

# Write-In Candidates

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In order to become a write-in candidate in the general election, file a [Declaration of Write-in Candidacy \(PDF\)](#) with the Secretary of State or your county judge, as appropriate (see chart), no earlier than July 18, 2020, and no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 17, 2020. Section 146.025, Texas Election Code. Your declaration must be accompanied by either a filing fee or a [nominating petition \(PDF\)](#) signed by a certain number of qualified voters. Tex. Sections 146.023(b), 146.0231, 146.0232, Texas Election Code.

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.

Write-In-Candidates					
Public Office Sought in 2020	File Declaration of Write-in Candidacy with		Filing Fee	Nominating Petition in Lieu of Filing Fee	Number of Signatures <sup>e</sup>
	Sec of State	County Judge			
United States Senator	x	-	\$5,000	-	5,000
United States Representative	x	-	\$3,125	2%	500
Railroad Commissioner	x	-	\$3,750	-	5,000
Chief Justice and Justice, Supreme Court	x	-	\$3,750	-	5,000
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals	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	-	\$2,500 / \$1,875 <sup>c</sup>	2%	500
District Judge	x	-	\$2,500 / \$1,500 <sup>d</sup>	2%	500
Criminal District Judge	x	-	\$2,500 / \$1,500 <sup>d</sup>	2%	500
Family District Judge	x	-	\$2,500 / \$1,500 <sup>d</sup>	2%	500

<b>District Attorney</b>	x	-	\$1,250	2%	500
<b>Criminal District Attorney</b>	x	-	\$1,250	2%	500
<b>County Judge</b>	-	x	\$1,250 / \$750 <sup>b</sup>	2%	500
<b>Judge, County Court-at-Law</b>	-	x	\$2,500 / \$1,500 <sup>d</sup>	2%	500
<b>Judge, County Criminal Court</b>	-	x	\$2,500 / \$1,500 <sup>d</sup>	2%	500
<b>Judge, County Probate Court</b>	-	x	\$2,500 / \$1,500 <sup>d</sup>	2%	500
<b>County Attorney</b>	-	x	\$1,250 / \$750 <sup>b</sup>	2%	500
<b>Sheriff</b>	-	x	\$1,250 / \$750 <sup>b</sup>	2%	500
<b>Tax-Assessor Collector</b>	-	x	\$1,250 / \$750 <sup>b</sup>	2%	500
<b>County Commissioner</b>	-	x	\$1,250 / \$750 <sup>b</sup>	2%	500
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	-	x	\$1,000 / \$375 <sup>b</sup>	2%	500
<b>Constable</b>	-	x	\$1,000 / \$375 <sup>b</sup>	2%	500
<b>Source: Texas Election Code Section</b>	§146.024		§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 2018 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 2018 general election. Sections 146.0232, 172.025, Texas Election Code.
- b. Pay higher fee if county has at least 200,000 inhabitants according to 2010 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.

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 2014 general election, subject to (a) above. Section 172.025, Texas Election Code.