



COUNTY OF MANITOWOC

COUNTY CLERK

1010 South 8th St., Ste. 115
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Jessica Backus

Manitowoc County Clerk

Telephone: (920) 683-4004

Email: jessicabackus@manitowoccountywi.gov

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

COUNTY SUPERVISOR & COUNTY EXECUTIVE CANDIDATES



Each of the following forms must be completed and filed on time by a candidate for the office of County Supervisor or County Executive 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 County Supervisor and County Executive is the County Clerk. 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 | 608-266-8123.

- ☐ **Circulate and Submit Nomination Papers for Nonpartisan Office (Form EL-169)** to the filing officer no later than **5 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:

County Supervisor:

In counties with populations over 750,000	200 - 400
In counties with populations between 100,000 and 750,000	*100 - 200
In counties with populations under 100,000	20 - 100

County Executive:

In counties with populations over 750,000	2000 - 4000
In counties with populations between 100,000 and 750,000	500 - 1000
In counties with populations under 100,000	200 - 400

*This number applies unless the county has passed an ordinance per Wis. Stat. § 8.10(3m), to reduce the minimum number of signatures to 50.

- ☐ **Complete and Submit a Declaration of Candidacy (Form EL-162)** to the County Clerk. The Declaration of Candidacy form must be received in the County Clerk's office 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.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING STATEMENTS OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS: A county may enact an ordinance establishing a code of ethics for public officials that may require a candidate for county office to file a Statement of Economic Interests (SEI). The ordinance may also provide that failure to timely file an SEI will prevent the candidate's name from being placed on the ballot. Wis. Stat. §19.59(1m), (3)(b). Please contact the filing officer to learn if this requirement applies to you.



CAMPAIGN FINANCE REGISTRATION STATEMENT —
LOCAL CANDIDATE COMMITTEE
STATE OF WISCONSIN

***CAUTION:** A personal telephone number that is identified as a confidential telephone number on page 3 of this form should **not** be entered on page 1 of this form. Do **not** enter any personal telephone numbers of the candidate, the candidate committee treasurer, and any other custodian of books and accounts on page 1 of this form.

1. Is this an Amendment? ☐ No ☐ Yes

SECTION A: GENERAL INFORMATION

A1. Committee Name (Required for all Candidates - must be included in disclaimer on all communications)				
A2. Committee Email		A3. Committee Phone (Do not enter a confidential phone number)		
A4. Mailing Address		A5. City	A6. State	A7. Zip
Depository Institution Information				
A8. Institution Name	A9. Street Address	A10. City	A11. State	A12. Zip
Treasurer/Administrator Information				
A13. Name		A14. Treasurer Email	A15. Treasurer Phone (*See Caution)	
A16. Mailing Address		A17. City	A18. State	A19. Zip
Other Officers (Optional)				
A20. Name	A21. Title	A22. Email	A23. Phone (* See Caution above)	
A24. Name	A25. Title	A26. Email	A27. Phone (* See Caution above)	
Filing Exemption <i>Registrants which do not anticipate accepting or making contributions, making disbursements, or incurring obligations in an aggregate amount exceeding \$2,500 in a calendar year may claim an exemption from filing campaign finance reports. This exemption applies until the registrant exceeds the \$2,500 aggregate activity threshold, amends its registration, or is terminated.</i>			A28. Exemption Affirmation <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, this registrant is eligible for exemption. <input type="checkbox"/> No, this registrant is not eligible for exemption.	

SECTION B: CANDIDATE INFORMATION

B1. Office Sought (include District/Branch)		B2. Political Party	B3. Election Date
Candidate Information			
B4. Name		B5. Candidate Email	B6. Candidate Phone (* See Caution)
B7. Mailing Address		B8. City	B9. State B10. Zip
Second Candidate Committee <i>An individual who holds a state or local elective office may establish a second candidate committee to pursue another state or local office.</i>		B11. Is this your only registered candidate committee in Wisconsin? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, this is my only candidate committee in Wisconsin. <input type="checkbox"/> No, this is my second candidate committee in Wisconsin.	
B12. Other Office Held or Sought (include District/Branch) Only complete B12 if you responded "No" to B11.			

SECTION C: CERTIFICATION

Accurate Information

- ☐ I certify that I am an authorized representative of the candidate committee and that to my knowledge all of the information contained within this registration is true, correct, and complete.

Timely Amendments

- ☐ I am aware of the requirement to amend this registration statement within 10 days of any change of information contained within, including any change to the candidate committee's eligibility for exemption from campaign finance reporting.

Records Retention

- ☐ I acknowledge the requirement to maintain the records of the candidate committee in an organized and legible manner for three years from the close of the most recent contribution limit period (June 30 following the April election, December 31 following the November election).

Continuing Compliance

- ☐ I acknowledge that I am required to continue to comply with all applicable requirements under Chapter 11 of the Wisconsin Statutes until this registration is terminated. I understand that I am not released from any liability simply because the election date has passed.

Treasurer

C1. Printed Name	C2. Signature	C3. Date

Candidate

C4. Printed Name	C5. Signature	C6. Date

Form Instructions

Candidates must complete all sections A, B, and C.

Item 1. Is this an amendment? Have you registered with this local clerk to run for office in a prior election?

Item A1: Committee Name. All candidates are required to register a committee. It is not required that the name include the candidate's name, but it is recommended. This committee name is required to be part of the disclaimer on all communications with express advocacy: 'Paid for by ...'

A28: Exemption. Candidates claiming exemption may not have more than \$2,500 of activity, in the aggregate per year. In a calendar year, if you raise \$1,600 and spend \$1,000 you have \$2,600 of aggregate activity and are not eligible to claim exemption.

Depository Institution Information. All candidates must designate a depository institution. While it is recommended that all candidates have a designated campaign depository account, candidates who will serve as their own treasurer may designate a single personal account to serve as the committee depository account while claiming a filing exemption and may intermingle personal and campaign funds (Wis. STAT. § 11.0201(2)(b)).

Treasurer Information. Each committee must appoint a treasurer. Any adult may serve as a treasurer. A candidate may serve as his or her own treasurer. If you are serving as your own treasurer, please write "Self" or "Candidate". A candidate serving as their own treasurer does not need to provide their name, address and contact information here because that information will already be provided in section B. Do not leave this section blank.

Section B: Candidate Information

B1. Be sure to include the name of the county, municipality, or school district. There are 72 counties with county supervisors, 100's of school boards, and 1000's of municipal boards.

B2. Party - "N/A" or "None" for nonpartisan offices (April). Democrat, Republican, Constitution, Green, Independent, or other ballot status party for partisan (fall) primary/election.

Section C: Certification. All candidates must complete section C. If the candidate is serving as their own treasurer, they would only need to sign once, as either the candidate or treasurer.



CAMPAIGN FINANCE REGISTRATION STATEMENT —
LOCAL CANDIDATE COMMITTEE—CONFIDENTIAL PHONE CONTACTS
STATE OF WISCONSIN

All information on pages 1 and 2 of this form is available to the public. Pursuant to 2023 Wisconsin Act 120, candidates, treasurers, and any other custodian of books and accounts (such as an assistant treasurer) are required to provide a personal telephone number. This page provides you the space to provide those required telephone numbers. Personal telephone numbers are confidential and are not subject to the right of inspection and copying under WIS. STAT. § 19.35(1). *See* WIS. STAT. § 11.0203(bd). However, a personal email address provided is subject to the right of inspection and copying under WIS. STAT. § 19.35(1) and may be disclosed.

Failure to provide a valid email may result in failure to receive filing reminders and notifications from the filing officer. Failure to receive a form or notice from a filing officer does not exempt a committee from a reporting requirement under this chapter (WIS. STAT. §11.0103(b)). The candidate committee is required to report any change in information previously submitted in a registration statement within 10 days following the change. WIS. STAT. § 11.0203(3).

Candidate Information	
Name	Personal Phone Number

Treasurer Information	
Name	Personal Phone Number

Other Custodians' Information	
Name	Personal Phone Number
Name	Personal Phone Number
Name	Personal Phone Number

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.¹

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.

¹ 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) WI	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.		
Signatures of Electors	Printed Name of Electors	<div>Municipality of Residence Check the type and write the name of your municipality for voting purposes. <input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City</div> <div>Residential Address (No P.O. Box Addresses) Street and Number or Rural Route (Rural address must also include box or fire no.)</div> <div>Date of Signing Mo/Day/Year</div>
1.		<div><input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City</div>
2.		<div><input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City</div>
3.		<div><input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City</div>
4.		<div><input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City</div>
5.		<div><input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City</div>
6.		<div><input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City</div>
7.		<div><input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City</div>
8.		<div><input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City</div>
9.		<div><input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City</div>
10.		<div><input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City</div>

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.