

How to file for Candidacy

For the 2026 election cycle, candidates must file a Certificate of Announcement during the following period: **Monday, January 12, 2026, to midnight on Saturday, January 31, 2026.**

The Certificate of Announcement cannot be accepted prior to January 12, 2026. If the form is received or postmarked before January 12, 2026, it will be returned. Filings that are mailed must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service before midnight on January 31, 2026. If you use an express shipping service (UPS, FedEx, DHL, etc.), your filing must be received by midnight on January 31, 2026, in the correct filing office. The dates provided by these services are not equivalent to postmarks. Check with the appropriate filing office for hours of operation on the last day of filing.

Where to File

- Secretary of State: candidates for Federal office, Statewide office, State Senate, House of Delegates, judicial office (excluding Magistrate), and those running for an office spanning more than one county.
- County Clerk: candidates for an office which is entirely within one county that are not listed as filing with the Secretary of State above, including Magistrate.
- Municipal Recorder: candidates for a municipal office.

If you are filing with the Secretary of State, you may pay by check, credit card, cash, or money order. If payment is by check and it is returned for insufficient funds, you will not be certified as a candidate until the filing is resubmitted with sufficient payment. Checks should be made payable to the Secretary of State's Office.

Please contact your county clerk for specific fees for county offices and the type of payment they can accept.

Important: Filing the Certificate of Announcement with the correct office is crucial. If the document is not received in the correct filing office or mailed by the deadline you will not be certified as a candidate. Late filings cannot be accepted.

STATE SENATE

- Term: 4 years
- Salary: \$20,000
- Filing Fee: \$200
- Minimum Age: 25 years
- Residence: Citizen of West Virginia
- for 5 years prior to election. Resident of
- district or county 1 year prior to election.

17 of the 34 seats in the state senate will be up for election to full terms in 2026.

No candidate is eligible to file if residing in a county and within the same district is already represented by a seated senator.

Senatorial District 10

Bold indicates counties that are entirely within the senate district.

Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe, Nicholas, Summers

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

- Term: 2 years
- Minimum Age: 18 years
- Salary: \$20,000
- Residence: Resident of district or county 1 year prior to election.
- Filing Fee: \$100

All 100 seats in the House of Delegates will be on the ballot in 2026. The candidate must know their correct district number before filing.

Greenbrier Districts

46 Greenbrier, Pocahontas

47 Greenbrier, Monroe

48 Nicholas, Greenbrier, Webster

COUNTY COMMISSION

- Term: 6 years
- Salary: Based on County
- Classification (W. Va. Code § 7-7-4)
- Filing Fee: One percent of the
- annual salary. Contact the County
- Clerk for filing fee.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Term: 4 years
- Compensation: See W. Va. Code § 18-5-4
- Filing Fee: \$25
- Minimum Age: 18 years
- Residence: Resident of open magisterial district.
- Minimum Age: 18 years
- Residence: Resident of open magisterial district.
- Qualification: High School diploma or GED; Training required prior to taking office.

Each of the 55 county school systems is governed by a five-member nonpartisan board of education. No more than two members may be elected or serve from the same magisterial district. The residence of board members continuing in office after July 1, 2024, will determine which magisterial districts have openings in the 2026 Primary Election. New terms begin July 1, 2026.