



# COUNTY OF MANITOWOC

## COUNTY CLERK

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Manitowoc County Clerk

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Dear Candidate:

Thank you for your interest in serving your county government by running for elected office.

Attached is an election packet that includes informational sheets, a dated checklist, and required forms that will need to be completed and filed with our office.

As a candidate for public office, it is **your** responsibility to correctly fill out the appropriate forms and turn them in on time. All election forms have instruction sheets. If you have a question on a form, call our office and ask. **Nomination Papers must be completed according to the instructions. We are more than happy to review your nomination paper header to verify you have it completed accurately before you start to circulate for signatures.**

Missing deadlines will not be tolerated, and may result in disqualification from having your name on the ballot. No extensions are granted because in Wisconsin, election law is a serious matter. Furthermore, on many of the deadline dates, members of the public and local media inquire about who has filed, and potentially review campaign finance reports.

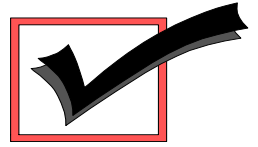
Public service is an honorable pursuit and we are appreciative of your willingness to serve the people of Manitowoc County. If you have any questions regarding the elections process, forms, campaign finance law, sign laws, deadlines, or anything else, do not hesitate to contact our office. If we don't know the answer, we will find it.

Good luck in the coming months.

Respectfully,

Jessica Backus  
Manitowoc County Clerk

## 2026 BALLOT ACCESS CHECKLIST FOR MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL MUNICIPAL JUDGE CANDIDATES



Each of the following forms must be completed and filed on time by candidates for Municipal Judge serving more than one municipality in order for the candidate's name to be placed on the ballot at the **February 17, 2026 Spring Primary** and the **April 7, 2026 Spring Election**.

The filing officer for Municipal Judges serving more than one municipality in a joint court is the County Clerk of the county having the largest portion of the population in the jurisdiction served by the judge. Candidates should contact their filing officer for further information or to obtain any of the necessary forms.

- ☐ **Register your Campaign Committee** A current registration (CF-1L) must be filed prior to raising or spending any funds, and no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 6, 2026 or the candidate's name will not be placed on the ballot. For questions, please contact the Wisconsin Ethics Commission: [ethics@wi.gov](mailto:ethics@wi.gov) | 608-266-8123
- ☐ **Complete and Submit a Declaration of Candidacy (Form [EL-162](#))** to the filing officer no later than **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2026** or the candidate's name will not be placed on the ballot. If the form is faxed or emailed, the original document must follow, postmarked no later than January 6, 2026. Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(5), 8.21, 8.30(4), Wis. Admin. Code EL § 6.04.
- ☐ **Circulate and Submit Nomination Papers for Nonpartisan Office (Form [EL-169](#))** to the filing officer no later than **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2026**. Only original nomination papers (no photocopies, faxes, or emailed documents) will be accepted. Nomination papers may not be circulated before December 1, 2025. Wis. Stat. § 8.10(2), Wis. Admin. Code EL § 6.04(2).

**The number of signatures required is as follows:**

**Multi-Jurisdictional Municipal Judge**

**20 - 100**

- ☐ **Complete and submit a Statement of Economic Interests (SEI)** to the Wisconsin Ethics Commission office no later than **4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 9, 2026**, or the candidate's name will not appear on the ballot. Wis. Stat. §§ 8.15(4)(b), 8.30(3), 19.43(4). Forms may be filed online at <https://sei.wi.gov>. Incumbent candidates will receive a filing notice around December 1, 2025, and new candidates will receive an email notice within one or two days of registering their committee. After December 1, 2025, a candidate may also print the Statement of Economic Interests form and instruction from the Ethics Commission website, and those forms may be returned by email or fax.

# Declaration of Candidacy

(See instructions for preparation on back)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Is this an amendment?

☐ **Yes** (if you have already filed a DOC for this election)

☐ **No** (if this is the first DOC you have filed for this election)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being duly sworn, state that

Candidate's name

I am a candidate for the office of \_\_\_\_\_

Official name of office - Include district, branch or seat number

representing \_\_\_\_\_

If partisan election, name of political party or statement of principle - five words or less (Candidates for nonpartisan office may leave blank.)

and I meet or will meet at the time I assume office the applicable age, citizenship, residency and voting qualification requirements, if any, prescribed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Wisconsin, and that I will otherwise qualify for office, if nominated and elected.

I have not been convicted of a felony in any court within the United States for which I have not been pardoned.<sup>1</sup>

**My present address, including my municipality of residence for voting purposes is:**

				Town of <input type="checkbox"/>	
				Village of <input type="checkbox"/>	
				City of <input type="checkbox"/>	

House or fire no.

Street Name

Mailing Municipality and State

Zip code

Municipality of Residence for Voting

**My name as I wish it to appear on the official ballot is as follows:**

(Any combination of first name, middle name or initials with surname. A nickname may replace a legal name.)

STATE OF WISCONSIN

County of \_\_\_\_\_

(County where oath administered)

}

ss.

(Signature of candidate)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

(Signature of person authorized to administer oaths)

**NOTARY SEAL  
REQUIRED, IF OATH  
ADMINISTERED BY  
NOTARY PUBLIC**

☐ Notary Public or ☐ other official \_\_\_\_\_

(Official title, if not a notary)

If Notary Public: My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_ or ☐ is permanent.

The information on this form is required by Wis. Stat. § 8.21, Art. XIII, Sec. 3, Wis. Const., and must be filed with the filing officer in order to have a candidate's name placed on the ballot. Wis. Stats. §§ 8.05 (1)(j), 8.10 (5), 8.15 (4)(b), 8.20 (6), 120.06 (6)(b), 887.01.

EL-162 | Rev. 2019-08 | Wisconsin Elections Commission, P.O. Box 7984, Madison, WI 53707-7984  
608-266-8005 | web: elections.wi.gov | email: elections@wi.gov

<sup>1</sup> A 1996 constitutional amendment bars any candidate convicted of a misdemeanor which violates the public trust from running for or holding a public office. However, the legislature has not defined which misdemeanors violate the public trust. A candidate convicted of any misdemeanor is not barred from running for or holding a public office until the legislature defines which misdemeanors apply.

## Instructions for Completing the Declaration of Candidacy

**All** candidates seeking ballot status for election to any office in the State of Wisconsin must properly complete and file a **Declaration of Candidacy**. This form must be **ON FILE** with the proper filing officer no later than the deadline for filing nomination papers or the candidate's name will not appear on the ballot. A facsimile will be accepted if the FAX copy is received by the filing officer no later than the filing deadline **and** the signed original declaration is received by the filing officer with a postmark no later than the filing deadline.

### **Information to be provided by the candidate:**

- Type or print your name on the first line.
- The title of the office and **any district, branch, or seat number** for which you are seeking election must be inserted on the second line. *For legislative offices insert the title and district number, for district attorneys insert the title and the county, for circuit court offices insert the title, county and branch number, and for municipal and school board offices insert the title and any district or seat number.*
- Type or print the political party affiliation or principle supported by you in five words or less on the third line. *Nonpartisan candidates may leave this line blank.*
- **Felony convictions: Your name cannot appear on the ballot if you have been convicted of a felony in any court in the United States for which you have not been pardoned. Please see footnote on page 1 for further information with respect to convictions for misdemeanors involving a violation of public trust. These restrictions only apply to candidates for state and local office.**
- Your current address, including your municipality of residence for voting purposes, must be inserted on the fourth line. This must include your entire mailing address (**street and number, municipality where you receive mail**) and the name of the municipality in which you reside and vote (town, village, or city of \_\_\_\_). If your address changes before the election, an amended Declaration of Candidacy must be filed with the filing officer. Wis. Stat. § 8.21. *Federal candidates are not required to provide this information, however an address for contact purposes is helpful.*
- Type or print your name on the fifth line as you want it to be printed on the official ballot. You may use your full legal name, former legal surname, or any combination of first name, middle name, and initials, surname or nickname with last name.

**Note:** The Wisconsin Elections Commission has determined that, absent any evidence of an attempt to manipulate the electoral process, candidates are permitted to choose any form of their name, including nicknames, by which they want to appear on the ballot.

No titles are permitted. In addition, names such as “Red” or “Skip” are permitted, but names which have an apparent electoral purpose or benefit, such as “Lower taxes,” “None of the above” or “Lower Spending” are not permitted. It is also not permissible to add nicknames in quotes or parentheses. For example, John “Jack” Jones or John (Jack) Jones are not acceptable, but John Jones, Jack Jones or John Jack Jones are acceptable.

This form must be sworn to and signed in the presence of a notary public or other person authorized to administer oaths, such as a county or municipal clerk. Wis. Stat. §§ 8.21(2), 887.01(1).

### **Information to be provided by the person administering the oath:**

- The county where the oath was administered.
- The date the Declaration of Candidacy was signed and the oath administered.
- The signature and title of the person administering the oath. If signed by a notary public, the notary seal is required and the date the notary's commission expires must be listed.

All candidates for offices using the nomination paper process must file this form (*and all school district candidates must file the EL-162sd*) with the appropriate filing officer no later than the deadline for filing nomination papers. Wis. Stats. §§ 8.10 (5), 8.15 (4)(b), 8.20 (6), 8.21, 8.50 (3)(a), 120.06 (6)(b). Candidates nominated for local office at a caucus must file this form with their municipal clerk within 5 days of receiving notice of nomination. Wis. Stat. § 8.05 (l)(j).

NOMINATION PAPER FOR NONPARTISAN OFFICE

Candidate's name (required); no titles may be used.		Candidate's residential address (required) No P.O. box addresses Street, fire, or rural route number; box number (if rural route); and name of street or road		Candidate's municipality for voting purposes (required) <input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City _____ (name of municipality)	
Candidate's mailing address, including municipality for mailing purposes (required if different than residential address or voting municipality)		State (required) <b>WI</b>	Zip code	Type of election (required) <input type="checkbox"/> spring <input type="checkbox"/> special	Election date (required) Do not use primary date. Mo/Day/Year
Title of office (required)		Branch, district or seat number (required if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Branch <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Seat		Name of jurisdiction or district in which candidate seeks office (required)	

I, the undersigned, request that the candidate, whose name and residential address are listed above, be placed on the ballot at the election described above as a candidate so that voters will have the opportunity to vote for ☐ him or ☐ her for the office listed above. I am eligible to vote in the jurisdiction or district in which the candidate named above seeks office. I have not signed the nomination paper of any other candidate for the same office at this election.

The municipality used for mailing purposes, when different than municipality of residence, is not sufficient. The name of the municipality of residence must always be listed.		Printed Name of Electors	Residential Address (No P.O. Box Addresses) Street and Number or Rural Route (Rural address must also include box or fire no.)	Municipality of Residence Check the type and write the name of your municipality for voting purposes.	Date of Signing Mo/Day/Year
1.				<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
2.				<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
3.				<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
4.				<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
5.				<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
6.				<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
7.				<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
8.				<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
9.				<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
10.				<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	

CERTIFICATION OF CIRCULATOR

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of circulator) certify: I reside at \_\_\_\_\_ (Circulator's residential address - Include number, street, and municipality.)

I further certify I am either a qualified elector of Wisconsin, or a U.S. citizen, age 18 or older who, if I were a resident of this state, would not be disqualified from voting under Wis. Stat. §6.03. I personally circulated this nomination paper and personally obtained each of the signatures on this paper. I know that the signers are electors of the jurisdiction or district the candidate seeks to represent. I know that each person signed the paper with full knowledge of its content on the date indicated opposite his or her name. I know their respective residences given. I intend to support this candidate. I am aware that falsifying this certification is punishable under Wis. Stat. § 12.13(3)(a).

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING NOMINATION PAPERS FOR NONPARTISAN OFFICE

This is a sample nomination paper form. It conforms to the statutory requirements for nomination papers for nonpartisan office. All information concerning the candidate must be completed in full before circulating this form to obtain signatures of electors. All information concerning the signing electors and the circulator must be completed in full before filing with the appropriate filing officer. This form may be reproduced in any way. A candidate's picture and biographical data may also be added to this form. The Wisconsin Elections Commission has determined that no disclaimer or other attribution statement is required on nomination papers. Candidates are advised to send a sample of their completed form the filing officer for review before circulation.

**Page Numbers** – Number each page consecutively, beginning with “1”, before submitting to the filing officer. A space for page numbers has been provided in the lower right-hand corner of the form.

**Candidate's Name** - Insert the candidate's name. A candidate may use his or her full legal name, or any combination of first name, middle name, and initials or nickname with last name. The Wisconsin Elections Commission has determined that, absent any evidence of an attempt to manipulate the electoral process, candidates are permitted to choose any form of their name, including nicknames, by which they want to appear on the ballot.

No titles are permitted. In addition, names such as “Red” or “Skip” are permitted, but names which have an apparent electoral purpose or benefit, such as “Lower taxes,” “None of the above” or “Lower Spending” are not permitted. It is also not permissible to add nicknames in quotes or parentheses between first and last names. For example, John “Jack” Jones or John (Jack) Jones are not acceptable, but John Jones, Jack Jones or John Jack Jones are acceptable.

**Candidate's Address** – Insert the candidate's residential address (*no P.O. Box addresses*) and the municipality for voting purposes. Indicate if the municipality of residence is a town, village, or city. If a candidate's mailing address is different from the residential address or voting municipality, a complete mailing address must also be given.

**Date of Election** - Insert the date of the election. If the nomination paper is being circulated for a spring election, the date is the first Tuesday in April. If the election is a special nonpartisan election, the date of the special election must be listed.

**Title of Office** - The name of the office must be listed **along with any branch, district, or seat number** (if applicable) that clearly identifies the office the candidate is seeking. If necessary, the name of the jurisdiction that identifies the office, such as Dane County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 3, must also be listed.

**Name of Jurisdiction** - The nomination papers must also indicate the municipality or jurisdiction in which the signing electors are qualified to vote, as it relates to the office sought by the candidate named on the nomination paper. For example, for a statewide office the jurisdiction is the State of Wisconsin. Others may be the county, town, village, city, aldermanic district, school district, or town sanitary district, as required.

**Signatures and Printed Name of Electors** - Only qualified electors of the jurisdiction or the district the candidate seeks to represent may sign the nomination papers. Each signer must also legibly print their name. Each elector must provide their **residential** address (*no P.O. Box addresses*), including any street, fire or rural route number, box number (if rural route) and street or road name, and municipality of residence. A post office box number alone does not show where the elector actually resides. The name of the Municipality of Residence must be listed for each signing elector and must clearly identify the town, village or city where the elector's voting residence is located. The date the elector signed the nomination paper, including month, day and year, must be indicated. Ditto marks that follow correct and complete address or date information are acceptable. The circulator may add any missing or illegible address or date information before the papers are filed with the filing officer.

**Signature of Circulator** - The circulator should carefully read the language of the *Certification of Circulator*. **THE CIRCULATOR MUST PERSONALLY PRESENT THE NOMINATION PAPER TO EACH SIGNER. THE NOMINATION PAPER MAY NOT BE LEFT UNATTENDED ON COUNTERS OR POSTED ON BULLETIN BOARDS.** The circulator's complete residential address including municipality of residence must be listed in the certification. After obtaining signatures of electors, the circulator must sign and date the certification.

**Other Instructions** - Candidates and circulators should review Ch. Wisconsin Elections Commission §§ 2.05, 2.07, Wis. Adm. Code.

- *Original* nomination papers must be in the physical custody of the appropriate filing officer by the filing deadline. A postmark on the filing deadline is **not** sufficient. Nomination papers **CANNOT** be faxed to the filing officer. Ch. Wisconsin Elections Commission § 6.04(2), Wis. Adm. Code.
- Nomination papers with the required number of signatures must be filed with the appropriate filing officer **no later than 5:00 p.m.** on the first Tuesday in January (or the next day if the first Tuesday is a holiday) before the spring election. Special elections may have different filing deadlines. Check with the filing officer.
- In order for a candidate's name to be placed on the ballot, a candidate must file a *Campaign Registration Statement* (ETHCF-1), a *Declaration of Candidacy* (EL-162), and *Nomination Papers* (EL-169) containing the appropriate number of signatures for the office sought no later than the filing deadline. Wis. Stat. § 8.10(3). Candidates for state office and municipal judge must also file a statement of economic interests with the Wisconsin Ethics Commission by the third business day after the nomination paper filing deadline. Wis. Stat. § 19.43. If any one of these required forms is not filed by the deadline, the candidate's name will not be placed on the ballot. Wis. Stat. § 8.30.
- If a candidate or circulator has any questions, he or she should contact the filing officer.