

# **INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

## **2026 GENERAL ELECTION**

The deadline for submitting petitions for independent candidate nominations for the November 3, 2026 General Election is **July 27, 2026 by 5:00 p.m.** (115.329 RSMo.).

**Who Can Sign the Petition:** Any person who is a registered voter of the state within the jurisdiction for which the candidate is seeking election (Sections 115.313 and 115.321, RSMo.).

Any person who signs a name other than their own to a petition or knowingly signs their name more than once to the same petition, or who knows that they are not a registered voter at the same time of signing the petition, or willfully violates any provision of Sections 115.306-115.405 RSMo., is guilty of a class two election offense (Section 115.313 RSMo.).

In addition, no voter may sign his or her name to more than one nomination for the same office at any election (Section 115.323, RSMo.).

### **Form of Petition:**

The format is provided in Section 115.325.3, RSMo., and must:

- Consist of petition pages of uniform size (Section 115.325.1, RSMo.);
- Have signature space on either side of a petition page no larger than eight and one-half by fourteen inches (Section 115.325.1, RSMo.);
- Contain signatures of registered voters from only one county on each petition page (Section 115.325.1, RSMo.);
- Be numbered in sequence for each county (Section 115.325.1, RSMo.);
- Be sworn to by the circulator before a notary public on each petition page (Section 115.325.3, RSMo.);
- Not contain signatures from the same voter for more than one petition for one office at any election (Section 115.323, RSMo.);
- Contain all information required on the petition or attached to the petition (Section 115.321, RSMo.); and
- Be in substantially the form set forth in Section 115.325.3, RSMo.

### **Number of Signatures Required:**

- Statewide office: at least 10,000 registered voters (Section 115.321.3, RSMo.);
- District: Registered voters in the district which is equal to at least 2% of the total number of voters who voted at the last election for candidates for the office being sought or is equal to 10,000 voters, whichever is less (Section 115.321.4, RSMo.).

If you have any questions regarding the number of required signatures, please contact the Secretary of State's office at 573-751-2301.

**Other Documents Required:**

- A Declaration of Candidacy form must be filed with the petition. The Declaration of Candidacy form submitted with the petition must be sworn to by the candidate (in person) before the Secretary of State Elections Division, a notary public, or other officer authorized by law to administer oaths (Section 115.327, RSMo.);
- Proof of identity is required (for example, voter identification card or driver's license) (Section 115.355.4, RSMo.);
- Proof of completion of the Candidate's Affidavit of Tax Payments and Bonding Requirements, which is filed with the Department of Revenue (does not apply to candidates running for federal office). Information about this requirement is available at <https://dor.mo.gov/taxation/individual/candidates.html> (Section 115.306, RSMo.). This can be filed electronically at <https://sa.dor.mo.gov/candidate-affidavit>, or a fillable copy of the paper form can be found at <https://dor.mo.gov/forms/5120.pdf>.

**Where to Submit Petitions:** For federal office, statewide office, state senator, state representative, or circuit judge, submit the petition to:

Secretary of State's Office, Elections Division  
James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center  
600 West Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

A petition for a county office must be submitted to the election authority of the county. (Section 115.453(4), RSMo).