

Candidate Filing FAQs:

Q.1 When does candidate filing begin for the 2026 elections?

A. Candidate filing begins Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Q.2 When does candidate filing end?

A. Candidate filing ends Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 9:00 p.m.

Q.3 What Federal and State offices will be on the ballot in 2026?

A. The following **Federal office** will be on the ballot in 2026

- Representatives in Congress

A. The following **State offices** will be on the ballot in 2026

- Governor / Lt. Governor
- Comptroller
- Attorney General
- State Senators
- House of Delegates
- Judge of the Circuit Court
- Justice, Supreme Court of Maryland - For retention in office. Only on General Election Ballot
- Judge, Appellate Court of Maryland - For retention in office. Only on General Election Ballot

Q.4 What Local and Party offices will be on the ballot in 2026?

A. The following **Local offices** will be on the ballot in 2026

- County Executive
- County Council (Districts 1 through 7 & At-Large)
- State's Attorney
- Clerk of the Circuit Court
- Register of Wills
- Sheriff
- Montgomery County Board of Education (Districts 1, 3, 5 and At-Large)

A. The following **Party offices** will be on the ballot in 2026

- Democratic Central Committee Members– (Legislative Districts 9A, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 39 and At-Large)
- Republican Central Committee Members – (Legislative Districts 9A, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 39 and At-Large)

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

A. Candidates running for Local County and Party offices file their candidacy at the Board of Elections, 18753 N. Frederick Ave., Suite 210, Gaithersburg, MD 20879.

A. Candidates running for Federal and State offices file their candidacy at the State Board of Elections, 151 West Street, Suite 200, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Q.6 Does a candidate need an appointment to file for office?

A. No, but to expedite the process, we encourage you to make an appointment. Local and party candidate filing appointments can be made by calling 240-777-8610. Candidates for Federal and State offices can schedule an appointment with the State Board of Elections online at [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: a Candidate Information Sheet, Statement of Organization, Financial Disclosure Statement, and Affidavit of Alternate Name. The candidate should return the completed documents by mail, email, or in person to the Board of Elections prior to the scheduled appointment. 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 [Maryland Campaign Reporting Information System](#) and electronically signed by the candidate, treasurer and chair.

Q.10 Who can serve as an officer of the committee?

A. The chair and treasurer must be Maryland registered voters. 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 contests and \$10.00 for Central Committee contests.

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 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 2 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.14 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.15 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

Q.16 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.