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Running as an Independent Candidate in 2024

Candidates may have their name placed on the general election ballot as an independent candidate if they are not affiliated with a political party. (Section 1.005(9), Texas Election Code). If you vote in a party's primary elections or participate in a party's conventions, you thereby affiliate with the party. (Sections 142.008, 162.003, 162.007, Texas Election Code).

To file as an independent candidate, candidates must follow a two-part process. A candidate MUST:

- File a [Declaration of Intent to Run as an Independent Candidate \(PDF\)](#) between **November 11, 2023 and 6:00 p.m. on December 11, 2023** with the county judge (county or precinct offices) or the Secretary of State (district and state offices) (Sections 142.002(b)(2), 142.005, Texas Election Code). This Declaration of Intent to Run as an Independent Candidate is mandatory. If you do not file a declaration during the applicable filing period, your subsequent candidate application will be rejected.
- File a [candidate application \(PDF\)](#) along with a supporting [nominating petition \(PDF\)](#). The application, along with petition, must be filed by **5:00 p.m. on June 27, 2024**, with the county judge (county or precinct offices) or the Secretary of State (district and state offices). (Sections 142.005, 142.006, Texas Election Code).
 - Details on Nominating Petition: After the primary elections (or after the primary runoff election, if the office you are seeking is involved in a primary runoff election), you must collect signatures from registered voters who support your candidacy. (Section 142.009, Texas Election Code).
 - The signers of your petition must be registered voters who have not participated in the general primary election or the runoff primary election of a party that has nominated, at either election, a candidate for the office you seek. (Section 142.009, Texas Election Code).