Candidate's Guide to the General Election

November 5, 2024

Prepared by the Office of the Iowa Secretary of State

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For more information, please contact your county auditor or the Iowa Secretary of State's office.

Important Note: The information provided in this guide has been compiled in the Iowa Secretary of State's Office to assist candidates and the public in meeting the requirements of Iowa's election laws. If any errors in compilation or computation have occurred, or if there have been amendments to the *Iowa Code* or *Iowa Administrative Code*, the provisions of the *Iowa Code, Iowa Administrative Code,* and the session laws shall prevail.

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Overview

What is the General Election?

The general election is held in even-numbered years to elect federal and state officers, county and township officers, and other officers as provided by law. It is also held to decide public measures at the city and county level and vote on constitutional amendments.

[§39.1, 39.3(7)]

Nomination Methods

There are four ways a candidate can be nominated to appear on the general election ballot.

1. Nomination at Primary Election

   Any candidate who was nominated at the primary election is automatically placed on the general election ballot as the candidate for the political party that nominated him or her. These individuals do not need to file any paperwork after the primary election unless nominated by write-in votes.

   [§43.66, 43.67]

2. Nomination After Primary Election by Political Party Convention (vacancy or necessary substitution)

   If a political party fails to make a nomination at the primary election or if the person who was nominated withdraws or dies, the party can hold a convention to nominate another candidate for that office. Candidates must file an affidavit of candidacy and political party convention certificate.

   [§43.78]

3. Nomination by Non-Party Political Organization (NPPO) Convention

   Non-party political organizations (NPPOs) are political organizations that do not meet the requirements to become a political party. NPPOs do not need to file any special paperwork to be officially recognized by the State. NPPOs can hold conventions to nominate candidates for the general election. Candidates must file an affidavit of candidacy and NPPO convention certificate.

   [§44.1]

4. Nomination by Petition

   Candidates who are not affiliated with any political party or NPPO may circulate nomination petitions to get their names on the general election ballot. Candidates who are affiliated with an NPPO can also circulate nomination petitions that specify the name of the NPPO.

   [§44.4, 44.17, 45.1, 45.5]

   Important Note about "Independent" Candidates:

   The term "independent" is used by candidates and the general public to refer to candidates who are not running under any party or NPPO's ticket. In Iowa, if a candidate

writes the word “Independent” on nomination papers, that candidate is indicating membership in the “Independent” NPPO and will be listed on the ballot that way. If a candidate intends to run without any party or NPPO affiliation, the box next to “Not affiliated with any organization” on the nomination petition and affidavit of candidacy should be checked. The candidate’s name will appear on the ballot without any reference to a party affiliation.

Nomination Papers

Each candidate must file an affidavit of candidacy and nomination petitions or convention certificate with the county auditor for county offices or the Secretary of State’s Office for federal and state offices. The affidavit of candidacy and nomination petitions or convention certificate must be filed together or they will be rejected.

Exception: Township officials only file an affidavit of candidacy.

Important Note for President and Vice President Candidates: Candidates for President and Vice President must file as a team.

Copies of nomination papers are available at the county auditor’s office or on the Secretary of State’s website: sos.iowa.gov/elections/electioninfo/General/index.html.

[§43.88, 44.2, 44.4, 44.17, 45.1(7)(b), 45.4]

Filing Period

Nomination papers must be filed during the filing period. They cannot be filed before or after the following dates:

Federal and State Offices (except President and Vice President):

First day: Monday, July 29, 2024

Last day: Saturday, August 24, 2024 – 5 p.m.

Partisan County and Township Offices:

First day: Monday, August 5, 2024

Last day: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 – 5 p.m.

County Ag Extension, Soil & Water and Hospital Trustees:

First day: No first day specified by law

Last day: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 – 5 p.m.

There are no filing fees in Iowa.

[§44.4(1), 45.4]

General Election Candidate Qualifications – Partisan Offices

Federal Office	U.S. Citizenship	Residence	Age	Term	Signatures Needed	Papers Filed In:
President/Vice President [U.S. Constitution, Art. 2, Sec. 1]	Natural born citizen.	U.S. resident for 14 years and at time of the election.	35 when sworn in.	4 years	3,500, including at least 100 signatures from at least 19 counties. [§43.20, 45.1]	Iowa Secretary of State's Office*
U.S. Senator [U.S. Constitution, Art. 1, Sec. 3]	At least 9 years when sworn in.	Iowa resident at the time of the election.	30 when sworn in.	6 years	3,500, including at least 100 signatures from at least 19 counties. [§43.20, 45.1]	Iowa Secretary of State's Office*
U.S. Representative [U.S. Constitution, Art. 1, Sec. 2]	At least 7 years when sworn in.	Iowa resident at the time of the election.	25 when sworn in.	2 years	1,726, including at least 47 signatures from each of ½ of the counties in the Congressional district. [§43.20, 45.1]	Iowa Secretary of State's Office*
Iowa General Assembly	**U.S. Citizenship**	**Residence**	**Age**	**Term**	**Signatures Needed**	**Papers Filed In:**
State Senator [Iowa Constitution, Art. III, Sec. 5]	Citizen at the time of the election. [§39.26]	1 year in Iowa. 60 days in the district at the time of the election.	25 when sworn in.	4 years	100 from state senate district. [§45.1(3)]	Iowa Secretary of State's Office*
State Representative [Iowa Constitution, Art. III, Sec. 3-4]	Citizen at the time of the election. [§39.26]	1 year in Iowa. 60 days in the district at the time of the election.	21 when sworn in.	2 years	50 from state representative district. [§45.1(4)]	Iowa Secretary of State's Office*
County Offices	**U.S. Citizenship**	**Residence**	**Age**	**Term**	**Signatures Needed**	**Papers Filed In:**
County Supervisor	Citizen at the time of the election. [§39.26]	Iowa resident at the time of the election. Registered voter of the county/supervisor district when sworn in.	18 at the time of the election. [§39.26]	4 years	**Plan 1 and 2 Counties**: Signatures must be eligible electors of the county Counties with population less than 15,001, at least 50 Counties with population more than 15,000 and less than 50,000, at least 75 Counties with population more than 49,999 at least 100 **Plan 3 Counties:** Signatures must be eligible electors of the supervisor district Supervisor District with population less than 15,001, at least 21 Supervisor District with population of 15,001 and less than 50,000 at least 50 Supervisor District with population more than 50,000, at least 100 [§45.1(6), 45.1(7)]	County Auditor's Office

County Auditor	Citizen at the time of the election. [§39.26]	Iowa resident at the time of the election. Registered voter in the county when sworn in. [§39.26, 331.751(2)]	18 at the time of the election. [§39.26]	4 years	Counties with population less than 15,001, at least 50 Counties with population more than 15,000 and less than 50,000, at least 75 Counties with population more than 49,999 at least 100 Signatures must be eligible electors of the county [§45.1(6)]	County Auditor's Office
County Sheriff Must meet the requirements in §331.651	Citizen at the time of the election. [§39.26]	Iowa resident at the time of the election. Resident of the county when sworn in. [§39.26-27]	18 at the time of the election. [§39.26]	4 years	Counties with population less than 15,001, at least 50 Counties with population more than 15,000 and less than 50,000, at least 75 Counties with population more than 49,999 at least 100 Signatures must be eligible electors of the county [§45.1(6)]	County Auditor's Office

*The Iowa Secretary of State's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The office will be open until 5 p.m. on the last day of the filing period.

General Election Candidate Qualifications – Non-Partisan Offices

Non-Partisan Office	U.S. Citizenship	Residence	Age	Term	Signatures Needed	Papers Filed In:
Township Trustee	Citizen at the time of the election. [§39.26]	Iowa resident at the time of the election. Trustees must be registered voters of the township when sworn in. [§39.26, 359.17]	18 at the time of the election. [§39.26]	4 years	No petition is required. [§39.22(2)]	County Auditor's Office
County Hospital Trustee	Citizen at the time of the election. [§39.26]	Iowa resident at the time of the election. Resident of the county when sworn in. [§39.26-27, 347.9]	18 at the time of the election. [§39.26]	4 years in counties with population under 400,000 6 years in a county with population of at least 400,000	50 from the county. [§347.25]	County Auditor's Office
Soil and Water Conservation Board	Citizen at the time of the election. [§39.26]	Iowa resident at the time of the election. Resident of the conservation district; no more than two members may reside in the same township. [§39.26, 161A.5(2)]	18 at the time of the election. [§39.26]	4 years	25 from the conservation district. [§161A.5(3)]	County Auditor's Office
County Agricultural Extension	Citizen at the time of the election. [§39.26]	Iowa resident at the time of the election. Registered voter of the district when sworn in. [§39.26, 176A.5]	18 at the time of the election. [§39.26]	4 years	25 from the extension district. [§176A.8(3)]	County Auditor's Office

General Election Candidate Qualifications - Eligible Electors

In general, candidates must be eligible electors of the jurisdiction and district or ward (if any) they are seeking to represent at the time of the election. See the Candidate Qualifications chart for specific residency requirements for each office.

An eligible elector meets all of the requirements to register to vote but does not have to be registered to vote. An eligible elector must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of Iowa
- At least 18 years old

An eligible elector may not:

- Be a convicted felon (unless voting rights have been restored by the president or governor, including through executive order)
- Be currently judged incompetent to vote by a court
- Claim the right to vote in any other place

[§39.3(6), 39.26, 161A.5, 277.27, 376.4(1)]

Preparing Nomination Papers

Affidavit of Candidacy

Each candidate must complete and file an affidavit of candidacy. Affidavits lacking the required information listed below cannot be accepted. The affidavit of candidacy form is available on the Secretary of State's website: http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/candidates/affidavit.pdf.

- Candidate's Name

  The candidate's name must be printed exactly as the candidate wishes the name to appear on the ballot. No parentheses, quotation marks, or titles (e.g. Dr., Mrs., etc.) may be included. Please provide the phonetic spelling of the candidate's name. This is helpful for producing audio ballots for voters who are visually impaired. Be as clear as possible. For example, Eisenhower = "EYES-in-how-er".

- Office Sought and District (if any) – **Please ensure you are looking at the new district boundaries drawn as a result of the redistricting process following the 2020 Census**

  The name of the office and the congressional, state senate, house, supervisor district or other district (if any) that the candidate is running for must be included.

- Vacancy Information

  Is the candidate running to fill a vacancy due to the death, resignation, removal, or temporary appointment of an office holder?

  The "yes" box must be checked if the candidate is running to fill the remainder of an unexpired term. This happens when an incumbent office holder resigned, died, or was removed from office before the end of the term and another officer was appointed (not elected) to fill the remainder of the unexpired term. Contact the county auditor or Secretary of State with questions about whether you are running to fill a vacancy.

- Type and Date of Election

  The 2024 General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5.

- Candidate Affiliation

  This is a required field for partisan offices. Only candidates who were nominated by Democratic, Libertarian or Republican party conventions may use those parties' distinctions. The name of a NPPO cannot be more than five words and no part or version of the words Democratic, Libertarian or Republican may be used as part of the NPPO's name.

  Important Note about "Independent" Candidates:
  The term "independent" is used by candidates and the general public to refer to candidates who are not running under any party or NPPO's ticket. In Iowa, if a candidate writes the word "Independent" on nomination papers, that candidate is indicating membership in the "Independent" NPPO and will be listed on the ballot that way. If a candidate intends to run without any party or NPPO affiliation, the box next to "Not affiliated with any organization" on the nomination petition and affidavit of candidacy should be checked. The candidate's name will appear on the ballot without any reference to a party affiliation.

- Candidate's Home Address

  Candidates must provide their house number, apartment or unit number (if any), street name, city, and county of residence. Mailing address, phone, and email are optional but do assist the filing office and the public in contacting the candidate.

- Candidate's Affirmation, Signature, and Notarization

  The affidavit must be notarized. A notarial officer must be present when the candidate signs the affidavit and will complete the verification on the bottom of the affidavit. Once an affidavit is notarized, the affidavit cannot be altered.

Affidavits missing the information listed below must be rejected:

- Candidate's name
- Office sought and district (if any)
- Candidate's signature
- Signature of notary public

[§44.3(2), 45.3, 45.5(5)]

Important Note for President and Vice President Candidates: Candidates for President and Vice President file as a team; however, each candidate should file an affidavit of candidacy.

Nomination Petitions

Candidates who are not affiliated with any political party or NPPO may circulate nomination petitions to get their names on the general election ballot. Candidates who are affiliated with an NPPO can also circulate nomination petitions that specify the name of the NPPO. Candidates must collect signatures on nomination petitions and file the petitions at the same time the affidavit of candidacy is filed.

Nomination forms are available on the Secretary of State's website:

- Partisan office: http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/candidates/nompetpartisan.pdf
- Non-partisan office: http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/candidates/nompetnonpartisan.pdf
- President / Vice President: https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/candidates/NomPetPresVP.pdf
- Certificate of Presidential Electors: http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/candidates/preselectors.pdf

Candidate Information

Before anyone signs the petition, the required information in the candidate header of every petition page must be completed.

Best Practice: Complete the candidate header on one petition page and make copies of that page so all petition page candidate headings are identical.

The information listed below must appear on each petition candidate header for all offices. Signatures cannot be counted on petition pages missing the following information:

- Candidate's Name

  The candidate's name should be printed exactly as the candidate wishes the name to appear on the ballot. No parentheses, quotation marks, or titles (e.g. Dr., Mrs., etc.) may be included.

  Important Note for President/Vice President Candidates: Candidates for President and Vice President file as a team. Both candidates must be named on the same petition. [§45.1(7)(a)]

- Office Sought
- Office District (if any)

  The candidate must provide the district number (if any). Signatures on petition pages that do not provide the applicable district number (when required) cannot be counted. **Please ensure you are looking at the new district boundaries drawn as a result of the redistricting process following the 2020 Census.**

- Election Date

The 2024 General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5.

- Signers' and Candidate's Affirmation of Residence

  The following statement must appear on each petition page:

  > *"We, the undersigned eligible electors of the appropriate county, supervisor, legislative district, city, school district, or school or community college director district in the state of Iowa, hereby make the nomination outlined above. If the candidate named above accepts the nomination, we believe the candidate is or will be a resident of the appropriate county, supervisor, legislative district, city, school district, or school or community college director district within the time frame required by law (60 days prior to the general election for state senate and state house candidates.")*
  >
  > [§45.5, 45.6]

The following information should also appear on each petition header for all offices:

- Vacancy Information

  Is the candidate running to fill a vacancy due to the death, resignation, removal, or temporary appointment of an office holder?

  The "yes" box must be checked if the candidate is running to fill the remainder of an unexpired term. This happens when an incumbent office holder resigned, died, or was removed from office before the end of the term and another officer was appointed (not elected) to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

  Contact the county auditor or Secretary of State with questions about whether you are running to fill a vacancy.

- Candidate Affiliation

  Either "Not affiliated with any organization" or "Name of Non-Party Political Organization" must be marked. If affiliated with an NPPO, the NPPO's name must be listed on each petition page header. The name of the NPPO cannot be more than five words and no part or version of the words Democratic, Libertarian or Republican may be used as part of the NPPO's name. The name of the NPPO will be listed after the candidate's name on the ballot. If "Not affiliated with any organization" is marked, the candidate's name will appear on the ballot without any reference to a party affiliation.

- Signers' County of Residence

  This is only required on petitions for U.S. senate, U.S. representative, and statewide candidates. Petition pages should only include signatures from one county for these offices.

- Candidate's County of Residence

Signature Requirements

See the candidate qualifications chart on pages 3-4 for the number of signatures required. Signatures gathered for the 2024 general election must come from within the boundaries of the district (applicable). **Please ensure you are looking at the new district boundaries drawn as a result of the redistricting process following the 2020 Census.**

Supervisor Plans 1 and 2 Counties

Petition signers may live anywhere in the county.

Supervisor Plan 3 Counties

Petition signers must live in the supervisor district.

[§43.15(3), 45.1(5), 45.1(6)]

Collecting Signatures

Eligible electors of the appropriate county or district (if applicable) may sign nomination petitions. An eligible elector meets all of the requirements to register to vote but does not have to be registered to vote. An eligible elector must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of Iowa
- At least 18 years old

An eligible elector may not:

- Be a convicted felon (unless voting rights have been restored by the president or governor, including by executive order)
- Be currently judged incompetent to vote by a court
- Claim the right to vote in any other place

[§39.3(6)]

Candidates may sign their own petitions assuming they are eligible electors of the county or district.

Candidates may begin collecting signatures at any time. However, the signers must still be eligible electors when the papers are filed in order for the signatures to count.

All signers must include the following information:

- A signature (the signature may be printed)
- The address of their residence

  This must include a house number, apartment or unit number (if applicable), street name, and city. Providing a post office box only is not sufficient. A signer who is homeless should describe where the signer lives or write “homeless.”

There is no limit on the number of nomination petitions one elector may sign for different candidates.

[§45.5, 45.6]

Important Note: Petition signers often use “ditto” marks when appropriate (e.g. when the name of a city or the date of signing the petition is the same as the previous signer). The use of ditto marks alone does not invalidate a signature.

NPPO Information and Method to Fill Ballot Vacancies

NPPOs may file the names and addresses of the organization’s central committee and chairperson and secretary. It may also specify the organization’s provisions (if any) for filling vacancies in nomination. If it wishes to make a substitution for a ballot vacancy, the NPPO must file this information.

[§44.17]

Political Party Convention Certificate

If a political party fails to make a nomination at the primary election or if the person who was nominated withdraws or dies, the party can hold a convention to nominate another candidate for that office. Candidates must file an affidavit of candidacy and political party convention certificate.

Important Note: The *Iowa Code* does not provide a "start date" for filing nomination papers from political party conventions held after the primary election to fill general election ballot vacancies. The nomination papers must be filed by the filing deadline but may be filed any time after the state canvass of votes for the primary election for federal and state offices or any time after the county canvass of votes for county offices.

Convention Attendance Requirements

Office	Convention Convened By:	Convention Attendees
U.S. Senator	State Party Chairperson	Party's state convention
U.S. Representative	State Party Chairperson	Party's congressional district convention
State Senate, State House	State Party Chairperson	Party precinct committee members whose precincts lie within the district
County Auditor, Sheriff, Board of Supervisors (at-large)	County Party Chairperson	Party's county convention
County Board of Supervisors (by district)	County Party Chairperson	Delegates to the party's county convention who represent the precincts lying within the district

[§43.78(1)]

Convention Certificate Elements

The convention certificate must include the following information:

- Candidate's Name

  The candidate's name should be printed exactly as the candidate wishes the name to appear on the ballot. No parentheses, quotation marks, or titles (e.g. Dr., Mrs., etc.) may be included.

- Candidate's Home Address and Mailing Address (if different)

  Candidates must provide their house number, apartment or unit number (if applicable) and street name.

- Office Sought and District or Ward (if any)

  The name of the office and the congressional, state senate, house, supervisor district or other district (if any) that the candidate is running for must be included. **Please ensure you are looking at the new district boundaries drawn as a result of the redistricting process following the 2020 Census.**

- Name of Political Party

  Either Democratic, Libertarian or Republican must be included.

- Signatures of Convention Chairperson and Secretary

  The chairperson and secretary of the convention must certify the certification of nomination from the convention.

[§43.88]

The convention certificate should also include the following information:

- Date of Convention

- Type and Date of Election

  The 2024 General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5.

- Vacancy Information

  Is the candidate running to fill a vacancy due to the death, resignation, removal, or temporary appointment of an office holder?

  The "yes" box must be checked if the candidate is running to fill the remainder of an unexpired term. This happens when an incumbent office holder resigned, died, or was removed from office before the end of the term and another officer was appointed (not elected) to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

NPPO Convention Certificate

NPPOs can hold conventions to nominate one candidate for each partisan office for the general election. Candidates must file an affidavit of candidacy and NPPO convention certificate. If the minimum attendance requirements are not met, the nominations made at the convention cannot be included on the ballot.

Convention Attendance Requirements

Office	Minimum Attendance	Number of counties or precincts that must be represented by at least one eligible elector
President & Vice President	500 eligible electors	25 counties
U.S. Representative	200 eligible electors	½ counties in district
State Senator	50 eligible electors	½ precincts in district
State Representative	25 eligible electors	½ precincts in district
County Offices	20 eligible electors	½ precincts in county

[§44.1]

An eligible elector meets all of the requirements to register to vote but does not have to be registered to vote. An eligible elector must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of Iowa
- At least 18 years old

An eligible elector may not:

- Be a convicted felon (unless voting rights have been restored by the president or governor, including by executive order)
- Be currently judged incompetent to vote by a court
- Claim the right to vote in any other place

[§39.3(6)]

There is no limit on the number of conventions one elector may attend.

Convention Certificate Elements

The convention certificate must include the following information:

- Name of NPPO

  The name of the NPPO cannot be more than five words and no part or version of the words Democratic, Libertarian or Republican may be used as part of the NPPO's name.

- Name of Each Candidate Nominated

- Office(s) Sought and District or Ward (if any)

  The name of the office and the congressional, state senate, house, supervisor district or other district (if any) that the candidate is running for must be included. **District boundaries are subject to the redistricting process following the 2020 census.**

- Home Address of Each Candidate

  Candidates must provide their house number and street name.

- Names and Addresses of NPPO's Executive or Central Committee Members

- Method to Fill Ballot Vacancies

  NPPOs may specify the organization's provisions (if any) for filling vacancies in nominations. If it wishes to make a substitution for a ballot vacancy, the NPPO must file these provisions.

- Affidavit of Convention Chairperson and Secretary

  The chairperson and secretary of the convention must certify the certification of nomination from the convention. They must also include their places of residence.

- Names and Addresses of Each Delegate or Voter in Attendance

[§44.1, 44.2, 44.3]

The convention certificate should also include the following information:

- Date of Convention

- Type and Date of Election

  The 2024 General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5.

- Vacancy Information

  Is the candidate running to fill a vacancy due to the death, resignation, removal, or temporary appointment of an office holder?

The “yes” box must be checked if the candidate is running to fill the remainder of an unexpired term. This happens when an incumbent office holder resigned, died, or was removed from office before the end of the term and another officer was appointed (not elected) to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

When more than one candidate has been nominated at the same convention, those nominations may be added to the certificate by including the required information and using a separate sheet of paper.

Certificate of Presidential Electors

Candidates for president and vice president must file as a team. Along with nomination papers, candidates must file a certificate of presidential electors. The electors must include one person from each of Iowa’s four congressional districts and two from the state at-large.

The certificate must include:

- Candidates’ names for president and vice president
- Name of political party or NPPO
- Names and addresses of six presidential electors

[§44.3(1)(e), 45.1(7)(a), 54.1, 54.5]

Filing Checklist

☐ **Review affidavit and nomination petition headers or convention certificate.**

Nothing can be added to a notarized affidavit of candidacy, convention certificate or a petition header if there are signatures on the page. Nomination papers can only be returned to the filer if they have been rejected.

[§44.16, 45.5(4)]

☐ **Count the signatures.**

Best Practice: File more than the required number of signatures since it is possible for signatures to be challenged. If there are signatures on a petition that should not be included, simply draw a line through the names. Those signatures will not be counted.

☐ **Organize nomination petitions by county (federal and statewide candidates only).**

This will help speed the review process by the Secretary of State's Office.

☐ **Make a copy of nominations papers for own records.**

☐ **Bind nomination papers together.**

Nomination papers may be rejected without examination if not bound together.

Best Practice: Use staples or a three-ring binder.

☐ **File both the affidavit and nomination petitions or convention certificate at the same time.**

[§44.3, 45.3]

☐ **File as early as possible.**

Nomination papers will be inspected for completeness before they are accepted for filing. If papers are filed early, candidates may have time to correct any errors in rejected papers and resubmit them.

Nomination papers may be filed in person or by mail. When filing by mail, postmark dates are irrelevant. The filing officer must receive the papers by 5 p.m. on the filing deadline. If candidates would like to be contacted when their nomination papers have been received, they should indicate that when they mail their papers and include a daytime phone number at which they can be reached.

Important Note: It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure the nomination papers are received by the filing officer before the deadline.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I run for more than one office?

No. If a candidate files nomination papers for more than one office appearing on the same ballot, the candidate must file an affidavit on or before the last day to file candidate nomination papers declaring the one office for which the candidate wishes to run. If the affidavit is not filed, the candidate's name cannot appear on the ballot for any of the offices for which the person filed nomination papers.

Exception: This prohibition against seeking more than one office does not apply to:

- County agricultural extension council members, or
- Soil and water conservation district commissioners

[§39.11, 49.41]

Can I hold more than one office?

Statewide elected officials, state senators, and state representatives cannot hold more than one elective office at time.

All other elected officials cannot hold more than one elective office at the same level of government at a time. For example, a person could serve on the school board and county board of supervisors, but a person could not serve on the county board of supervisors and serve as county auditor.

Exception: This prohibition against holding more than one office does not apply to:

- County Agricultural Extension Council Members
- Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners

[§39.11]

What is the Hatch Act?

The Hatch Act restricts the political activities of people principally employed by state or local government executive agencies in connection with a program financed in whole or in part by federal loans or grants. For more information, contact:

U.S. Office of Special Counsel – Hatch Act Unit
1730 M. Street, N.W. Suite 218
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505
1-800-854-2824 or 202-254-3650
hatchact@osc.gov
www.osc.gov/hatchact.htm

Who do I contact for questions about nomination papers, filing procedures, and lists of registered voters?

The Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office is available to assist with questions about the filing process and to provide lists of registered voters.

- Phone: 1-888-SOS-VOTE or 515-281-0145
- Email: sos@sos.iowa.gov
- Mail: Lucas Building, 1st Floor
  321 E. 12th Street
  Des Moines, IA 50319

The Secretary of State's website also provides useful information for candidates on these topics: sos.iowa.gov/elections/candidates/index.html.

Where can I find information about campaign disclosure and ethics requirements?

For information about candidates' ethics and campaign filing responsibilities and deadlines, please contact the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board at 515-281-4028 or https://ethics.iowa.gov/.

Federal Candidates: For information about financial disclosure requirements, please contact the Federal Election Commission at www.fec.gov or 1-800-424-9530.

How do I contact the state's political parties?

Iowa Democratic Party
5661 Fleur Drive
Des Moines, IA
50321 515-244-7292
http://iowademocrats.org

Iowa Libertarian Party
PO Box 480
Des Moines, IA
50302 515-423-0093
https://lpia.org

Iowa Republican Party
621 E. 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-282-8105
http://iowagop.org

2024 General Election Calendar

Date	Event	Code Cite
Mon, July 29	**State and Federal Candidate Filing Begins** First day for non-party political organization (NPPO) candidates and candidates nominated by petition to file nomination papers for state and federal offices with the Secretary of State.	
Mon, Aug 5	**County Candidate Filing Begins.** First day for NPPO candidates and candidates nominated by petition to file nomination papers for county and township offices with the county auditor.	
Fri, Aug 16	**Primary Nominee Withdrawal Deadline State and Federal Offices** Last day for state and federal candidates to withdraw. Notice of withdrawal must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of State.	§43.76(1)
	Last Day for Vacancies – State and Federal If a midterm vacancy in a state or federal office occurs on or before today, the office must be on the ballot to fill vacancy at the general election. Political party nominations must be made by convention	§43.6(1), 43.77(4), 43.78(1)
Wed, Aug 21	**Filing Deadline – State and Federal Party Ballot Vacancies** Last day to file convention certificates to fill a party ballot vacancy for state and federal office.	§43.78(2)
Fri, Aug 23	**Primary Nominee Withdrawal Deadline – County Offices** Last day for county candidates to withdraw. Notice of withdrawal must be submitted in writing to the county auditor.	§43.76(2)
	Last Day for Vacancies – County If a midterm vacancy in a county office occurs on or before today, the office must be on the ballot to fill the vacancy at the general election. Political party nominations must be made by convention.	§43.77(5)(b), 43.78(1), 69.14A(1)(b)(2)
Sat, Aug 24	**State and Federal Candidate Filing Deadline** Last day to file nomination papers with the Secretary of State. This includes NPPO candidates and candidates nominated by petition. Deadline is 5:00 p.m.	
Wed, Aug 28	**County Candidate Filing Deadline** Last day to file nomination papers with county auditor. This includes NPPO candidates, candidates nominated by petition, and Democratic, Libertarian and Republican parties' nominations to fill ballot vacancies. Deadline is 5 p.m.	§43.78(3)

Date	Event	Code Cite
Thu, Aug 29	**State and Federal Candidate Withdrawal Deadline.** Last day for NPPO candidates and candidates nominated by petition who filed with the Secretary of State to withdraw. Notice of withdrawal must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of State. **State and Federal Candidate Objection Deadline.** Last day to file written objections to nomination papers with the Secretary of State. Deadline is 5 p.m. **State and Federal Candidate Substitution Deadline.** Last day for NPPOs to replace candidates who withdrew, died, or were found ineligible for state and federal offices. **Draw Names for Non-Partisan Office Ballot Order** County auditor draws the names of candidates for non-partisan offices to determine the order in which the names of those candidates will appear on the ballot.	§49.31(2)(c)
Mon, Sept 2	**Labor Day Holiday – State Offices Closed**	§1C.1
Tue, Sept 3	**County Candidate Withdrawal Deadline.** Last day for NPPO candidates and candidates nominated by petition who filed with the county auditor to withdraw. Notice of withdrawal must be submitted in writing to the county auditor. **County Candidate Objection Deadline.** Last day to file written objections to nomination papers with the county auditor. Deadline is 5 p.m. **County Candidate Substitution Deadline.** Last day for NPPOs to replace candidates who withdrew, died, or were found ineligible for county offices. *Deadlines moved to Tuesday due to Labor Day holiday.*	§4.1(34), 47.4
Thu, Sept 19	**Satellite Absentee Voting Station Petitions Deadline** A petition requesting a satellite absentee voting station must be filed with the county auditor no later than 5:00 p.m.	§53.11(2)(a)
Wed, Oct 16	**Absentee Ballots Ready** First day absentee ballots may be voted in the county auditor's office.	§53.10
Mon, Oct 21	**Worry-Free Postmark Date** Mailed voter registration forms which are postmarked on or before today are considered on time to be pre-registered for the general election even if they are received after pre-registration deadline. **Voter Pre-Registration Deadline** The deadline to pre-register to vote for the general election is 5:00 p.m. **Exception:** Mailed registration forms postmarked on or before the worry-free postmark date, are considered on time even if they are received after 5:00 p.m. today. **Absentee Ballot by Mail Request Deadline** Last day to request an absentee ballot be mailed. Deadline is 5:00 p.m.	§48A.9(3) §48A.9(1) §53.2(1)(b)
Sat, Nov 2	**County Auditors' Offices Open** The county auditor's office must be open for at least 8 hours for absentee voting and other election business.	§47.2(5), 53.18(2)

Date	Event	Code Cite
Mon, Nov 4	**Absentee Ballot In-Person Deadline** Last day to request and vote an absentee ballot in person at the county auditor's office.	§53.2(1)(a)
Tue, Nov 5	**Last Day for Voters to Fix Incomplete Affidavits** Voters have until the time polls close at 8:00 p.m. to fix incomplete affidavit envelopes at the county auditor's office.	§53.18(2)
	General Election Day Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots may be delivered to the county auditor until 8:00 p.m.	§39.1, 49.73, 53.17(1)(a)
Thu, Nov 7	**Number of Provisional Ballots Posted** Number of provisional ballots cast in each precinct must be posted by the county auditor no later than 9:00 a.m.	§50.20
	Special Precinct Board Convened The county auditor may reconvene the special precinct board no earlier than noon to consider provisional, UOCAVA and Safe at Home absentee ballots postmarked on the day before the election or earlier.	§50.21, 50.22
Mon, Nov 11	**Veteran's Day Holiday – State Offices Closed** If the auditor's office is closed on Veteran's Day, applicable deadlines move to the next business day.	§1C.1
Tue, Nov 12	**Absentee Ballot Deadline – Noon** UOCAVA and Safe at Home absentee ballots confirmed to be sent on the day before the election or earlier by postmark or postal service barcode and received by noon today are considered to be on time to be counted.	§53.17(2)
Tue, Nov 12 / Wed, Nov 13	**County Canvass of Votes** May occur Monday or Tuesday.	§4.1(34), 50.24(1)
Fri, Nov 15 / Mon, Nov 18	**Recount Request Deadline** Written requests for a recount must be filed in the county auditor's office by 5:00 p.m. on the third day after the county canvass of votes.	§50.48(1)(a)
Mon, Dec 2	**State Canvass of Votes Must Be Complete**	§50.38
	Election Contests Deadline Deadlines for contesting the results of the general election vary by office. See the county auditor or Secretary of State for specific contest deadlines.	