



Texas Secretary of State
ELECTIONS DIVISION



Review of Candidate Applications and Petitions

22nd Biennial
Election Law Seminar
for County Chairs
September 26, 2025



Topics Covered

Resources

Notice Requirements

Candidate Filing Deadlines

Methods of Filing Candidate Applications

Review of Candidate Applications

Judicial Petitions and Who Needs to File One

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2026 Candidate's Guide

Frequently Asked Questions on Candidacy and Party Affiliation

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Voter Registration for Candidates

Forms Manual (Updated)

Conducting Elections Page

Primary Election Law Calendar (Coming Soon)

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2026 Candidate's Guide

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- [2026 Candidate's Guide - Running for Federal, State, District or County Office.](#)
- [2024 Candidate's Guide - Running for Federal, State, District or County Office.](#)





2026 Candidate's Guide

- [Offices Up for Election in 2026](#)
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- [How to become a nominee of a new party or a party without ballot access in 2026](#)
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Forms Manual

Forms Manual: https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/resources_legal.shtml

Elections Form Index

Note: The links displayed within the forms section access PDF (Portable Document Format) files which can be accessed using the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Visit [Adobe.com](https://www.adobe.com) to download your copy of Acrobat Reader. All PDF documents featured on this page are configured to print out on legal size paper.

Note: Some browsers use their own PDF readers. If you experience issues with the PDF documents below, we recommend opening these files with Adobe Acrobat.

Select a Form Category

- [Section 1 – Order and Notice of an Election](#)
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Conducting Elections Page

County Chair Page: <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/chair-pol-par-laws.shtml>

Laws and Procedures Pertaining to County Chairs of Political Parties

2025 Election Advisories and Memos

- **New:** [No.2025-13](#) - Election Precincts and Polling Places (SB 985)
- [No.2025-12](#) - NEW LAW: Changes to Curbside Voting Requirements and Assistant Procedures – House Bill 521
- [No.2025-11](#) - Registering a Voter who is Part of a Confidentiality Program

Election Forms

General Election Information

- [Current Election Information](#)
- [Important Election Dates](#)



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Notice Requirements



Notice Requirement

Not later than the day before the last day of the filing period, must post notice of the address at which the county chair or secretary of the county executive committee will be available to receive applications on the last day of the filing period.

- Posted on the party's Internet website or in the location where a candidate files for a place on the ballot
- If both the county chair and the secretary will be available, include address at which each will be available.
- Recommended you post notice of where a candidate can file before the last day.
- Notice is Form 18-1
- Deadline to post is Sunday, December 7, 2025



Notice Requirement

If the deadline for filing candidate applications is extended for an office, then must post a notice of the extended filing deadline.

- Authority with whom the withdrawn, deceased, or ineligible candidate's application was filed must prepare a notice identifying the candidate and the office for which the filing deadline is extended and stating the extended deadline.
- Notice is Form 18-2



Notice Requirement

Deliver copy of the notice to:

- At least one daily newspaper published in the county;
- At least three daily newspapers that regularly maintain a news representative at the State Capitol, for a notice applicable to a statewide office; **or**
- At least one daily newspaper published in each county wholly or partly situated in the district or, if none, at least one weekly newspaper published there, if any, for a notice prepared by the state chair for a district office.



Notice Requirement

Post notice on the authority's website; **and**

Send copy of the notice to:

- Secretary of State, to be posted on the secretary of state's Internet website, for a candidate for an office filled by voters of more than one county; **or**
- County clerk, to be posted on the county's Internet website, for an office filled by voters of a single county.



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Candidate Filing Deadlines



Candidate Filing Deadlines

Candidates seeking the nomination of the Republican or Democratic Party must file:

- Candidate Application
- Filing Fee or Petition in Lieu of a Filing Fee
- Certain judicial candidates must also file additional petitions

The candidate's application, filing fee, and any accompanying petition must be filed between **November 8, 2025 and 6:00 p.m. on December 8, 2025.**

This is the first day to file an application for an office other than precinct chair.

Filed with the state party chair (state and district offices); or

County party chair (county and precinct offices)



Candidate Filing Deadlines

Candidates for Precinct Chair

- First day to file an application for the office of precinct chair was Tuesday, September 9, 2025
- Deadline to file an application is 6:00 p.m. on December 8, 2025



Candidate Filing Deadlines

Candidates for County Chair

- State executive committee, by rule, may require that an application for county chair be accompanied by a nominating petition containing signatures of at least 10% of the incumbent precinct chairs serving on the county executive committee. (Sec. 172.021)

Write-in candidates for the offices of county chair or precinct chair

- Not permitted unless the county executive committee authorizes write-in candidates for those offices. (Sec. 171.0231)

Political party may not require payment of a filing fee to apply for county chair or precinct chair. (Sec. 172.021)



Candidate Filing

NEW LAW: Pursuant to SB 901 (89th Leg., R.S.), effective September 1, 2025, a person who files an application with more than one political party (primary or convention) is ineligible for a place on the ballot for a general primary election, nomination by convention, and the succeeding general election as an independent candidate or as a write-in candidate.



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Candidate Applications and Petitions



Candidate Applications and Petitions

Application for a Place on the General Primary Ballot for a Precinct or County Chair (**Form 2-3**)

Application for a Place on the General Primary Ballot (**Form 2-4**)

Application for a Place on the General Primary Ballot for a Federal Office (**Form 2-5**)

Judicial Candidate Application for a Place on the General Primary Ballot (**Form 2-6**)

Petition in Lieu of a Filing Fee and/or Petition for Judicial Office for a Primary Election (**Form 2-7**)

Petition for a Judicial Office with the Texas Supreme Court or Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in a Primary Election (**Form 2-8**)



Candidate Applications and Petitions

Candidates for the following judicial offices must provide additional information with their application:

- Chief justice or justice of the Supreme Court;
- Presiding judge or judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals;
- Chief justice or justice of a Court of Appeals;
- District judge, including a criminal district judge; and
- Judge of a statutory county court.
- County court-at-law judge, county criminal court judge, county probate court judge

Requirements **do not** apply to a county judge



Candidate Applications and Petitions

15th Court of Appeals:

- SB 1045 (2023, R.S.) created the Fifteenth Court of Appeals effective September 1, 2024.
- Court consists of a chief justice and two justices for the first three years following the court's creation.
 - Only chief justice and justice places 2 and 3 will appear on the 2026 ballot.
 - Justice places 4 and 5 will appear on the ballot in a subsequent election.



Candidate Applications and Petitions

Candidates running for Courts of Appeals in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 14th, and 15th Districts; and

All candidates running for judicial offices, including justice of the peace, in Bexar, Dallas, Harris, and Tarrant Counties must file a Petition for Judicial Office for a Primary Election (**Form 2-7**)

- 250-signature judicial petition is required in addition to the filing fee; **or**
- 750 signatures must be collected on the Petition in Lieu of a Filing fee (if not presenting a filing fee)



Candidate Applications and Petitions

Petition for a Judicial Office with the Texas Supreme Court or Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in a Primary Election (Form 2-8)

- Candidates running for chief justice or justice of the Supreme Court; or
- Presiding judge or judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals
 - Along with filing fee, 50 signatures from each of the fifteen court of appeals districts, for a total requirement of 750 signatures; or
 - 5,000 signatures for a Petition in Lieu of a Filing Fee.



Using the Correct Application Forms

Judicial candidates **MUST** submit a judicial candidate application.

- Submitting the wrong application is grounds for rejecting an application.

Forms can be accessed on the following pages:

- Forms Manual
- 2026 Candidate's Guide

If you are having trouble accessing the new forms, clear your cache on your web browser.

How to determine if it's the correct form...



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Candidate Applications and Petitions

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Prescribed by Secretary of State
Sections 141.031, 141.039, 172.021, 172.022, 172.023, 172.024, Texas Election Code
08/2025

APPLICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE GENERAL PRIMARY BALLOT
ALL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE. Failure to provide required information may result in rejection of application.

APPLICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE _____ PARTY GENERAL PRIMARY BALLOT

To: State/County Chair _____ (Democratic or Republican)
I request that my name be placed on the above-named official primary ballot as a candidate for nomination to the office indicated below.

OFFICE SOUGHT (Include any place number or other distinguishing number, if any.) _____ **INDICATE TERM** ☐ FULL ☐ UNEXPIRED **INCUMBENT DECLARATION:** (Check this box if you are the incumbent.) ☒ INCUMBENT

FULL NAME (First, Middle, Last) _____ **PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT** _____

PERMANENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Do not include a P.O. Box or Rural Route. If you do not have a residence address, describe location of residence.) _____ **PUBLIC MAILING ADDRESS (Optional)** (Address at which you receive campaign related correspondence, if available.) _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

PUBLIC EMAIL ADDRESS (Optional) (Address at which you receive campaign related emails, if available.) _____ **OCCUPATION** (Do not leave blank) _____ **DATE OF BIRTH** ____/____/____ **VOTER REGISTRATION VUID NUMBER² (Optional)** _____

TELEPHONE CONTACT INFORMATION (Optional)
Home: _____ Office: _____ Cell: _____

FELONY CONVICTION STATUS (You MUST check one) ☐ I have not been finally convicted of a felony. **LENGTH OF CONTINUOUS RESIDENCE AS OF DATE THIS APPLICATION WAS SWORN**
☐ I have been finally convicted of a felony, but I have been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities of that felony conviction and I have provided proof of this fact with the submission of this application.¹

IN THE STATE OF TEXAS ____ year(s) ____ month(s)
IN TERRITORY/DISTRICT/PRECINCT FROM WHICH THE OFFICE SOUGHT IS ELECTED ____ year(s) ____ month(s)

¹If using a nickname as part of your name to appear on the ballot, you are also signing and swearing to the following statements: I further swear that my nickname does not constitute a slogan or contain a title, nor does it indicate a political, economic, social, or religious view or affiliation. I have been commonly known by this nickname for at least three years prior to this election. Please review Sections 52.031, 52.032 and 52.033 of the Texas Election Code regarding the rules for how names may be listed on the official ballot.

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared (name of candidate) _____, who being by me here and now duly sworn, upon oath says:
"I, (name of candidate) _____, of _____ County, Texas, being a candidate for the office of _____, swear that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of Texas. I am a citizen of the United States eligible to hold such office under the constitution and laws of this state. I have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote. I am aware of the nepotism law, Chapter 573, Government Code. I am aware that I must disclose any prior felony conviction, and if so convicted, must provide proof that I have been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities of any such final felony conviction. I am aware that knowingly providing false information on the application regarding my possible felony conviction status constitutes a Class B misdemeanor. I further swear that the foregoing statements included in my application are in all things true and correct."

X
SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the ____ day of ____ (month) ____ (year), by ____ (name of candidate).

Signature of Officer Authorized to Administer Oath³ _____ Printed Name of Officer Authorized to Administer Oath _____
Notarial or Official Seal

Title of Officer Authorized to Administer Oath _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY CHAIR OR SECRETARY OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE REQUIRED FILING FEE PAID BY:
☐ CASH ☐ CHECK ☐ MONEY ORDER ☐ CASHIERS CHECK OR ☐ PETITION IN LIEU OF A FILING FEE ☐ Voter Registration Status Verified

This document and \$ _____ filing fee or petition of _____ pages received. (See Section 1.007)

8/2025 Revision Date

Incumbent Declaration Box

Information Provided by
Filing Authority



Methods of Filing Candidate Applications

Applications can be delivered in person or by mail.

- If by mail: Must look at time of receipt, **NOT** postmark.
 - Receipt = actual possession of filing authority or agent, or time deposited in the authority's mail box.
- Application cannot be submitted in parts. All parts must be submitted at the same time!
 - If a candidate submits a filing fee along with an application, it **MAY NOT** be submitted via email or fax.
 - If a candidate submits a Petition in Lieu of a Filing Fee along with an application, those may be submitted together via email or fax.



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Review of Candidate Applications



Review of Candidate Applications

Form, Content and Procedure

- Was the candidate application submitted timely?
- Was it filled out properly?

Eligibility

- On the face of the application, does the candidate meet the eligibility requirements associated with that office?



Form, Content, and Procedure

Is the application complete?

Are all of the required boxes filled in?

Did the candidate include a petition or filing fee? Or both, for applicable judicial offices?

- Is the filing fee for the correct amount? Are there sufficient funds in their account to cover the fee?
- Did they provide enough petition signatures?
- Does the petition identify the office sought and include the candidate's name?
- Is the affidavit of circulator complete on the petition?

Does the application identify what office they are filing for?

Is the application signed by the candidate?

Was it notarized or sworn to by a person authorized to administer oaths under Chapter 602 of the Government Code?

Was the application submitted in an authorized manner?



Review of Candidate Applications

Form, Content, and Procedure (Sec. 172.0222)

- Review must be completed no later than the 5th business day after application is received (unless there is a petition).
- If application is submitted fewer than 5 business days before the regular filing deadline, review must be completed no later than the first Friday after the regular filing deadline.
- Accepting application does not preclude a later determination that there is a deficiency in the application.
- If rejecting, must do so immediately and deliver to candidate a written notice of rejection.
- Cannot challenge after the 50th day before election day. (Sec. 172.0223)
 - January 12, 2026 – Primary Election



Form, Content, and Procedure Challenges

Limitations on Challenges

- “Form, content and procedure” requirements may not be challenged after the 50th day before primary election day.
- Challenge must state with specificity how the application does not comply.
- Authority's review of challenge is limited to specific items challenged. Challenged candidate can file response with the authority.
- Does **NOT** apply to a determination of a candidate's eligibility.



Candidate Eligibility

Eligibility for Public Office

- US Citizen
- 18 years of age or older
- No final judgment indicating:
 - Totally mentally incapacitated or
 - Partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote
- No final felony conviction
 - Unless pardoned or released from resulting disabilities
- Resided continuously in the state for 12 months
- Resided continuously in the territory for 6 months
- Registered voter of the territory

NOTE: Some offices have exclusive eligibility requirements, some laws are only partially conflicting, and for some offices all of Sec. 141.001 applies.



Administrative Declaration of Ineligibility

Eligibility

- MAY administratively declare candidate ineligible if:
 - Information on candidate application indicates ineligible for office, OR
 - Conclusive public record shows ineligible.

NOTE: There is NO public record that conclusively establishes residency.



Administrative Declaration of Ineligibility

Deadline for declaration of ineligibility **in time to remove candidate from the ballot** is Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

Candidate must be given **written notice** of the declaration of ineligibility.



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Box-By-Box Review of Application



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Prescribed by Secretary of State

Sections 141.031, 141.039, 172.021, 172.022, 172.023, 172.024, Texas Election Code

08/2025

APPLICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE GENERAL PRIMARY BALLOT

ALL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED UNLESS INDICATED AS OPTIONAL¹ Failure to provide required information may result in rejection of application

APPLICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE		PARTY GENERAL PRIMARY BALLOT
To: State/County Chair		(Democratic or Republican) Box 1
I request that my name be placed on the above-named official primary ballot as a candidate for nomination to the office indicated below.		
OFFICE SOUGHT (Include any place number or other distinguishing number, if any.) Box 2	INDICATE TERM Box 3 ☐ FULL ☐ UNEXPIRED	INCUMBENT DECLARATION: (Check this box if you are the incumbent.) Box 4 INCUMBENT ☐

Box 1: If left blank, not necessarily fatal.

Box 2: Should include distinguishing number, if applicable. Does not have to be stylized any certain way as long as you can determine which office the candidate is applying for.

Box 3: Must be completed if there is another office that has the same title but does not have place numbers. If it is blank, but you understand which office the application is for, you can accept.

Box 4: If left blank, not necessarily fatal.



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FULL NAME (First, Middle, Last)	PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT*
Box 5	Box 6

Box 5: Full Name

Legal name, but does not have to exactly match legal documents.

EX: John Michael Smith, John M. Smith, John Smith

Box 6: Name as you want it to appear on ballot

Nickname rules apply.

Candidate may use any surname acquired by law or marriage.

Titles are prohibited but are not grounds for rejection.



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PERMANENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Do not include a P.O. Box or Rural Route. If you do not have a residence address, describe location of residence.)

Box 7

PUBLIC MAILING ADDRESS (Optional) (Address at which you receive campaign related correspondence, if available.)

- **Box 7: Permanent Residence Address**
 - MUST be completed by all candidates
 - Even candidates subject to confidentiality (judges and peace officers) must complete this box.
 - Certain candidates can request confidentiality
 - Candidates entitled to confidentiality under Government Code Section 552.1175 must ***separately*** request confidentiality from the filing authority for information on a candidate application
- **Box 8: Public Mailing Address, if Available.**



Candidate Eligibility

Residency

- Is the candidate a resident of the territory they would be elected from? (If applicable)
- Is the address on their application located within the territory?
- Have they resided in the territory the proper amount of time? (If there is a durational residence requirement)

NOTE: Eligibility verification by the filing authority does **NOT** include whether the candidates actually live at the address provided. This is left up to the courts.

NOTE: Texas law does **not** allow a filing authority to make a conclusive determination about the location of a person's residence. Only a court of law may make such a determination.



Candidate Eligibility

To be eligible to be a candidate for or to serve as a county or precinct chair of a political party, a person must:

- Be a qualified voter of the county
- Not be a candidate for nomination or election to, or be the holder of, an elective office of the federal, state or county government

To be eligible to be a candidate for or to serve as a **precinct chair**, a person must reside in the election precinct.



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PUBLIC EMAIL ADDRESS (Optional) (Address

at which you receive campaign related emails, if available.)

Box 9

OCCUPATION (Do not leave blank)

Box 10

DATE OF BIRTH

Box 11

/

**VOTER REGISTRATION VOID
NUMBER² (Optional)**

Box 12

TELEPHONE CONTACT INFORMATION (Optional)

Home:

Box 13

Office:

Cell:

- **Box 9: Public Email Address, if available**
 - This is what candidates should use to receive campaign email. Public address does NOT mean the candidate's county or government email address as a public official.
- **Box 10: Occupation**
 - Required per Section 141.031, Texas Election Code. However, please review [In re Anthony, 642 S.W.3d 588 \(Tex. 2022\)](#).
- **Box 11: Date of Birth**
 - Used to validate that the candidate meets minimum age requirements.
- **Box 12: VR Number (VOID)**
 - Not required, but very helpful as it can help you to validate their VR status, if applicable.
 - Also puts the candidate on notice that they need to think about their current VR status.
- **Box 13: Contact information**
 - Optional, but helpful to you if you need to contact a candidate.



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PUBLIC EMAIL ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE

CONTACT INFORMATION (This Information is Required for Candidates for Precinct Chair but Optional for Candidates for County Chair. For Precinct Chair Candidates only one Phone Number is Required).

Home:

Work:

Cell:

Email Address:

House Bill 766 (2025, R.S.) requires a candidate application for precinct chair to include either an email address at which the candidate receives correspondence relating to the candidate's campaign; a telephone number at which the candidate can be reached; or both an email address and a telephone number.



Candidate Eligibility

Voter Registration

- Is the candidate a registered voter of the territory from which they are seeking office?
- Is the candidate's registration effective?
 - by the date of the filing deadline (for place on the ballot) OR
 - election day (for write-in)?
- A candidate's registration must be **EFFECTIVE**. It is not enough to have submitted a registration application.



Effects of Redistricting on Precinct Chair Applications

House Bill 4 (89th Leg., 2nd Session) becomes effective December 4, 2025

County election officials for affected counties must begin implementation of redistricting changes locally, which may result in changes to voter registration precincts before the 2026 primary election.

Secretary of State recommends that precinct chair candidates take this process into account before submitting an application.

- Precinct chair candidate may have an application rejected later because the applicable precinct boundaries changed due to redistricting.
- Precinct chair candidates may also withdraw their application if precinct boundaries changed.
- Precinct chair candidates should file an application for the precinct in which they reside under the new boundaries.



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FELONY CONVICTION STATUS (You MUST check one)		Box 14
☐	I have not been finally convicted of a felony.	
☐	I have been finally convicted of a felony, but I have been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities of that felony conviction and I have provided proof of this fact with the submission of this application. ³	

- **Box 14: Felony Conviction Status**

- Must be completed.
- If they mark the second box, the candidate must provide documentation to provide proof that they have been pardoned or released from the resulting disabilities.
- See back of the application for a list of acceptable documents. Call SOS with questions!



Candidate Eligibility

Felony Conviction

- Does the candidate have a final felony conviction? If so, have they been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities? (NOTE: Not all offices prohibit felony convictions.)
- OAG Opinion – [KP-0251](#) – Felony Convictions and Candidacy



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LENGTH OF CONTINUOUS RESIDENCE AS OF DATE THIS APPLICATION WAS SWORN	
IN THE STATE OF TEXAS	IN TERRITORY/DISTRICT/PRECINCT FROM WHICH THE OFFICE SOUGHT IS ELECTED
_____ year(s) _____ month(s)	_____ year(s) _____ month(s)

- **Box 15: Length of Continuous Residence**

- Must be completed.
- Must indicate how long they have lived in the territory for which they are seeking office.
- Check [Qualifications for Public Office](#) chart if you have questions on requirements.



Candidate Eligibility

If the candidate describes a residence address on the face of the application within the territory and the state for the requisite amount of time, the filing authority must accept that statement.

Under Section 145.003(f) of the Texas Election Code, an administrative declaration of ineligibility may be made only if the application or a conclusive public record establishes the candidate's ineligibility.

Neither the courts nor the Texas Legislature have established a public document that conclusively establishes residency.



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Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared (name of candidate) _____, who being by me here and now duly sworn, upon oath says:

"I, (name of candidate) _____, of _____ County, Texas, being a candidate for the office of _____, swear that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of Texas. I am a citizen of the United States eligible to hold such office under the constitution and laws of this state. I have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote. I am aware of the nepotism law, Chapter 573, Government Code. I am aware that I must disclose any prior felony conviction, and if so convicted, must provide proof that I have been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities of any such final felony conviction. I am aware that knowingly providing false information on the application regarding my possible felony conviction status constitutes a Class B misdemeanor. I further swear that the foregoing statements included in my application are in all things true and correct."

Box 16

X

SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the _____ day of _____, _____, by _____.
(day) (month) (year) (name of candidate)

Signature of Officer Authorized to Administer Oath⁴

Printed Name of Officer Authorized to Administer Oath

Title of Officer Authorized to Administer Oath

Notarial or Official Seal

Box 16: Oath and Notary

- Must be completed, signed, and sworn to by candidate.
- If the candidate leaves blanks in the statement of oath, it is not fatal if the application (Not Petition) contains the applicable information.
- Mistakes by the notary are not always fatal. Please call SOS for additional guidance if that happens.



Candidate Oath

Oath and Notary

- **Was the oath properly administered and notarized?**
 - The oath must be administered by a notary public or any other person authorized to administer an oath under Chapter 602 of the Texas Government Code.
 - Party chairs cannot administer an oath unless they are a notary or otherwise authorized under Chapter 602 of the Texas Government Code.



Candidate Oath

Candidate can use an online notary to notarize their application if the notary is authorized to perform online notarizations.

- Notary may also add the required online notarial statement to the candidate application.

Section 602.003 of the Government Code allows an oath outside of Texas but inside the United States to be administered by a notary public of that state.



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TO BE COMPLETED BY CHAIR OR DESIGNEE: THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE REQUIRED FILING FEE PAID BY:	
☐ CASH ☐ CHECK ☐ MONEY ORDER ☐ CASHIERS CHECK OR ☐ PETITION IN LIEU OF A FILING FEE ☐ Voter Registration Status Verified	
This document and \$_____ filing fee or a nominating petition of _____ pages received. (See Section 1.007)	
____/____/____ Date Filed	_____ Signature of Chair or Designee Receiving Filed Application
____/____/____ or ____/____/____ Date Accepted Date Rejected	_____ Signature of Chair or Designee Upon Determination of Application

Box 17

Box 17: Completed by the Filing Authority or Designee Who Received Application

- Part of this box should be completed at the time the application has been received by the person who takes the application.
- The remainder should be filled in after it has been reviewed and a disposition has been made on the application.
- This contains information to help you know what actions have been taken and when on an application.
- Section 1.007 provides that any employee at the usual place of business can receive the filing.



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Judicial Candidates



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Prescribed by Secretary of State
Sections 141.091, 141.093, 141.089, 172.021, 172.022, 172.023, 172.024, Texas Election Code
08/2025

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE APPLICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE GENERAL PRIMARY BALLOT

PARTY GENERAL PRIMARY BALLOT

JUDICIAL APPLICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE (Democratic or Republican) _____
ALL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED UNLESS INDICATED AS OPTIONAL: Failure to provide required information may result in rejection of application.

To: State/County Chair
I request that my name be placed on the above named official primary ballot as a candidate for nomination to the office indicated below.
OFFICE SOUGHT (Include any place number or other distinguishing number, if any.) _____
INCUMBENT DECLARATION:
(Check this box if you are the incumbent.)
INCUMBENT ☐ **INCUMBENT** ☐

FULL NAME (First, Middle, Last) _____
PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT* _____

PERMANENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Do not include a P.O. Box or Rural Route, if you do not have a residence address, describe location of residence.) _____
PUBLIC MAILING ADDRESS (Optional) (Address at which you receive campaign related correspondence, if available.) _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____
CITY _____ **OCCUPATION** (Do not leave blank) _____ **DATE OF BIRTH** ____/____/____ **VOTER REGISTRATION VUID NUMBER*** (Optional) _____

PUBLIC EMAIL ADDRESS (Optional) (Address at which you receive campaign related email, if available.) _____
TELEPHONE CONTACT INFORMATION (Optional)
Home: _____ **Office:** _____ **Cell:** _____
FELONY CONVICTION STATUS (You MUST check one)
☐ I have not been finally convicted of a felony.
☐ I have been finally convicted of a felony, but I have been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities of that felony conviction and I have provided proof of this fact with the submission of this application.

LENGTH OF CONTINUOUS RESIDENCE AS OF DATE THIS APPLICATION WAS SWORN
IN THE STATE OF TEXAS _____ year(s) _____ month(s)
IN TERRITORY/DISTRICT/PRECINCT FROM WHICH THE OFFICE SOUGHT IS ELECTED _____ year(s) _____ month(s)

Please provide State Bar of Texas Number and the bar number for any other state in which the candidate has been licensed to practice law. Indicate the state where licensed and that state's bar number. If there is not sufficient space below, please attach written documentation listing the required information. Please write the name of the state or the blank provided.
Name of State: _____
Bar Number: _____
State Bar of Texas Number: _____

Disclosure of Public Sanction or Censure – State Commission on Judicial Conduct or Review Tribunal
☐ I have not been publicly sanctioned or censured, as those terms are defined by Section 33.001, Government Code, by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct or by a review tribunal.
☐ I have been publicly sanctioned or censured, as those terms are defined by Section 33.001, Government Code, by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct or by a review tribunal.
If the candidate has been issued a public sanction or censure by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct or by a review tribunal, the candidate MUST disclose the nature of the public sanction or censure. Please attach written documentation to this application describing the nature of the public sanction or censure.

Disclosure of Public Disciplinary Sanction – State Bar of Texas or Entity in Another State Responsible for Attorney Discipline
☐ I have not had a public disciplinary sanction imposed on me by the State Bar of Texas or by an entity in another state responsible for attorney discipline in that state.
☐ I have had a public disciplinary sanction imposed on me by the State Bar of Texas or by an entity in another state responsible for attorney discipline in that state.
If a public disciplinary sanction has been imposed on the candidate by the State Bar of Texas or by an entity in another state responsible for attorney discipline in that state, the candidate MUST disclose the nature of the public disciplinary sanction. Please attach written documentation to this application describing the nature of the public disciplinary sanction.

Nature of Candidate's Legal Practice, Areas of Legal Specialization, and Professional Courtroom Experience
For the preceding five years, describe the nature of the candidate's legal practice including any areas of legal specialization. If none, the candidate must state that fact.

Please attach written documentation if there is not sufficient space on the lines above.
Application Continued on Next Page.

Things to Look for:

- 8/2025 Revision Date
- Bar Number Boxes
- **TWO pages!**

Other Information

- Disclosure of Public Sanction or Censure
- Disclosure of Public Disciplinary Sanction
- Nature of Candidate's Legal Practice



Judicial Candidates

Application must include the candidate's state bar number for Texas and any other state in which the candidate has been licensed to practice law.

Application must disclose:

- Any public sanction or censure, as those terms are defined by Section 33.001 of the Texas Government Code, that the State Commission on Judicial Conduct or a review tribunal has issued against the candidate;
- Any public disciplinary sanction imposed on the candidate by the state bar; and
- Any public disciplinary sanction imposed on the candidate by an entity in another state responsible for attorney discipline in that state.



Judicial Candidates

Application must include statements describing for the preceding five years:

- The nature of the candidate's legal practice, including any area of legal specialization; and
- The candidate's professional courtroom experience.

Application must disclose any final conviction of a Class A or Class B misdemeanor in the 10 years preceding the date the candidate would assume the judicial office for which the application is filed, if elected.



Judicial Candidates

Candidate who does not hold or has not previously held the office of **chief justice or justice of the Supreme Court, presiding judge or judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, or chief justice or justice of a Court of Appeals** must include a description of the following information in their application:

- Appellate court briefs the candidate has prepared and filed in the preceding five years; and
- Oral arguments the candidate has presented before any appellate court in the preceding five years.



Texas Secretary of State
ELECTIONS DIVISION



Candidate Petitions



Which Candidates are Required to Submit a Petition?

All candidates that require a filing fee can submit a Petition in Lieu of a Filing Fee.

Independent Candidates

- There is no filing fee option for independent candidates. All independent candidates must submit a supporting nominating petition.
- Signatures must be from registered voters of the territory who did not participate in the primary election or the runoff primary election of a party that has nominated a candidate for the office sought.



Which Candidates are Required to Submit a Petition?

Primary Judicial Candidates

- Judicial Petition: 250-signature judicial petition is required in addition to the filing fee, or 750 signatures must be collected on the Petition in Lieu of Filing Fee, for the following offices:
 - Candidates running for Courts of Appeals in the **1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 14th, and 15th Districts**; and
 - All candidates running for judicial offices in **Bexar, Dallas, Harris, and Tarrant** counties



Which Candidates are Required to Submit a Petition?

Judicial candidates for the office of chief justice or justice of the Supreme Court, or presiding judge or judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals

- The minimum number of signatures that must appear on the petition is 50 from each of the fifteen court of appeals districts, for a total requirement of 750 signatures.
- 5,000 signatures for a Petition in Lieu of a Filing Fee.



Candidate Petition Review

Review of Petition

- Petition is part of the application and review should be completed as soon as practicable.
- Deficiency in the petition cannot be cured with information provided in the application.
- **Unless the petition is challenged, the authority is only required to review the petition for facial compliance with the applicable requirements as to form, content, and procedure.**



Candidate Petition Review

Validity of Petition Signatures

- For a signature to be valid, signer must be a registered voter of the territory from which the office sought is to be elected or have been issued a registration certificate that will be effective in that territory on election day.



Candidate Petition Review

Signature Requirements

- The signer's residence address;
- The date of birth OR the signer's voter registration number;
- if the territory from which signatures must be obtained is situated in more than one county, the county of registration;
- The date of signing; and
- The signer's printed name.
 - Signature is the only information that is required to appear on the petition in the signer's own handwriting.
 - Use of ditto marks or abbreviations does not invalidate a signature if the required information is reasonably ascertainable.
 - Omission of the state from the signer's residence address does not invalidate a signature unless the political subdivision from which the signature is obtained is situated in more than one state.
 - Omission of the zip code from the address does not invalidate a signature.



Candidate Petition Review

On signing a petition to be filed under Section 172.021, the signer becomes ineligible to vote in a primary election or participate in a convention of another political party during the voting year in which the primary is held. (Sec. 172.026)

Voter may not sign the petition of more than one candidate for the same office in the same election. (Sec. 141.066)



Candidate Petition Review

- Affidavit of Circulator appears at the bottom of each page of the petition, but only needs to be completed once for each circulator even if there are multiple pages of voters' signatures.
- Signatures collected must be from voters who are registered in the territory from which the office is elected.
- The Affidavit of Circulator must be administered and signed by a person authorized to administer oaths under Chapter 602 of the Government Code.



Texas Secretary of State
ELECTIONS DIVISION



Candidate Withdrawals and Public Information



Candidate Withdrawal

To be effective, withdrawal **MUST** be:

- In writing, signed, and acknowledged (sworn to) by the candidate, AND
- Timely filed with the filing authority.

Has the effect of removing name from ballot. If withdrawal submitted too late, candidate's name remains on ballot and withdrawal has no effect.



Public Information

All candidate applications, including petitions, are public upon filing (Sec. 141.035).

Confidentiality for voter registration purposes does not mean a candidate has confidentiality for candidacy purposes.

Certain candidates can request confidentiality

- Candidates entitled to confidentiality under Gov. Code Section 552.1175 must separately request confidentiality from the filing authority for information on a candidate application.



Public Information

Any individual subject to Section 552.1175 is eligible for certain protections.

- To receive confidentiality, qualified individual **MUST**:
 - (1) choose to restrict public access, AND
 - (2) notify the governmental body of their choice and provide evidence of individual's status.
- If they have submitted this request to filing authority, you may redact information without seeking OAG request. You must provide certain information to requestor – form on [OAG website](#) that you can use. (**Form Letter 552.1175**)
- If requestor wants that information, the requestor can seek a ruling from the OAG.



Important Information to Know

Questions the Office of the Secretary of State Cannot Answer

- Questions related to campaign treasurer appointments.
- Questions related to campaign finance reports.
- Questions about what words or images may or may not appear on campaign signs.
- Questions about when or where candidates may place their campaign signs.
- Questions about campaign mailers, text messages, and social media posts.



Important Information to Know

Texas Ethics Commission is the agency responsible for reviewing campaign finance and political advertising issues and filings:

- **Texas Ethics Commission**
P.O. Box 12070
Austin, Texas 78711-2070
512-463-5800

Candidates running for a federal office should direct their questions to the Federal Election Commission:

- **Federal Election Commission**
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20463
800-424-9530



Available Support



WEBINARS



TRAINING



RESOURCES

elections@sos.texas.gov

800-252-VOTE • 512-463-5650

sos.texas.gov