392	120
44	Dale Mortensen	2,722	137	94	Kimberly P. Dudik	2,703	136
45	Daniel Zolnikov	3,305	166	95	Shane A. Morigeau	3,178	159
46	Donald W. Jones	3,553	178	96	Adam Hertz	2,744	138
47	Kathy Kelker	2,272	114	97	Brad Tschida	3,103	156
48	Jessica L. Karjala	2,551	128	98	Willis Curdy	2,989	150
49	Kelly McCarthy	1,856	93	99	Marilyn Ryan	3,101	156
50	Virginia Court	2,117	106	100	Andrea Olsen	4,379	219