

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE INFORMATION FOR 2016 ELECTION

Deadline for submitting petitions for independent candidate nominations for the November 8, 2016 election: **5:00 p.m. August 1, 2016** (Section 115.329.1, RSMo.)

Who Can Sign the Petition: Any person who is a registered voter of the state (Sections 115.313 and 115.323, RSMo.).

Any person who signs a name other than their own to a petition or knowingly signs their name more than once to the same petition, or who knows that they are not a registered voter at the same time of signing the petition, or willfully violates any provision of Chapter 115 is guilty of a class two election offense (Section 116.090 RSMo.).

In addition, no voter may sign his or her name to more than one nomination for one office at any election (Section 155.323, RSMo.).

Form of Petition:

The format is provided in Section 115.325.3, RSMo., and must:

- Consist of petition pages of uniform size (Section 115.325.1, RSMo.);
- Have signature space on either side of a petition page no larger than eight and one-half by fourteen inches (Section 115.325.1, RSMo.);
- Be numbered in sequence for each county (Section 115.325.1, RSMo.);
- Contain signatures of registered voters from only one county on each petition page (Section 115.325.1, RSMo.);
- Be sworn to by the circulator before a notary public on each petition page (Section 115.325.3, RSMo.);
- Not contain signatures from the same voter for more than one petition for one office at any election (Section 115.323, RSMo.).

Number of Signatures Required:

- Statewide office: at least 10,000 registered Missouri voters (Section 115.321.3, RSMo.);
- District or county office: Registered voters in the district or county which is equal to at least 2% of the total number of voters who voted at the last election for candidates for the office being sought or is equal to 10,000 voters, whichever is less (Section 115.321.4, RSMo.). The SOS website displays [official election results](#).

If you have any questions regarding the number of required signatures, please contact the Secretary of State's office.

Other Documents Required:

- A Declaration of Candidacy form must be filed with the petition. The Declaration of Candidacy form submitted with the petition must be sworn to by the candidate (in person) before the election authority accepting the petition, a notary public, or other officer authorized by law to administer oaths (Section 115.327, RSMo.);

- Proof of identity is required (for example, voter identification card or driver's license) (Section 115.355.4, RSMo.);
- Information required on the petition or attached to the petition (Section 115.321, RSMo.);
- A copy of an affidavit (does not apply to candidates running for U.S. President, U.S. Senate or U.S. Congress) **filed** with the Department of Revenue. A copy of the form may be found at <http://dor.mo.gov/forms/5120.pdf> and information about this requirement is available at <http://dor.mo.gov/personal/candidates> (Section 115.306, RSMo.).
- If nominating a president and vice president, the following documents are needed (Section 115.327, RSMo.):
 - Candidate declaration for president
 - Listing of President, Vice President, and Presidential Electors
 - Candidate declarations for presidential electors (at least one qualified resident of each congressional district and two at-large candidates)

Candidates Listed on Website: Independent candidates who are certified to the general election ballot will be listed on the SOS website with the general election candidates.

Where to Submit Petitions: For statewide office or congressional district, state senate district, state representative district, or circuit judge district, submit the petition to:

Secretary of State's Office, Elections Division
James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center
600 West Main Street, 3rd floor
Jefferson City, MO 65101.

A petition for a county office must be submitted to the election authority of the county (Section 115.315.2, RSMo.).