



CHRISTI JACOBSEN
MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

Candidate Information for Major Party and Nonpartisan Offices for 2026 Federal Elections

Montana Secretary of State

sosmt.gov • soselections@mt.gov

◆ Filing Deadlines ([MCA 13-10-201](#))

- **February 17, 2026** First day to file Declaration and Oath of Candidacy, and pay filing fee (unless indigent) with appropriate filing officer. **Opens at 8:00 a.m.**
- **March 4, 2026** Deadline to file Declaration and Oath of Candidacy, and pay filing fee (unless indigent) with appropriate filing officer. **Closes at 5:00 p.m.**

◆ Where to File

- File with the [Secretary of State](#) for the presidential preference primary, a congressional office, a state or district office to be voted for in more than one county, a member of the legislature, or a judge of the district court.
- File with the [county election administrator](#) a county, municipal, precinct, or district office (other than a member of the legislature or a judge of the district court) to be voted for in only one county.

◆ Links to Forms and Filing Information

[Online Candidate Filing Information](#)
[Declaration for Nomination and Oath of Candidacy](#)
[2026 Election Calendars](#)

◆ Other Important Information

- [Title 13 Election Laws](#)
- The candidate declaration for nomination and oath of candidacy form cannot be filed with the appropriate filing officer before **February 17, 2026**.
- Candidates for office that file with the Secretary of State, may use the [online candidate filing](#) service to file for office and pay the filing fee, **available at 8:00 a.m. February 17, 2026**. Candidates may also file in person at the Secretary of State's office or by mail or fax (filing fee must be paid at time of filing).
- An individual cannot file as a major party, independent, or minor party candidate for a **nonpartisan** office.
- Under [MCA 13-10-201](#), a candidate may not file for **more than one office** (except for precinct committee representative and in certain local races). Similarly, for a partisan election, an elector may not file a declaration for more than one party's nomination.
- An individual who files as an **indigent** candidate is not required to pay a filing fee but must submit signatures to the county election administrator(s) totaling 5% or more of the total votes cast for the successful candidate for the same office at the last general election. For more information about filing as an indigent candidate, see the Independent/Minor Party/Indigent Candidates (2026) section on the candidate [Filing Information](#) page.