

# Candidate Filing

Candidate filing for the 2016 Elections runs from February 1, 2016 through June 7, 2016. The candidate filing process allows qualified individuals to have their names appear on the ballot.

## Nomination Paper

Candidates must complete and file a nomination paper to appear on the ballot. To obtain a nomination paper, candidates must first complete an *Application for a Nomination Paper*. Application forms are available through the Office of Elections at [www.elections.hawaii.gov](http://www.elections.hawaii.gov).

Completed applications can be submitted at the following location to receive a nomination paper:

- Candidates for federal and state offices:
  - Office of Elections
  - County of Hawaii Clerk's Office
  - County of Maui Clerk's Office
  - County of Kauai Clerk's Office
- Candidates for county offices - the respective Clerk's Office

## Resignation Requirements

If a candidate is a state or county officeholder seeking a federal office, there is no resignation requirement.

Additionally, a state or county officeholder whose successor would regularly be elected at the same election in which they are a candidate for another state or county office is not required to resign.

However, a state or county officeholder, whose successor would not regularly be elected at the same election in which they are a candidate for another state or county office is required to resign. This resignation needs to occur prior to the state or county officeholder filing a nomination paper for the new state or county office.

## Signature Requirements

A nomination paper must be signed by a minimum number of properly registered voters qualified to vote for the candidate.

Office	Signatures Required
U.S. Senator	25
U.S. Representative	25
Governor	25
Lt. Governor	25
State Senator	15
State Representative	15
Office of Hawaiian Affairs	25
Mayor	15
Prosecuting Attorney	15
Councilmember	15

For a signature to be valid, the individual signing the nomination paper:

- Must live and be properly registered to vote in the district from which the candidate seeks office
- May sign as many nomination papers as there are seats to be filled
- Must include the last four digits of his/her social security number, name, signature, residence address, and birth date

## Filing Nomination Paper

The deadline to file a nomination paper is **June 7, 2016, 4:30 pm.**

When filing a nomination paper, all candidates must certify that they:

- Will qualify under the law for the office sought
- Determined all of the information on the nomination paper is true and correct, except for the information provided by the signatories

- Are in compliance with HRS § 831-2, which provides that a person sentenced for a felony, from the time of the person's sentence until the person's final discharge, may not become a candidate for or hold public office.

Partisan candidates are required to certify that they are a member of the political party listed on the nomination paper.

County candidates are required to certify that they have complied with the relevant provisions of the applicable county charter and county ordinances pertaining to elected officials.

All candidates are required to provide a notarized written oath or affirmation. The oath or affirmation statement is on the nomination paper.

**Ballot Name**

Candidates must designate the name they want to appear on the ballot at the time of filing. The ballot name:

- May include Hawaiian and/or English equivalents or nicknames
- Contain a maximum of 27 typed spaces; including letters, spaces, and punctuation marks
- Be in the format prescribed by the Office of Elections and otherwise meet the statutory and administrative rules requirements associated with ballot names.

**Filing Fee**

Candidates must submit payment at the time of filing. The filing fee is based on the office the candidate is seeking.

Discounted filing fees are available for candidates seeking state or county office. Candidates interested in a discounted filing fee must agree to abide by the state's voluntary campaign expenditure limits by submitting an affidavit to Campaign Spending Commission prior to filing their nomination papers.

Name	Filing Fee	Discounted Fee
U.S. Senator	\$75	N/A
U.S. Representative	\$75	N/A
Governor	\$750	\$75
Lt. Governor	\$750	\$75
State Senator	\$250	\$25
State Representative	\$250	\$25
Office of Hawaiian Affairs	\$250	\$25
Mayor	\$500	\$50
Prosecuting Attorney	\$250	\$25
Councilmember	\$250	\$25

Accepted forms of payment:

- Cash
- Money order
- Cashier's check
- Certified check

**Candidate Objections**

Objections can be made by a registered voter, an officer of a qualified political party, the chief election officer, or the county clerk in the case of a county election.

All objections must be filed in writing no later than **June 14, 2016, 4:30 pm.**

Objections by a registered voter are filed with the chief election officer or the county clerk in the case of a county election. Objections by an officer of a qualified political party are filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Candidates will be notified of any challenge by registered or certified mail. The chief election officer or county clerk may hold meetings to gather facts for a preliminary decision on the merits of the objection. A decision must be made within five working days after the objection was filed.

If the decision is that the objection warrants disqualification of the candidate, the chief election officer or county clerk will file a complaint with the Clerk of the Circuit Court within seven working days after the objection was filed.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court will issue a summons to the candidate to appear before the court not later than 4:30 p.m. on the fifth day after service of the summons.

The Circuit Court will hear the matter in a summary manner and issue its judgment to the chief election officer or county clerk, not later than 4:30 p.m. on the fourth day after the return on the summons to appear before it.

If the judgment is to disqualify the candidate, the chief election officer or county clerk will follow the procedures set forth in HRS §§ 11-117 and 11-118 regarding the disqualification of candidates.

**For complete information, please refer to HRS §§11-117, 11-118, and Chapter 12.**

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