



Candidate filing information 2012

If you are considering running for office, but are not sure of the steps to follow, the following may answer some of your questions on how and when to run for elective office.

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Please note that this information is tentative and may change due to new legislation, updated salary information, or vacancies in positions.

▪ **What is candidate filing period?**

This is the time when all those who wish to file and run for elective office submit a Declaration of Candidacy with the appropriate filing officer, either the Yakima County Auditor or the Secretary of State depending upon the position for which are they filing. [\(return to top\)](#)

▪ **When is candidate filing?**

The filing period for 2012 is **May 14-18**.

The Auditor's office is open Monday–Friday from 9am–3:30pm.

Candidates may also mail in their Declaration of Candidacy as early as April 30. All declarations must be received by the last day of filing week (May 18) by 3:30pm. Declarations received after May 18 will not be valid regardless of the postmark. [\(return to top\)](#)

▪ **What is a Declaration of Candidacy?**

A Declaration of Candidacy is simply a form that declares an individual a candidate for an elective public office. A person who wants to run for office must be a registered voter in the geographical area, district or division of which he/she wishes to represent and must meet all other qualifications for the position at the time of filing. It is the candidate's responsibility to update their voter registration before filing for office and ensure that they meet any other additional qualifications. A 2012 version of the Declaration of Candidacy will be posted on our website in the coming months. [\(return to top\)](#)

▪ **How do I find out which offices are up for election?**

Partisan offices are typically up for election in even numbered years. In addition, state and county judicial nonpartisan positions are up for election. [Click here](#) for a tentative list of offices up for election in 2012. [\(return to top\)](#)

▪ **What is party preference?**

Candidates filing for partisan offices may choose to indicate a political party preference. This statement of party preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by that party. It also does not indicate that the party approves of or associates with that candidate and plays no role in determining how candidates are elected to public office. Candidates are not required to obtain approval from a political party in order to state a preference. ([return to top](#))

▪ **Where do I file for office?**

Candidates for Federal and Statewide offices file with the Office of the Secretary of State. In addition, candidates for a judicial or legislative position that crosses county lines file with the Secretary of State. Declarations of Candidacy for all other offices file with the County Auditor. ([return to top](#))

▪ **Can Declarations of Candidacy be submitted electronically via email or fax?**

Yes. However, they are only accepted contingent upon the filing officer receiving the original signed Declaration within seven (7) calendar days. In addition, if a filing fee is required of the position, the receipt of the electronic filing is conditional until the fee is received by the filing officer. ([return to top](#))

▪ **What are filing fees?**

Filing fees are equal to 1% of the annual salary of the office sought and must accompany the Declaration of Candidacy. For example, if the position has a fixed annual salary of \$42,106, the filing fee is \$421.06.

If an office has a fixed annual salary of \$1,000 or less, the filing fee is \$10.00.

If an office does not have a fixed annual salary or the officeholder receives compensation on a per diem or per meeting attended basis, there is no filing fee. There is also no filing fee for President or Vice President.

The County Auditor cannot accept payments in the form of a credit or debit card. Cash, check or money orders are acceptable methods of payment for filings submitted with the County Auditor. [Online candidate filing](#) is available for offices that file with the Secretary of State.

Filing fees are not refundable, even if an individual erroneously files for an office.

If a candidate lacks sufficient assets to pay the filing fee, they may submit a filing fee petition in lieu of the filing fee. The petition must contain at least one valid signature for each whole dollar of the required filing fee. Valid signatures are verified signatures of registered voters who are eligible to vote on the position in the General Election. All signatures must be submitted at the same time as the Declaration of Candidacy. A candidate cannot submit additional signatures at a later date. ([return to top](#))

▪ **What is Public Disclosure Reporting?**

For jurisdictions with over 1,000 registered voters at the 2011 General Election, certain Public Disclosure forms must be submitted within 2 weeks (14 days) from the first day an individual declares themselves a candidate for a position. Passed in 1972, Initiative 276 declared that the financing of election campaigns should be known and reported to the people. Visit PDC's website at www.pdc.wa.gov for more detailed information. ([return to top](#))

If you have additional questions regarding candidate filing, feel free to stop by and see us at the Yakima County Elections Division. You can also reach us on the phone at 509-574-1340 during business hours Monday – Friday, 9:00am. to 3:30pm or via email at iVote@co.yakima.wa.us.

The information presented is subject to change due to new legislation, judicial determination, or further office vacancies. It does not replace local, state and federal laws and is for informational purposes only. ([return to top](#))