



## ***What Every Candidate Should Know***

### **LIVINGSTON COUNTY CANDIDATE FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2012 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS**

#### **Democratic and Republican Party Candidates**

Democratic and Republican Party candidates for U.S. Congress, State Representative, or any County position must file for office no later than 4:00 p.m., May 15, 2012. Candidates may file a \$100 filing fee in lieu of partisan nominating petitions. Candidates for the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> State House of Representative Districts and candidates seeking County positions (Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Drain Commissioner, and County Commissioner) file with the Livingston County Clerk's Office. Candidates for the 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congressional District file with the Michigan Department of State Bureau of Elections. The withdrawal deadline elapses at 4:00 p.m., May 18, 2012.

Democratic and Republican Party Candidates who submit a valid filing for office will be placed on Michigan's August 7, 2012, Primary Election ballot.

#### **Precinct Delegates**

Candidates for county convention delegate (precinct delegates) are required to file an Affidavit of Identity for the August Primary Election with the clerk of their county, city, or township of residence. The filing deadline is 4:00 p.m., May 15, 2012. The withdrawal deadline elapses at 4:00 p.m., May 18, 2012.

Anyone who wishes to seek a precinct delegate position with write-in votes must file a Declaration of Intent form with their city or township clerk by 4:00 p.m., on the second Friday preceding the August Primary Election. As an alternative, such candidates may file a Declaration of Intent form with the appropriate precinct board on the day of the August Primary any time prior to the close of the polls.

A candidate who seeks a precinct delegate position is not subject to the filing requirements of the Campaign Finance Act.

**Candidates Without Political Party Affiliation**

Candidates without political party affiliation must file qualifying petitions no later than 4:00 p.m., July 19, 2012. Candidates who are filing without party affiliation may not file a filing fee in lieu of petitions. The withdrawal deadline elapses at 4:00 p.m., July 23, 2012.

Candidates without political party affiliation who submit a valid qualifying petition filing will be placed on Michigan's November 6, 2012, General Election ballot.

All signatures submitted on a qualifying petition must have been collected within the preceding 180-day period. Signatures that are dated more than 180 days prior to the date the petition is filed are invalid.

**Library Board Candidates**

District and Township Library Board candidates who wish to seek office at the November General Election must file for office no later than 4:00 p.m., July 19, 2012. Candidates may file a \$100 nonrefundable filing fee in lieu of nonpartisan nominating petitions. The withdrawal deadline elapses at 4:00 p.m., July 23, 2012.

**School Board Candidates**

Brighton, Howell, and Pinckney School Board candidates who wish to seek office at the November General Election must file for office no later than 4:00 p.m., August 14, 2012. Candidates may file a \$100 nonrefundable filing fee in lieu of nonpartisan nominating petitions. The withdrawal deadline elapses at 4:00 p.m., August 17, 2012.

**Township Board Candidates**

Democratic and Republican Party candidates must file for office no later than 4:00 p.m., May 15, 2012, at their respective township clerk's office. Candidates must file nominating petitions. The withdrawal deadline elapses at 4:00 p.m., May 18, 2012. Candidates without political party affiliation must file qualifying petitions no later than 4:00 p.m., July 19, 2012, at their respective township clerk's office.

**Village Candidates**

Fowlerville and Pinckney Village candidates who wish to seek office at the November General Election must file nonpartisan nominating petitions no later than 4:00 p.m., August 14, 2012, at their respective township clerk's office (Handy or Putnam). The withdrawal deadline elapses at 4:00 p.m., August 17, 2012.

**Judicial Offices**

Incumbent Circuit Court, District Court, and Probate Court judges must file an Affidavit of Identity and an Affidavit of Candidacy by 5:00 p.m., March 26, 2012. The incumbent Circuit Court and District Court Judges file with the Michigan Department of State Bureau of Elections. The incumbent Probate Court Judge

files with the Livingston County Clerk's Office. The withdrawal deadline elapses at 5:00 p.m., March 29, 2012.

Non-incumbent candidates seeking Circuit Court and District Court judgeships must file nonpartisan nominating petitions, an Affidavit of Identity, and an Affidavit of Constitutional Qualification by 4:00 p.m., May 1, 2012. The non-incumbent candidates for Circuit Court and District Court file with the Michigan Department of State Bureau of Elections. Non-incumbent candidates for Probate Court file with the Livingston County Clerk's Office. The withdrawal deadline elapses at 5:00 p.m., May 4, 2012.

**Affidavit of Identity**

All candidates must submit an Affidavit of Identity in duplicate when filing for office. Under Public Act 394 of 1984, a candidate who fails to file an Affidavit of Identity, as required, cannot be placed on the ballot.

**Compliance with Campaign Finance Act**

An individual becomes a candidate under the Act as soon as he/she files a fee, Affidavit of Identity, or nominating petitions for an elective office; OR is nominated as a candidate for elective office by a political party convention or caucus and is certified to the appropriate filing official; OR receives a contribution or makes an expenditure in an attempt to be nominated or elected to office; OR gives consent to someone else to receive a contribution or to make an expenditure in an attempt to be nominated or elected to office.

**Write-In Candidates**

Write-in candidates should contact the Livingston County Clerk's Office to obtain information on filing forms, deadlines, and procedures. A write-in candidate may have additional filing obligations under the Campaign Finance Act.

Please contact the Office of Livingston County Clerk  
Margaret M. Dunleavy for further information.

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