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Procedures for Write-In Candidates in 2024

In Texas, a candidate may run for office as a declared write-in in the general election for state and county officers. A declared write-in candidate must submit a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy and submit a filing fee or petition in lieu of a filing fee in order for votes cast for that candidate to be counted in the election.

- **Filing Period**

- The Declaration of Write-in Candidacy along with the filing fee or petition in lieu of a filing fee must be submitted no earlier than **July 20, 2024**, and no later than **5:00 p.m. on August 19, 2024**. (Section 146.025, Texas Election Code).

- **Candidate Application:**

- In order to become a write-in candidate in the general election, a candidate must file a [Declaration of Write-in Candidacy \(PDF\)](#) with the Secretary of State or your county judge, as appropriate (see chart). (Section 146.023, Texas Election Code).

- **Filing Fee or Petition in Lieu of a Filing Fee:**

- The declaration must be accompanied by either a filing fee or a [Petition in Lieu of a Filing Fee \(PDF\)](#) signed by a certain number of qualified voters. For details on the filing fee amount or number of petition signatures needed, see chart below. (Sections 146.023(b), 146.0231, 146.0232, Texas Election Code).

- **Judicial Candidates**

- **NEW LAW:** Pursuant to HB 2384 (88th Leg., R.S.), effective September 1, 2023, candidates for judicial offices must provide additional information with their [judicial declaration of write-in candidacy](#).

(PDF). (Section 141.0311, Texas Election Code) See [Running for a Judicial Office in 2024](#) for more information.

A person who was a candidate for office in the primary election is ineligible for a place on the list of write-in candidates for that same office in the succeeding general election for state and county officers. (Section 162.015, Texas Election Code). See our [FAQs on Party Affiliation and Candidacy](#) for more details.

Write-In-Candidates

Public Office Sought in 2024	File Declaration of Write-in Candidacy with		Additional Information Required	Filing Fee	Petition in Lieu of Filing Fee	
	Sec of State	County Judge			% Signatures ^a	Number of Signatures ^e
United States Senator	x	-	-	\$5,000	-	5,000
United States Representative	x	-	-	\$3,125	2%	500
Railroad Commissioner	x	-	-	\$3,750	-	5,000
Justice, Supreme Court	x	-	x	\$3,750	-	5,000
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals	x	-	x	\$3,750	-	5,000
State Senator	x	-	-	\$1,250	2%	500
State Representative	x	-	-	\$750	2%	500
Member, State Board of Education	x	-	-	\$300	2%	500
Chief Justice and Justice, Court of Appeals	x	-	x	\$2,500 / \$1,875 ^c	2%	500
District Judge	x	-	x	\$2,500 / \$1,500 ^d	2%	500
Criminal District Judge	x	-	x	\$2,500 / \$1,500 ^d	2%	500
Family District Judge	x	-	x	\$2,500 / \$1,500 ^d	2%	500

District Attorney	x	-	-	\$1,250	2%	500
Criminal District Attorney	x	-	-	\$1,250	2%	500
County Judge	-	x	-	\$1,250 / \$750 ^b	2%	500
Judge, County Court-at-Law	-	x	x	\$2,500 / \$1,500 ^d	2%	500
Judge, County Criminal Court	-	x	x	\$2,500 / \$1,500 ^d	2%	500
Judge, County Probate Court	-	x	x	\$2,500 / \$1,500 ^d	2%	500
County Attorney	-	x	-	\$1,250 / \$750 ^f	2%	500
Sheriff	-	x	-	\$1,250 / \$750 ^b	2%	500
Tax-Assessor Collector	-	x	-	\$1,250 / \$750 ^b	2%	500
County Commissioner	-	x	-	\$1,250 / \$750 ^b	2%	500
Constable	-	x	-	\$1,000 / \$375 ^b	2%	500
Justice of the Peace	-	x	-	\$1,000 / \$375 ^b	2%	500
Source: Texas Election Code Section	§146.024		§141.0311	§146.023(b) § 146.0231 §172.024	§146.023(b) §146.0232 §172.025	

- a. Percentage of all votes for all gubernatorial candidates cast in the applicable territory in the 2022 general election. If number is less than 50, a larger percentage may be required. If number is less than 50, the required number of signatures is the lesser of (1) 50 or (2) 20% of all votes for all gubernatorial candidates cast in the applicable territory in the 2022 general election. (Sections 146.0232, 172.025, Texas Election Code).
- b. Pay higher fee if county has at least 200,000 inhabitants according to 2020 Census.
- c. Pay higher fee in Courts of Appeals Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 14. (Sections 146.0231, 172.024(8), Texas Election Code).

- d. Pay higher fee in Bexar, Dallas, Harris, and Tarrant Counties. (Sections 146.0231, 172.024(9)-(12), Texas Election Code).
- e. The minimum number of signatures that must appear on a candidate's petition for statewide office is 5000. The minimum number of signatures that must appear on a candidate's petition for district, county or precinct office is the lesser of (1) 500 or (2) 2% of the total vote received in the district, county or precinct, as applicable, by all gubernatorial candidates in the 2022 general election, subject to (a) above. (Section 172.025, Texas Election Code).
- f. Pay higher fee if county attorney performs the duties of a district attorney. (Section 172.024(13), Texas Election Code).