

Candidate Filing FAQs:

Q.1 When does candidate filing begin for the 2022 elections?

A. Candidate filing begins Tuesday, February 23, 2021.

Q.2 When does candidate filing end?

A. Candidate filing ends Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 9:00 p.m.

Q.3 What local offices will be on the ballot in 2022?

A. The following offices will be on the ballot in 2022

- County Executive
- County Councilmembers
- State's Attorney
- Clerk of the Circuit Court
- Register of Wills
- Sheriff
- Montgomery County Board of Education (Districts 1, 3, 5 and At-Large)
- Republican Central Committee
- Democratic Central Committee

Q.4 What other offices will be on the ballot in 2022?

A. The following offices will be on the ballot in 2020

State Offices

- Governor & Lt. Governor
- Comptroller
- Attorney General
- State Senators
- House of Delegates
- Judge of the Circuit Court
- Judges of the Court of Special Appeals (For retention in office. General Election Ballot only)
- Judges of the Court of Appeals (For retention in office. General Election Ballot only)

Federal Offices

- Representatives in Congress
- U.S. Senator

Q.5 Where does a candidate file his/her candidacy?

A. Candidates running for local County offices file their candidacy at the Board of Elections, 18753 N. Frederick Ave., Suite 210, Gaithersburg, MD 20879. Candidates running for State offices file their candidacy at the State Board of Elections, 151 West Street, 2nd Floor, Annapolis, MD 21401.

- Q.6 Does a candidate need an appointment to file for office?
- A. Yes. Due to COVID-19, all candidate filings are by appointment only. Local candidate filing appointments can be made by calling 240-777-8610. Candidates for State office can schedule an appointment with the State Board of Elections online at www.elections.maryland.gov/candidacy/candidate_filing .
- Q.7 What does a candidate need to bring to the filing appointment?
- A. The candidate will need to bring a current photo ID (driver's license, military identification, passport, or other government issued identification) and the filing fee.
- Q.8 What other documents does the candidate need to provide the Board of Elections?
- A. The Board of Elections will email/mail the necessary documents to the candidate prior to the scheduled filing appointment. These include: Candidate Information Sheet, Statement of Organization, Financial Disclosure Statement, Affidavit of Alternate Name. The candidate should return the completed documents by mail or email to the Board of Elections. The local office will pre-file the candidate with these documents before the scheduled filing appointment.
- Q.9 What is a Statement of Organization?
- A. The Statement of Organization is the document that establishes the candidate's political campaign committee. A candidate must establish an authorized candidate campaign committee before the filing appointment. The Statement of Organization must be filed with the State Board of Elections. This may be done online at www.campaignfinance.maryland.gov and electronically signed by the candidate, treasurer and chair.
- Q.10 Who can serve as an officer of the committee?
- A. The chair or treasurer must be a Maryland registered voter. The officers are not required to live in the same district as the candidate or have the same party affiliation as the candidate. A candidate may serve as chair of his or her own committee. A candidate may not serve as treasurer of the candidate's own political committee or any other Maryland political committee.
- Q.11 How much is the filing fee?
- A. The filing fee is \$25.00 for local County office and \$10.00 for Central Committee office.
- Q.12 How is the filing fee paid?
- A. The local Board of Elections accepts cash or check only. Checks should be made payable to Montgomery County, Maryland Government.

- Q.13 How will redistricting affect a filed County Council candidate?
- A. The Montgomery County Charter was amended by the voters in the 2020 General Election to require the County to be divided into seven Council Districts for the purpose of electing seven district and four at-large members of the Council. The County was previously divided into five districts. County Council candidates who file prior to the enactment of new Council District lines will sign a statement acknowledging that the Certificate of Candidacy does not reference or reflect the new districts. If applicable, the candidate's district will be changed to the correct district once enacted.
- Q.14 When will the County Council redistricting be complete?
- A. The County Redistricting Commission will present a plan of Council districts to the County Council by November 15, 2021. Within thirty days after receiving the plan, the Council will hold a public hearing on the plan. If within ninety days after presentation of the plan, no other law reestablishing the boundaries of the Council districts has been enacted, then the plan, as submitted, will become law. More information about the Commission on redistricting is available at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/BCC/redistricting.
- Q.15 Can a County Council candidate change his/her filing to At-Large after filing as a District candidate?
- A. A filed candidate has until the end of candidate filing to make that change. Candidate filing ends Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 9:00 p.m.
- Q.16 How does a candidate withdraw his/her candidacy?
- A. A candidate withdraws his/her candidacy by submitting a Certificate of Withdrawal to the appropriate election office. The Certificate may be either hand delivered or mailed. It must be received no later than 10 days after the candidate filing deadline. Postmarks and fax copies are not acceptable. Withdrawals received by mail after the deadline will not be accepted.
- Q.17 How does a candidate update or make changes to public information or social media accounts after filing his/her candidacy?
- A. Local candidates can make changes to their candidate information by contacting Montgomery County Board of Elections office at 240-777-8610. All requested changes will need to be submitted in writing or by email.
- Q.18 Who can the candidate, campaign committee chair or treasurer call if there are questions about campaign finance laws or campaign finance reporting?
- A. All questions about campaign finance are handled by the State Board of Elections Division of Candidacy and Campaign Finance Unit:
- Local 410.269.2880
 - Toll Free 800.222.8683 x 4

Q19. How many County Council candidates move on to the General Election ballot?

A. The top Republican candidate and the top Democratic candidate from each of the 7 Council District contests move on to the General Election ballot as the party nominees for each respective District. The top 4 Republican candidates and the top 4 Democratic candidates in the At-Large contest move on to the General Election ballot as the party nominees for the 4 At-Large Council seats.

Q.20 How many Board of Education candidates move on to the General Election ballot?

A. The Board of Education contest is non-partisan. The top 2 candidates from each contest move on to the General Election ballot. If no more than 2 candidates file in a District contest or At-Large contest, the contest does not appear on the Primary Election ballot. The officially filed candidates move on to the General Election ballot as the nominees in that contest.