Washington State Declaration of Write-in Candidacy
how to file as a write-in candidate

when to file

All declarations of candidacy must be received by the filing officer before 8 p.m. on election day. Declarations of candidacy received after this time and date, regardless of the postmark, are invalid.

where to file

- File with the Office of the Secretary of State if the office sought is federal, statewide, or is a legislative, court of appeals, or superior court office that includes more than one county. You may file in person, by mail, or email at elections@sos.wa.gov.
- File with the County Elections Office for all other offices.

cost to file

The filing fee is nonrefundable, even in the event of withdrawal

If the declaration is filed 19+ days before the election, no filing fee is required.

If the declaration is filed 18 days or less before the election a fee will be required. The filing fee is based on the salary for that office at the time of the official filing period. Filing fees or filing fee petitions must accompany the declaration of candidacy at the time of filing.

Candidates without sufficient assets or income to pay the filing fee may instead submit a filing fee petition. Petitions must include a total number of valid signatures no fewer than the dollar amount of the filing fee.

voters' pamphlet

A statement and photograph will be published only when a write-in candidate qualifies as a top two finisher in the primary.

Only write-in candidates whose names are printed on the general election ballot will appear in the general election voters' pamphlet/guide.

Write-in candidates declaring for a primary should submit a voters' pamphlet statement and photograph when filing. Doing so will meet publication deadlines if the candidate continues on to the general election ballot.

Write-in candidates for the general election do not appear on the ballot or in the voters' pamphlet/guide.

(i) other requirements:

public disclosure and campaign finance reporting with the Public Disclosure Commission

Reporting requirements are based on the office, campaign revenues, and size of jurisdiction.

State law requires most campaigns to complete a Financial Affairs Disclosure of the candidate's personal finances, and many also need to register and submit detailed reporting of campaign finances.

More information can be found at www.pdc.wa.gov.

Washington State Declaration of Write-in Candidacy
how to complete the form

1. candidate information
Your name and address must match your voter registration.

Update your voter information prior to submitting a declaration of candidacy.

You are responsible for ensuring that you meet all qualifications of the office.

2. campaign information
If you do not provide campaign information, your information as a registered voter will be used.

A telephone number, email address, or website is not required, but recommended.

Government office addresses may not be used for campaigns

3. ballot information
Print the jurisdiction, the office name and any position or district number defining the office for which you are a candidate.

The responsibility for filing for the correct office is yours.

Print your name exactly as you wish it to appear on the ballot. Nicknames are acceptable.

Titles denoting occupations, including military rank, positions on issues, political affiliation, symbols, or anything intentionally designed to mislead voters are not acceptable.

party preference information:
For a partisan office, you may choose to state a political party that you personally prefer.

A preference does not imply that you have been nominated or endorsed by the party, or that the party approves of or associates with you.

If you choose to state a party preference, enter the name of the party (limited to 18 characters).

Example

Washington State Declaration of Write-in Candidacy

1 — candidate information *as registered to vote*
James (first name)   Noothername (middle)   Doe (last)
100 Main Steet Apt Q (residential address)   Anywhere, 99999 (city / zip)
1/1/1974 (date of birth)   jamesdoe@anywhere.com (email address)   555-555-1234 (phone number)

2 — campaign contact information *for publication*
201-555-5555 (campaign phone)   jimmy4office@anywhere.com (campaign email)
PO Box 123 (mailing address (if different from residential address))   Anywhere, 99999 (city / zip)
www.jimmy4office.com (campaign website)

3 — ballot information *if qualifying*
I am a write-in candidate for: ☒ Primary ☐ General
Legislative Dist 40 (jurisdiction)   Representative (office name)   2 (position number)
Jimmy (James) Doe
exact name I would like printed on the ballot if I qualify

political party I prefer to be printed on the ballot, if filing for partisan office:
☒ (Prefers) H a p p y   V o t i n g (Party)
☐ (States No Party Preference)

4 — filing fee
☐ The office has no filing fee
☒ A filing fee of $ 454.74 accompanies the declaration of candidacy
☐ I lack sufficient funds and submit a filing fee petition in lieu of the filing fee under RCW 29A.24.091

5 — oath
I declare that the above information is true, that I am a registered voter residing at the address listed above, that I am a candidate for the office listed above, and that, at the time of filing this declaration, I am legally qualified to assume office.
I swear, or affirm, that I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington.

sign here: *Jimmy Doe*   date here: 8/2/2021

for office use only
submission date   voter registration number
office code   fee

2/2019

Only the top two candidates from the primary will be printed on the ballot for the general election.

The first letter of each word or abbreviation will be capitalized (e.g., Democratic or Ind.). Acronyms appear in all capital letters.

If you do not choose to state a party preference, "(States No Party Preference)" will be printed on the ballot.

No changes to party preference will be accepted once filed.

4. filing fee
Fill in the appropriate circle.

Applicable filing fees must accompany the declaration of candidacy. See a list of offices open for election for current filing fees.

If you lack sufficient resources at the time of filing, you may petition per RCW 29A.24.091 / RCW 29A.24.101.

5. oath
Read, sign, and date the oath. The declaration of candidacy is not complete and ready for submission until signed.

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candidate information
as registered to vote

first name   middle   last

residential address   city / zip

date of birth   email address   phone number

campaign contact information
for publication

campaign phone   campaign email

mailing address (if different from residential address)   city / zip

campaign website

ballot information
if qualifying

I am a write-in candidate for: ○ Primary   ○ General

jurisdiction   office name   position number

exact name I would like printed on the ballot if I qualify

political party I prefer to be printed on the ballot, if filing for partisan office:

○ (Prefers [ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] Party)

○ (States No Party Preference)

filing fee

○ The office has no filing fee

○ A filing fee of $ _____ accompanies the declaration of candidacy

○ I lack sufficient funds and submit a filing fee petition in lieu of the filing fee under RCW 29A.24.091

oath

I declare that the above information is true, that I am a registered voter residing at the address listed above, that I am a candidate for the office listed above, and that, at the time of filing this declaration, I am legally qualified to assume office.

I swear, or affirm, that I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington.

sign here   date here

for office use only

submission date   voter registration number

office code   fee

2/2019