

2026 November General Election US House of Representatives Independent Candidate Ballot Access Quick Look One Pager



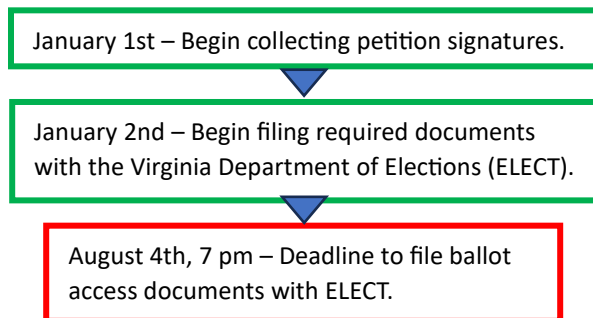
★ VIRGINIA ★
DEPARTMENT
of ELECTIONS

Additional information can be found in the US House of Representatives Candidate Bulletin found on ELECT's website:
<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/candidatepac-info/candidate-bulletins/>.

File the following documents with the **Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT)** between **1/2/26** and **7 pm, 8/4/26**.

- 1. Certificate of Candidate Qualification (Federal Office)**
[ELECT-501\(FED\)-Certificate-of-Candidate-Qualification-Federal-Offices-rev-11-10-23.pdf](https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formwarehouse/ballot-access-candidate-qualification/sbe-501-520-Certificate-of-Candidate-Qualification-Federal-Offices-rev-11-10-23.pdf)
**May be postmarked by 8/4/26 deadline if mailed registered or certified USPS mail. Be prepared to provide a copy of the receipt on 8/4/26.*
- 2. Declaration of Candidacy***
[https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formwarehouse/ballot-access-candidate-qualification/sbe-505-520-declaration-of-candidacy/ELECT-505-520-Declaration-of-Candidacy-\(Rev-7-1-24\).pdf](https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formwarehouse/ballot-access-candidate-qualification/sbe-505-520-declaration-of-candidacy/ELECT-505-520-Declaration-of-Candidacy-(Rev-7-1-24).pdf)
**Must be filed with the first petition page filed.*
- 3. Petitions of Qualified Voters***
[https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formwarehouse/ballot-access-candidate-qualification/sbe-506-521-petition-of-qualified-voters/ELECT-506-521-Petition-of-Qualified-Voters-letter-size-\(rev-5-8-24\).pdf](https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formwarehouse/ballot-access-candidate-qualification/sbe-506-521-petition-of-qualified-voters/ELECT-506-521-Petition-of-Qualified-Voters-letter-size-(rev-5-8-24).pdf)
Effective July 1, 2024 (SB165) candidates may begin collecting petition signatures on **January first of the year in which the election is held.*
**Signature Requirement: 1,000 signatures from qualified voters in the district you are seeking election.*
**While you do not need to file all petition pages at the same time, the first page filed must be filed with the Declaration of Candidacy.*
**Find more information on petitions in Virginia Administrative Code 1VAC20-50-20:
<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title1/agency20/chapter50/section20/>*

Candidate Flow Chart



The list of candidates that qualified for ballot access will be posted on ELECT's website (<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/candidate-list/>) within three weeks after the candidate filing deadline.

Contact ELECT at ea@elections.virginia.gov to confirm your status before then.