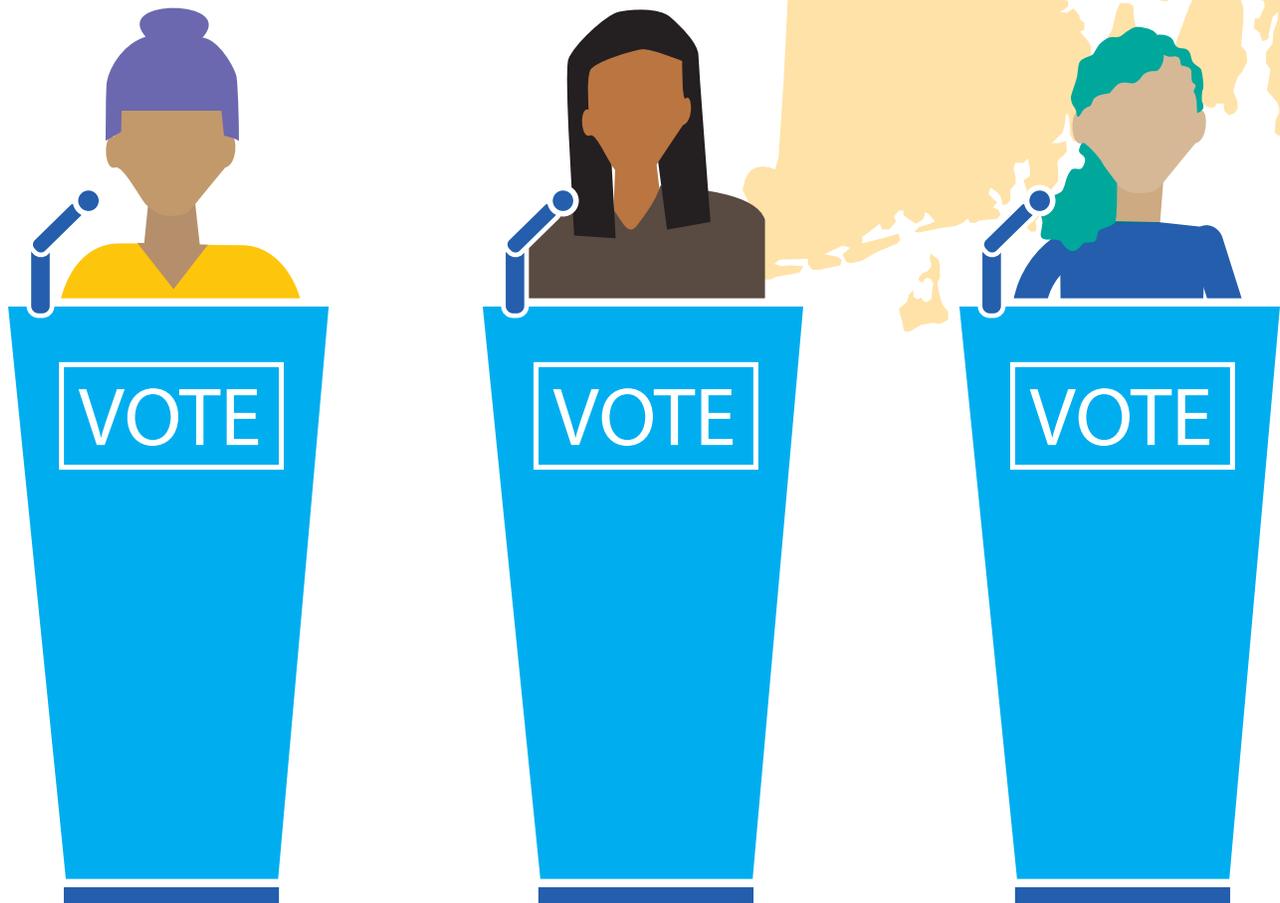


Run for Office Guide

2024

Rhode Island guide for candidates



This guide was produced by
the Rhode Island Department of State

📞 401-222-2340

✉️ elections@sos.ri.gov

🌐 vote.ri.gov

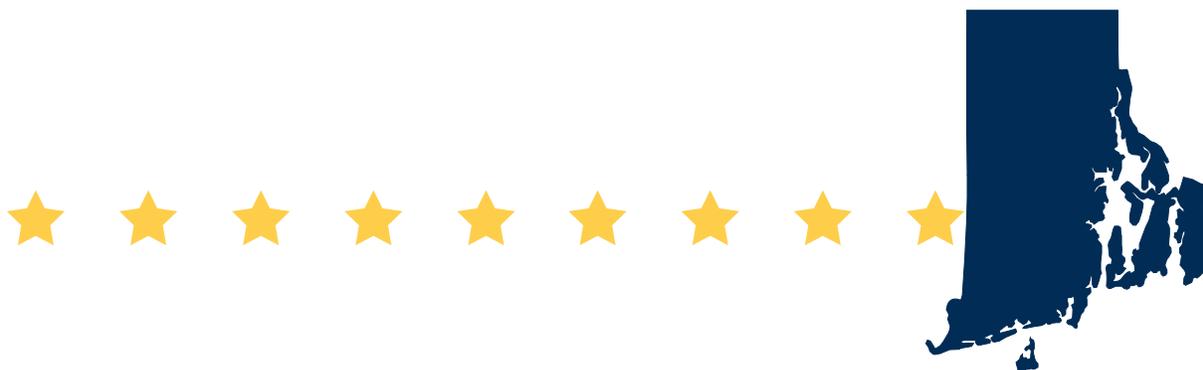
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Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State



Dear Potential Candidate,

I applaud your interest in serving the public as an elected official.

As a former history and civics teacher, I taught students for many years about the importance of being civically engaged, and this is one of the most important principles I bring with me into my role as Secretary of State. Participating in our democracy – whether as a voter, candidate, or elected official – is an essential part of civic engagement.

This digital guide contains all of the information you will need to run for office in the September primary and November general election, including filing deadlines and contact information for your local election officials.

We are happy to provide a hard copy of the guide upon request. If you need additional information, please contact our Elections Division at 401-222-2340, TTY 711 or elections@sos.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

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NOTE: The determinations in this booklet are a matter of interpretation and are intended solely as a guide. They do not constitute official interpretation of state law. All statutory references are to Title 17 of the General Laws, 1956, as amended, as of December 31, 2023.

Important Candidate Deadlines



March 26, 27, and 28	Deadline for candidates to disaffiliate from their political party to run as a candidate from another party. Deadline depends on the date a candidate files Declaration of Candidacy.
May 25, 26, and 27	Deadline for candidates to register to vote in order to be able to run for office. Deadline depends on the date a candidate files Declaration of Candidacy.
June 24, 25, and 26	Period for candidates to file Declaration of Candidacy.
June 27	Deadline for endorsements to be filed for local and state candidates.
June 28	Deadline for endorsements to be filed for federal candidates.
July 2	Date candidates may pick up their nomination papers.
July 12	Deadline all candidates (except independent presidential electors) must submit nomination papers to local boards of canvassers.
July 15	Deadline for candidates for local office to file withdrawals of candidacy.
July 19	Ballot placement lottery for primary and general election.
July 19	Deadline for candidates for federal or state office to file withdrawals of candidacy.
September 6	Deadline presidential electors for independent presidential candidates must submit nomination papers to local boards of canvassers.
September 10	PARTY PRIMARIES
September 13	Ballot placement lottery for independent presidential candidates.
November 5	GENERAL ELECTION

Ballot Access Process for Independent and Third-Party Presidential Candidates

Declaration of Candidacy – Presidential Electors

Up to four (4) registered Rhode Island voters seeking to become the presidential electors of an independent presidential candidate may file a Declaration of Candidacy form provided by the Department of State Elections Division during the last consecutive Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in June of the presidential election year. Each elector must file a separate Declaration of Candidacy form. [RIGL §[17-14-1](#)] and [RICR-[20-00-1](#)]

Filing Dates: June 24, 25, and 26, 2024

Filing Deadline: June 26, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Authorization to Run as an Elector

During the period for filing declarations of candidacy, the independent presidential candidate, or, in the case where the name of the presidential candidate has not yet been determined, the independent political organization, must file a statement with the Department of State Elections Division indicating the names and addresses of the individual(s) approved by the presidential candidate or organization, as the case may be, to be the candidate(s) for presidential electors for the presidential candidate and/or political organization. [RICR-[20-00-1](#)]

Filing Dates: June 24, 25, and 26, 2024

Filing Deadline: June 26, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Pick up nomination papers

Nomination papers will be prepared by the Department of State Elections Division. Each nomination paper shall contain the names and addresses of all candidates qualified and approved to be an independent presidential elector for the respective independent organization and/or presidential candidate. Candidates can pick up nomination papers at the Department of State Elections Division, 148 W. River St., Providence, RI. Persons other than candidates picking up nomination papers must have written authorization from the candidate. [RIGL §[17-14-4\(a\)\(c\)](#)]

You may pick up your nomination papers on **July 2nd**.

Number of signers required on nomination papers

Presidential electors for independent or third party presidential candidates must obtain one thousand (1,000) valid signatures to qualify for ballot placement. [RIGL §[17-14-7](#)]

Deadline to submit nomination papers

Presidential electors for independent presidential candidates submit nomination papers to local boards of canvassers. Nomination papers must be submitted on or before the 60th day before the general election. [RIGL §[17-14-11](#)]

Deadline: September 6 by 4:00 p.m.

Deadline to certify names of party and independent presidential candidates.

If the presidential electors qualify for ballot placement, the independent candidate, or an authorized representative from the third party should certify to the Department of State Elections Division the names of their candidate for President and Vice President. [RIGL §[17-14-12](#)]

Deadline: September 12 by 4:00 p.m.

Ballot placement lottery

The Department of State Elections Division shall conduct a lottery to determine ballot placement of presidential electors for independent presidential candidates for the general election ballots. Lottery will be conducted at the Department of State Elections Division, 148 W. River St., Providence, RI. [RICR-[20-00-1](#)]

Date of ballot placement lottery: September 13 at 5:00 p.m.



Deadline to register to vote in order to run for office is **no later than Monday, May 27th.**

Eligibility to Run for Office

You must be a registered voter in Rhode Island and live within the district for the office you seek*. See chart below for other requirements.

Office	Age	State Residence	U.S. Citizen	Years in Term	# of Terms
President	35	N/A	14 years - yes, natural born	4	2
Vice President	35	N/A	14 years - yes, natural born	4	no limit
Presidential Elector	18	30 days	yes	N/A	no limit
U.S. Senator	30	yes	9 years	6	no limit
U.S. Representative*	25	yes	7 years	2	no limit
State Senator	18	30 days	yes	2	no limit
State Representative	18	30 days	yes	2	no limit
Local Offices	18	30 days in district	yes	Check with Local Board of Canvassers	

* Candidates for U.S. Representative must live in Rhode Island, not necessarily the district in which they are running.

Party Eligibility

Affiliated candidates:

If you plan on running as a party candidate, you must be a member of that particular party (Democrat or Republican) or unaffiliated at the time of filing your Declaration of Candidacy.

Independent/unaffiliated candidates:

You are eligible to file a Declaration of Candidacy as an independent (also known as unaffiliated) candidate if, at the time of filing the Declaration of Candidacy, you are qualified to vote in the election within the district for the office which you seek.

The following chart may help you understand your options:

If you are registered as a:	You are eligible to run as a:		
	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Democrat	Yes	No*	Yes
Republican	No*	Yes	Yes
Independent	Yes	Yes	Yes

* If you belong to one party and want to run as a candidate for another party, you must change your party at least 90 days prior to the date you will file your Declaration of Candidacy. **You must file a disaffiliation no later than March 28th.**



Deadline to file a disaffiliation is **March 28th.**

Disaffiliation

What is disaffiliation?

When you no longer wish to be a member of a particular political party, you must sign a form to “disaffiliate” from that party. Forms are available at the local boards of canvassers. You can also disaffiliate at vote.ri.gov.

Do I have to disaffiliate?

If you want to run as a candidate for a party other than the one to which you are registered, the following chart may help you understand your filing options:

If you are registered as a:	Are you required to disaffiliate if you wish to run as a:			
	Democrat	Republican	No Labels	Independent
Democrat	No	Yes	Yes	No
Republican	Yes	No	Yes	No
No Labels	Yes	Yes	No	No
Independent	No*	No*	No*	No

* By declaring to be a candidate in a primary you will then become a member of that party.



You must disaffiliate at least 90 days before you file your Declaration of Candidacy.

When is the deadline to disaffiliate?

If you file your Declaration of Candidacy on:	You must file your disaffiliation, if necessary, no later than:
June 24th June 25th June 26th	March 26th March 27th March 28th

Where can I disaffiliate?

You must disaffiliate with the local Board of Canvassers in the city or town where you are registered to vote.

You can disaffiliate at vote.ri.gov or you can file your disaffiliation by completing a new voter registration form, keeping in mind that a mailed registration form must be received by the above deadlines.



Your Declaration of Candidacy must be filed on **June 24th, 25th, or 26th.**

Filing a Declaration of Candidacy

Declaration of Candidacy:

The Declaration of Candidacy is the document you sign to start the process of becoming a candidate. You “declare” yourself as a candidate for a particular office and if you wish to run as a party candidate, you also “declare” yourself to be a member of that party.

Do I need to file a Declaration of Candidacy to run for office?

Yes. All candidates for all public and party offices must file a Declaration of Candidacy.

Where do I get a Declaration of Candidacy form?

The Declaration of Candidacy form is available on our website at vote.ri.gov.

The Declaration of Candidacy form is also available at:

- › Department of State Elections Division at 148 W. River St., Providence, RI.
- › Local Board of Canvassers in each city and town. See addresses on page 21.

How do I file my Declaration of Candidacy form?

Complete the form online and print it out. You must then sign it and deliver or mail the form. The form must be received by 4:00 p.m. on June 26th.



Declarations of Candidacy must contain original signatures. Your completed form cannot be faxed or emailed.

Where do I file my Declaration of Candidacy form?

Candidates for:	File your Declaration of Candidacy at:
Federal Public Office: Independent Presidential Electors Senator in Congress, Representative in Congress	Department of State Elections Division, 148 W. River St., Providence, RI.
State Public Office: Senator in General Assembly, Representative in General Assembly	Local Board of Canvassers in the city or town where you are registered to vote.
Local Public Office* : Mayor/Town Administrator Council School Committee	Local Board of Canvassers in the city or town where you are registered to vote.
State Party Committee Office: Senatorial District Committee Representative District Committee	Local Board of Canvassers in the city or town where you are registered to vote.
Local Party Committee Office: City/Town/Ward Committee	Local Board of Canvassers in the city or town where you are registered to vote.

* Contact your local Board of Canvassers for a full listing of local public offices in your city/town.

Can I file a Declaration of Candidacy form for more than one office?

You cannot file a Declaration of Candidacy for more than one public, state or local office in a primary or election.

However, if you file for a state or local public office, you can still file for state or local party offices. Party offices are offices elected in a primary. You must file a separate Declaration of Candidacy for every office you seek.

Example: You may file a Declaration of Candidacy as a Democrat for representative in General Assembly and another Declaration of Candidacy as a Democrat for Democratic representative district committee.

You can file a Declaration of Candidacy for more than one state or local party office.

Example: You can file a Declaration of Candidacy for Democratic senatorial district committee and file a Declaration of Candidacy for Democrat town committee.

Additionally, you may NOT file for the same office under different party labels.

Example: You may NOT file a Declaration of Candidacy for senator in General Assembly as a Democrat and file a Declaration of Candidacy for senator in General Assembly as an independent/unaffiliated candidate.



If a voter files a Declaration of Candidacy for more than one state or local public office during the declaration period, the last declaration filed shall negate any previous filings.

If I am an independent/unaffiliated voter, and file a Declaration of Candidacy as a party candidate, does that automatically make me a member of that party?

Yes.

Example: If you are an independent/unaffiliated voter and file a Declaration of Candidacy as a Democrat, you are automatically registered as a member of the Democratic Party. Filing a Declaration of Candidacy is sufficient to bind you to that party even if you do not circulate nomination papers or you do not vote in the primary.

Endorsements

What is an endorsement?

This is the process whereby party officials designate their preferred candidate(s) representing their party in a primary, and if no primary, in the general election.

Who makes the endorsements and where are they filed?

It depends on the office for which you are running. The following chart should help:

For the office of:	Endorsement by:	Endorsements are filed at:	Required signatures	Deadline to be filed
Senator in Congress, Representative in Congress	State Committee	Department of State Elections Division	See RIGL 17-12-4	Not later than June 28th
Senator in General Assembly*	Senatorial District Committee	Local Board of Canvassers where endorsed candidate resides	A majority of the members of the committee	Not later than June 27th
Senatorial District Committee*	Senatorial District Committee	Local Board of Canvassers where endorsed Senate candidate resides	A majority of the members of the committee	Not later than June 27th
Representative in General Assembly*	Representative District Committee	Local Board of Canvassers where endorsed candidate resides	A majority of the members of the committee	Not later than June 27th
Representative District Committee*	Representative District Committee	Local Board of Canvassers where endorsed Representative candidate resides	A majority of the members of the committee	Not later than June 27th
Local Offices, City/Town/Ward Committee	City/Town/Ward Committee	Local Board of Canvassers	Three officers of the committee	Not later than June 27



*** For Providence only:** Endorsements of candidates for senator in General Assembly, representative in General Assembly and senatorial or representative district committee in the City of Providence must be filed at the Department of State Elections Division, 148 W. River St., Providence, RI.

What happens if I am the endorsed candidate for a public office?

If you are the endorsed candidate for a public office such as senator in General Assembly or town council, you will be issued nomination papers and you must submit the required number of valid signatures in order to qualify to be on the ballot.

What happens if I am the endorsed candidate for a party office?

If you are the endorsed candidate for a party office such as representative district committee or town committee, you do not need to gather signatures. The filing of the endorsement by the particular committee is sufficient to nominate you to the party office.

What happens if I am unendorsed as a party candidate for public office?

If you are an unendorsed candidate for a public office such as senator in General Assembly or town council, you will be issued nomination papers and you must submit the required number of valid signatures in order to qualify to be on the ballot.

What happens if I am unendorsed as a party candidate for a party committee office?

If you are an unendorsed candidate for a party office such as representative district committee or town committee, you will be issued nomination papers and you must submit the required number of valid signatures in order to qualify to be on the ballot.

Candidates for:	Endorsed:	Not endorsed:
Federal Public Office: Senator in Congress, Representative in Congress	Candidates need nomination papers	Candidates need nomination papers
State Public Office: Senator in General Assembly, Representative in General Assembly	Candidates need nomination papers	Candidates need nomination papers
Local Public Office: Mayor/Town Administrator Council School Committee	Candidates need nomination papers	Candidates need nomination papers
State Party Committee Office: Senatorial District Committee Representative District Committee	Candidates do not need nomination papers	Candidates need nomination papers
Local Party Committee Office: City/Town/Ward Committee	Candidates do not need nomination papers	Candidates need nomination papers



Anyone other than candidates picking up nomination papers from the Department of State Elections Division must have written authorization from the candidate.

Nomination Papers

What are nomination papers?

Nomination papers are the forms on which you will obtain valid signatures, that is, signatures of registered voters who are eligible to vote for the office that you are seeking. In order to be on the ballot, you will need to obtain a specified number of valid signatures on your nomination papers.

Who needs nomination papers?

All candidates for federal, state, and local public office need nomination papers.

The only candidates who do NOT need nomination papers are ENDORSED candidates for party offices (i.e. state, district, city, town, or ward committees). However, UNENDORSED candidates for state, district, city, town, or ward committees MUST gather signatures on nomination papers.

How many signatures are required on nomination papers in order to qualify?

If you are running for:	Number of valid signatures required:
Independent Presidential Electors	1,000
Senator in Congress	1,000
Representative in Congress	500
Senator in General Assembly	100
Representative in General Assembly	50
Senate and Representative	50
District Committees (Unendorsed only)	
Local Offices	Check with your local Board of Canvassers.

When and where do I pick up my nomination papers?

You may pick up your nomination papers on **July 2nd**.

Independent presidential electors and candidates for Senator and Representative in Congress:

You must obtain your nomination papers from the Department of State Elections Division, 148 W. River St., Providence, RI.

All other offices:

(Senator in General Assembly, Representative in General Assembly, party offices and local offices except for Providence.)

You must obtain your nomination papers from the local Board of Canvassers where you filed your Declaration of Candidacy, except for Providence.

Providence Candidates only:

(Senator in General Assembly, Representative in General Assembly, or senatorial or representative district committee in the City of Providence.)

You must obtain your nomination papers from the Department of State Elections Division, 148 W. River St., Providence, RI.



Signers on a nomination paper must be from the city or town listed at the top of the nomination paper.

Who can sign my nomination papers?

ANY registered voter who is eligible to vote for the office for which you seek election.

Example: A voter who is registered in the First Congressional District can sign your nomination papers if you are running for the office of Representative in Congress in District 1, but that voter cannot sign your nomination papers if you are running for the office of Representative in Congress in District 2.

Does the signer have to be a member of the same political party listed on the nomination paper?

The voter DOES NOT need to be a member of the political party listed on the nomination paper.

Example: A registered Democrat can sign the nomination papers of a Democratic candidate, Republican candidate, or an independent/unaffiliated candidate.

Does it make a difference which of my papers a voter signs?

Yes. At the top of each nomination paper there is a space for you to indicate the city/town in which the signers are registered voters.

Example: A registered voter in Providence must sign a nomination paper that lists “Providence” at the top of the paper. This is the paper that you will return to the Providence Board of Canvassers. The Providence Board of Canvassers will certify signatures on this paper. If a Cranston voter signs a Providence nomination paper, that signature will not be certified since the nomination paper will be reviewed only by the Providence Board of Canvassers.

If a voter signs a nomination paper of a party candidate, does that automatically make the voter a member of that party?

No. The act of signing nomination papers does not make the voter a member of that political party.

How many papers can a person sign?

There is no restriction on the number of nomination papers a person can sign for federal and state candidates. However, your signature can only be counted once for each candidate.

When and where do I return my nomination papers?

Nomination papers for:	Must be returned by:	Must be returned to:
All candidates (except independent presidential electors)	July 12th at 4 p.m.	Local Board of Canvassers in the city or town listed at the top of the nomination paper
Independent presidential electors	September 6th at 4 p.m.	Local Board of Canvassers in the city or town listed at the top of the nomination paper

How do I know if I qualified for ballot placement?

Candidates for federal, state, and local office can check our website at vote.ri.gov. As certified nomination papers are received from the local boards of canvassers, we will enter the number of valid signatures for each candidate into our database. This information will be updated in real time during the nomination paper certification process (**July 2nd through July 18th**) with the final posting available on July 19th after the ballot placement lottery.

Withdrawal of Candidacy

If I file a Declaration of Candidacy, can I decide not to run?

Yes, but you must file a withdrawal of candidacy.

When and where do I file a withdrawal of candidacy?

If you filed as a:	File a withdrawal by:	File a withdrawal with:
Party or independent/unaffiliated candidate for local office	Not later than July 15th	Local Board of Canvassers where you filed your Declaration of Candidacy
Party nominee or independent/unaffiliated candidate for federal or state office	Not later than July 19th	Department of State Elections Division
Independent presidential electors	Not later than September 13th	Department of State Elections Division

Can I withdraw if I am the party’s nominee for the office that I am seeking?

Yes. If you are the party’s nominee for the office that you are seeking (i.e. you are the candidate that will appear on the November ballot for your party) you can withdraw.

Keep in mind that you have to withdraw by **September 13th** in order for the party to name another candidate to fill the vacancy.

Ballot Placement - Primary

Will there be a primary for the office that I am seeking?

A primary is necessary when two or more individuals from the same political party qualify for ballot placement for the same office.

There will be no primary for the office you seek if: (1) no one else filed a valid Declaration of Candidacy as a party candidate from the same party for the same office that you are seeking; (2) no one else filed timely nomination papers containing the requisite number of signatures for the same office that you are seeking under the same political party; or (3) the other candidate(s) who qualified for the same office under the same political party withdrew according to state law.

In primaries where the voter casts a vote for more than one candidate for an office, there is no primary when the number of candidates qualified for ballot placement equals or is less than the number to be elected.

Example: In a town council race where the voters are allowed to vote for any five candidates, there is no primary when the number of candidates from the same political party qualified for ballot placement is five or less.

If I run as a candidate for public office, when does my name appear on the primary ballot?

Names of federal, state, and local candidates for public office where there is a primary appear on the **September 10th** primary ballot.

Please note that the names of unopposed party candidates for federal and state office also appear on the primary ballot. However, when there is no primary opposition for the office you are seeking, you are automatically the nominee of your party for said public office and your name will also appear on the November ballot.

Names of unopposed party candidates for local office do not appear on the primary ballot.

If I run as a candidate for a party office, when does my name appear on the ballot?

Party offices are elected at the time of the primary being held for the party. For example, senatorial and representative district committees will be elected on **September 10th**.

In elections for party offices where the voter casts a vote for more than one candidate for an office (i.e. vote for any five members of a senatorial district committee), there is no election when the number of candidates qualified for ballot placement equals or is less than the number to be elected. In this case, party office candidates are automatically elected to the positions and their names do not appear on the ballot.

How will my name appear on the primary ballot?

Your name will be printed on the ballot as it appears on the voting list. On the declaration of candidacy form, there is a section at the bottom for you to clearly print how your name should appear. You should include any capitalization, punctuation, spaces, and suffix in the spelling of your name. You also have the option to abbreviate or omit your middle name.

How is my ballot placement determined if I am a candidate in a primary?

The endorsed candidate for each federal, state, and local office will appear first directly under the title of office that is being sought and will have an asterisk (*) next to their name. For local offices where there is more than one endorsed candidate, the names of the endorsed candidates shall be listed in the order in which they were certified to the Department of State Elections Division by the local Board of Canvassers.

The unendorsed candidate or candidates for federal and state offices will follow on the ballot. If there is more than one unendorsed candidate, they will be listed on the ballot in the order chosen by a lottery conducted by the Department of State Elections Division.

The unendorsed candidate or candidates for local offices will be listed in alphabetical order following the name or names of the endorsed candidate or candidates.

When are the lotteries conducted for ballot placement for the primary?

The Department of State Elections Division will conduct a lottery on **July 19th at 5 p.m.**, at 148 W. River St., Providence, RI, to determine ballot placement for unendorsed federal and state party candidates for primary ballots.

Ballot Placement - General Election

How will my name appear on the general election ballot?

Your name will be printed on the ballot as it appears on the voting list. On the Declaration of Candidacy form, there is a section at the bottom for you to clearly print how your name should appear. You should include any capitalization, punctuation, spaces, and suffix in the spelling of your name. You also have the option to abbreviate or omit your middle name. Party candidates will be listed on the ballot along with the name of their political party. Independent/unaffiliated candidates will be listed on the ballot along with the name of their “political principle, movement, or organization” in small print or the word “Independent” when no “political principle, movement, or organization” is listed on the candidate’s Declaration of Candidacy.

How is my ballot placement determined if I am a candidate in the general election?

The order in which the political parties appear on the general election ballot is determined by a lottery conducted by the Department of State Elections Division. The order in which federal and state independent/unaffiliated candidates appear on the ballot beneath the party candidates is also determined by a lottery conducted by the Department of State Elections Division. For local public offices the city/town selects the method of ballot placement.

When are the lotteries conducted for ballot placement for the general election?

The Department of State Elections Division will conduct a lottery on **July 19th at 5 p.m.** at 148 W. River St., Providence, RI, to determine ballot placement of party candidates and federal and state independent/unaffiliated candidates for the general election ballots.

The Department of State Elections Division will conduct a lottery on **September 13th at 5 p.m.** at 148 W. River St., Providence, RI, to determine ballot placement of independent presidential candidates for the general election ballot.

Election Day Activities

Are there any restrictions on activities at the polling places on Election Day?

Rhode Island General Law, Section [17-19-49](#) currently prohibits the display or distribution of any poster, paper, circular, or document that would aid, injure, or defeat any candidate for public office or any political party or any question on the ballot.

This law prohibits such display within the voting place or within fifty (50) feet of the entrance or entrances to the building in which voting is taking place at any primary or election.

Election officials, that is, wardens, moderators, clerks, and bi-partisan supervisors, assigned to a polling place are also prohibited from displaying or wearing any political party button, badge, or other device that is intended to aid, injure, or defeat the candidacy of any person for public office or any question on the ballot or to intimidate or influence any voter.

The State Board of Elections has oversight of the conduct of elections at polling places and that office should be contacted if you have any specific questions as to what campaigning is allowed. Their contact information can be found on page 22.

Campaign Finance

For state and local candidates, Title 17, Chapter 25 of the Rhode Island General Laws entitled “Rhode Island Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting” governs campaign finance.

The Campaign Finance Division of the State Board of Elections administers this chapter of the Rhode Island General Laws. The State Board of Elections also promulgates rules and regulations regarding campaign finance.

The Campaign Finance Division provides information relative to campaign finance reporting requirements as well as information on contribution and expenditure limits and restrictions relative to financing a campaign.

The Campaign Finance Division will also provide information regarding public financing of election campaigns of candidates for statewide general offices.

For further information regarding campaign finance, contact:

State Board of Elections

2000 Plainfield Pike, Suite A

Cranston, RI 02921

Phone: 401-222-2345

Fax: 401-222-4424

Email: campaign.finance@elections.ri.gov

Website: elections.ri.gov

Federal candidates running for office in Rhode Island should contact the Federal Election Commission for campaign finance requirements.

Federal Election Commission

Phone: 1-800-424-9530

Website: www.fec.gov

2024 Campaign Finance Calendar

Note: “NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION”

Any candidate for public office, as defined in §[17-25-3](#), is required to file a “Notice of Organization” with the State Board of Elections prior to receiving any contributions or expending any money in the furtherance or aid of their candidacy or at the time of filing their declaration of candidacy, whichever occurs first. (Note: Persons who have a “Notice” on file with the State Board of Elections and who regularly file reports with the Board are required to file an amended “Notice” whenever there is a change to information therein contained.)

For further information regarding campaign finance requirements, contact:

State Board of Elections

2000 Plainfield Pike
Cranston, RI 02921

Phone: 401-222-2345
Fax: 401-222-4424

Email: campaign.finance@elections.ri.gov
Website: www.elections.ri.gov

January 31 (not later than) **POLITICAL PARTY COMMITTEES – TREASURER**

Designation of a campaign treasurer by each state and municipal committee of a political party. [RIGL §[17-25-9](#)]

March 1

ANNUAL REPORTS

Each state and municipal committee of a political party must file an annual report setting forth in the aggregate all contributions received and expenditures made during the previous calendar year. [RIGL §[17-25-7\(b\)](#)]

April 30

(For reporting period January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024)

QUARTERLY ONGOING REPORTS

Reports are due from candidates, political parties, and political action committees. [RIGL §[17-25-11](#)]

July 31

(For reporting period April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024)

QUARTERLY ONGOING REPORTS

Reports are due from candidates*, political parties, and political action committees.

* New candidates who file their initial “Notice of Organization” during the declaration period need not file this report. The first report of contributions received and expenditures incurred shall be due as follows:

- › IF A CANDIDATE IN THE PRIMARY, the report for the period between the date of declaration and August 12, 2024, shall be due on August 13, 2024.
- › IF NOT A CANDIDATE IN THE PRIMARY, the report for the period between the date of declaration and October 7, 2024, shall be due on October 8, 2024. [RIGL §[17-25-11](#)]

August 13

(For reporting period July 1, 2024 through August 12, 2024)

PRE-PRIMARY REPORTS

On-going candidates, political parties, and political action committees that are participating in a primary must file reports 28 days prior to the party primaries. [RIGL §[17-25-11\(a\)\(2\)](#)]

- September 3** (For reporting period August 13, 2024 through September 2, 2024)
PRE-PRIMARY REPORTS
 All candidates, political parties, and political action committees that are participating in a primary must file reports 7 days prior to the party primaries. [RIGL §[17-25-11\(a\)\(2\)](#)]
- October 8** **PRE-ELECTION REPORTS**
 Candidates, political parties, and political action committees that are participating in the election must file reports 28 days prior to the election.
 If the candidate, political party, or political action committee:
- › PARTICIPATED IN THE PRIMARY (Does not include unsuccessful primary candidates - See October 8, 2024) the reporting period is September 3, 2024 thru October 7, 2024.
 - › DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PRIMARY the reporting period is date of declarations for new candidates and July 1, 2024 for on-going campaigns thru October 7, 2024. [RIGL §[17-25-11\(a\)\(2\)](#)]
- October 8** (For reporting period September 3, 2024 thru October 7, 2024)
POST-PRIMARY REPORTS – UNSUCCESSFUL PRIMARY CANDIDATES
 All unsuccessful primary candidates must file reports 28 days after the primary. [RIGL §[17-25-11\(a\)\(3\)](#)]
- October 29** (For reporting period October 8, 2024 thru October 28, 2024)
PRE-ELECTION REPORTS
 Candidates, political parties, and political action committees that are participating in the election must file reports 7 days prior to the election. [RIGL §[17-25-11\(a\)\(2\)](#)]
- October 31** (For reporting period July 1, 2024 thru September 30, 2024)
QUARTERLY ONGOING REPORTS
 Reports are due from candidates, political parties, and political action committees that are not participating in the September primary or November election. [RIGL §[17-25-11](#)]
- December 3** (For reporting period October 29, 2024 thru December 2, 2024)
POST-ELECTION REPORTS
 Candidates, political parties, and political action committees that participated in the election must file reports 28 days after the election. [RIGL §[17-25-11\(a\)\(3\)](#)]
- January 31, 2025** **QUARTERLY ONGOING REPORTS**
 Reports are due from all candidates, political parties, and political action committees.
 If the candidate, political party, or political action committee:
- › PARTICIPATED IN THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 ELECTION the reporting period is December 3, 2024 thru December 31, 2024.
 - › WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN THE PRIMARY the reporting period is October 8, 2024 thru December 31, 2024.
 - › DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN A PRIMARY OR ELECTION the reporting period is October 1, 2024 thru December 31, 2024. [RIGL §[17-25-11](#)]

Ethics Commission Filing

All candidates for state or local elected office are REQUIRED to file a financial disclosure statement with the Rhode Island Ethics Commission, covering the prior calendar year. See [RIGL [§36-14-16\(c\)](#)]. This disclosure must be filed within thirty (30) days of filing a Notice of Organization (CF-1) or a Declaration of Candidacy, whichever occurs first. You may request an extension of time to file of no more than fifteen (15) days past the deadline, provided that you make the request to the Ethics Commission prior to the original filing deadline.

The Ethics Commission's financial disclosure form for candidates is different than, and in addition to, any campaign or candidate-related filings you may be required to make with the State Board of Elections, the Department of State, or your local Board of Canvassers.

Failure to file this form on time with the Ethics Commission is a violation of the law, and will lead to the imposition of a substantial fine.

The financial disclosure form requires the disclosure of, among other things, sources of income and assets, including those of a spouse and any dependent children. You generally do NOT have to disclose the amount of income you received or the value of your assets, although candidates for statewide general office do disclose ranges of income amounts. Candidates must also disclose business interests including those in entities that are regulated by, or do business with, the State of Rhode Island. Additionally, candidates must disclose the name and address of any person, business or organization (other than a credit card company or the holder of your residential mortgage) which is owed more than \$1,000 by the candidate, a spouse, or dependent child.

How to File

Online: Forms may be completed and submitted online at www.ethics.ri.gov. We strongly recommend online filing because it is simpler and faster than submitting a hard copy, and we will automatically email you a receipt and copy of your completed online form. To file online the first time you must contact the Ethics Commission (401-222-3790) to obtain a PIN# and I.D.

Hard Copy: If you do not wish to file online, you may obtain a hard copy of the financial disclosure form and file it via regular mail or hand delivery to the Ethics Commission office. To obtain a copy of the form contact the Ethics Commission.

Rhode Island Ethics Commission

40 Fountain Street
Providence, RI 02903
Email: ethics.email@ethics.ri.gov
Website: www.ethics.ri.gov
Phone: 401-222-3790

Local Boards of Canvassers

Contact Information

Barrington Town Hall
283 County Rd. 02806
247-1900 x301

Bristol Town Hall
10 Court St. 02809
253-7000

Burrillville Town Hall
105 Harrisville Main St.
Harrisville 02830
568-4300 x132

Central Falls City Hall
580 Broad St. 02863
727-7450

Charlestown Town Hall
4540 South County Trl. 02813
364-1200

Coventry Town Hall
1670 Flat River Rd. 02816
822-9150

Cranston City Hall
869 Park Ave. 02910
780-3121

Cumberland Town Hall
45 Broad St. 02864
728-2400

East Greenwich Town Hall
125 Main St.
P.O. Box 111 02818
886-8603

East Providence City Hall
145 Taunton Ave. 02914
435-7502

Exeter Town Hall
675 Ten Rod Rd. 02822
294-2287

Foster Town Hall
181 Howard Hill Rd. 02825
392-9200 x116

Glocester Town Hall
1145 Putnam Pike
P.O. Drawer B, Chepachet 02814
568-6206 x0

Hopkinton Town Hall
1 Town House Rd. 02833
377-7777

Jamestown Town Hall
93 Narragansett Ave. 02835
423-9801

Johnston Town Hall
1385 Hartford Ave. 02919
553-8856

Lincoln Town Hall
100 Old River Rd.
P.O. Box 100 02865
333-1140

Little Compton Town Hall
40 Commons
P.O. Box 226 02837
635-4400

Middletown Town Hall
350 East Main Rd. 02842
849-5540

Narragansett Town Hall
25 Fifth Ave. 02882
782-0625

Newport City Hall
43 Broadway 02840
845-5384

New Shoreham Town Hall
16 Old Town Rd.
P.O. Box 220 02807
466-3200

North Kingstown Town Hall
100 Fairway Dr. 02852
268-1552

North Providence Town Hall
2000 Smith St. 02911
232-0900 x1230

North Smithfield Town Hall
83 Greene St. 02896
767-2200 x326

Pawtucket City Hall
137 Roosevelt Ave. 02860
722-1637

Portsmouth Town Hall
2200 East Main Rd. 02871
683-3157

Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance St. Rm. 102 02903
421-0495

Richmond Town Hall
5 Richmond Townhouse Rd.
Wyoming 02898
539-9000 x9

Scituate Town Hall
195 Danielson Pike
P.O. Box 328, N. Scituate 02857
647-7466

Smithfield Town Hall
64 Farnum Pike, 02917
233-1000 x116

South Kingstown Town Hall
180 High St.
Wakefield 02879
789-9331 x1231

Tiverton Town Hall
343 Highland Rd. 02878
625-6703

Warren Town Hall
514 Main St. 02885
245-7340 x4

Warwick City Hall
3275 Post Rd. 02886
738-2010

West Greenwich Town Hall
280 Victory Hwy. 02817
392-3800 x100

West Warwick Town Hall
1170 Main St. 02893
822-9201

Westerly Town Hall
45 Broad St. 02891
348-2503

Woonsocket City Hall
169 Main St.
P.O. Box B 02895
767-9223

****Any mailing MUST be addressed to the attention of "Board of Canvassers"***

State Elections and Political Party Offices

Contact Information

RI Department of State

Elections Division

148 W. River St., Providence, RI 02904

401-222-2340

State Board of Elections

2000 Plainfield Pike, Suite A, Cranston, RI 02921

401-222-2345

Rhode Island Democratic Party

200 Metro Center Blvd., Suite 2, Warwick, RI 02886

401-272-3367

Rhode Island Republican Party

1800 Post Rd., Suite 17-I, Warwick, RI 02886

401-732-8282

United States Postal Service (USPS)

Contact Information

The United States Postal Service provides extensive information to assist you with your political campaign mail on its website (www.usps.com/business/political-mail.htm). For mailpiece design assistance please contact the MDA Customer Service Help Desk at (855)-593-6093 or by email at MDA@usps.gov.

Department of State's Website

The following information concerning the 2024 election cycle will be found at: vote.ri.gov

- › Election Calendar - English & Spanish
- › How to Run for Office Guide - English & Spanish
- › Declaration of Candidacy Form
- › Political Party Endorsement Form
- › Intent to Establish a Political Party Form
- › Qualified Federal and State Candidates: Starting June 24, 2024, daily updates of federal and state candidates who filed and/or qualified for ballot placement
- › Qualified Local Candidates: Starting June 24, 2024, daily updates of local candidates who filed and/or qualified for ballot placement
- › Sample ballots
- › Find your polling place
- › Mail Ballot Applications and the Online Mail Ballot Application Portal
- › Voter Information Handbook - Available September, 2024