

HOW TO BECOME A CANDIDATE

In 2020, there are several national and state offices up for election including: President and Vice President of the United States, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, and all members of the Kansas Senate and Kansas House of Representatives. To help guide you through the process of becoming a candidate, please review the information below. You may also visit sos.kansas.gov or contact the Secretary of State at 785-296-4561.

KEY 2020 CANDIDATE ELECTION DATES

MONDAY, JUNE 1 (12:00 p.m.) | Partisan candidate filing deadline

MONDAY, AUGUST 3 (12:00 p.m.) | Independent candidate filing deadline

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4 | Primary Election

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 | General Election

Candidates for public office may be nominated by political party nomination or independent nomination. Democratic and Republican candidates must run in the primary election to secure their party's nomination. Candidates of other recognized Kansas political parties (currently Libertarian) do not run in the primary and are nominated for the general election by party caucus or convention. Independent candidates do not run in the primary and may only file to run for office by petition.

Candidates for national, state, legislative and judicial offices must file their candidacy with the Secretary of State. A candidate is not considered filed until their petition or declaration and fee is received by the Secretary of State (K.S.A. 25-208). Candidates must file by petition or filing fee.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Independent candidates are nominated by petitions containing 5,000 signatures of qualified Kansas voters (K.S.A. 25-303(b)). Write-in candidates must file an affidavit of write-in candidacy with the Secretary of State by 12:00 p.m. Monday, October 26, 2020 (K.S.A. 25-305(d)).

Republican, Democratic and Libertarian presidential nominees are determined by their respective political party. The Secretary of State has no oversight in this process. If you have questions on the nomination process for party candidates, please contact the respective state political party organizations.

CANDIDATE PETITION REQUIREMENTS

U.S. SENATE | Democratic and Republican primary candidates must have signatures of one percent of the party's total registration (K.S.A. 25-205(e)(1)). Independent candidates must have 5,000 signatures of registered Kansas voters (K.S.A. 25-303(b)).

NATIONAL & STATE OFFICES VOTED BY DISTRICT | Democratic and Republican primary candidates must have signatures of two percent of the party's total voter registration from the district (K.S.A. 25-205(e)(2)). Independent candidates must have signatures of four percent of the registered voters from the district; at least 25 signatures of Kansas voters but no more than 5,000 voters (K.S.A. 25-303(c)). Primary candidates for the State Board of Education must have signatures of 200 registered voters from the district (K.S.A. 25-1903(a)).

CANDIDATE FEES

When filing petition forms and filing fees, an additional fee is assessed on candidates to help support election and campaign ethics oversight.

U.S. SENATE & U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | Democratic and Republican Primary candidates must pay a fee equal to one percent of the salary of the office plus a \$20 administrative fee.

KANSAS SENATE | \$145 fee

KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | \$120 fee

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION | \$95 fee

ELECTED DISTRICT COURT JUDGE & DISTRICT ATTORNEY | Democratic and Republican Primary candidates must pay a fee equal to one percent of the salary of the office plus a \$70 administrative fee.

ELECTED DISTRICT MAGISTRATE JUDGE | \$170 fee

RESOURCES

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

www.fec.gov | 1-800-424-9530

KANSAS GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION

www.ethics.kansas.gov | 785-296-4219

KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY

www.kansasdems.org | 785-234-0425

KANSAS LIBERTARIAN PARTY

www.lpks.org | 816-810-5818

KANSAS REPUBLICAN PARTY

www.kansas.gop | 785-234-3456