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# Candidate's Manual

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| 2026 Elections

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This manual is a reference source. It is not to be used as the authority on the Hawaii election laws or any other laws for individuals or candidates. It is distributed with the understanding that the Office of Elections is not rendering legal advice and therefore the manual is not to be used as a substitute for legal counsel for the individual or candidate using it. In case of conflict with the manual; the law, regulation, or rule will apply. Readers should consult the United States Constitution, Hawaii State Constitution, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Hawaii Administrative Rules, County Charters, Attorney General Opinions, and other sources for a complete and legal basis of the law.

If you have any questions about the material covered in this manual or need further assistance, please contact us.

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Office of Elections  
802 Lehua Avenue  
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782  
(808) 453-VOTE (8683)  
[elections@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections@hawaii.gov)  
[elections.hawaii.gov](http://elections.hawaii.gov)

# A Message from the Chief Election Officer

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Dear Candidate:

Congratulations on your decision to seek public office! Your willingness to pursue elected office reflects a strong commitment to civic responsibility and helps ensure that voters are presented with meaningful choices.

This Candidate's Manual is designed to assist you through the nomination paper filing process and provides an overview of elections in Hawaii. It includes important information on key deadlines and answers to frequently asked questions. We encourage you to review it carefully and refer to it throughout the process.

We wish you the best on your campaign and thank you for your commitment to public service. If you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Elections at (808) 453-VOTE (8683) or [elections@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections@hawaii.gov).

Very truly yours,

SCOTT T. NAGO  
Chief Election Officer

# Election Offices

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Office hours may vary by location and some locations are by appointment only. Go to [elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov) or contact your Election Office for the most updated information.

## State of Hawaii, Office of Elections

Issues and files nomination papers for federal and state candidates as well as prints and counts ballots and provides voter education. Since the Office of Elections is responsible for the printing of ballots, it coordinates candidate filing, statewide.

### Office of Elections

Ballot Operations  
802 Lehua Avenue  
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782  
(808) 453-VOTE (8683)  
[elections@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections@hawaii.gov)  
[elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov)

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## County of Hawaii, Elections Division

Issues and files nomination papers for their county candidates as well as federal and state candidates on behalf of the Office of Elections. Additionally, the County Elections Division handles voter registration, the mailing and receipt of ballots, and establishes and operates voter service centers and places of deposit.

### County of Hawaii, Hilo

25 Aupuni Street, 1502  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
(808) 961-8277  
[hiloelec@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:hiloelec@hawaiicounty.gov)  
[elections.hawaiicounty.gov](https://elections.hawaiicounty.gov)

### County of Hawaii, Kona

West Hawaii Civic Center  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Highway  
Building D, 1st Floor  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740  
(808) 323-4400  
[hiloelec@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:hiloelec@hawaiicounty.gov)  
[elections.hawaiicounty.gov](https://elections.hawaiicounty.gov)

## County of Maui, Elections Division

Issues and files nomination papers for their county candidates as well as federal and state candidates on behalf of the Office of Elections. Additionally, the County Elections Division handles voter registration, the mailing and receipt of ballots, and establishes and operates voter service centers and places of deposit.

### County of Maui

200 South High Street, 708  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
(808) 270-7749  
[county.clerk@mauicounty.us](mailto:county.clerk@mauicounty.us)  
[mauicountyvotes.gov](https://mauicountyvotes.gov)

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## County of Kauai, Elections Division

Issues and files nomination papers for their county candidates as well as federal and state candidates on behalf of the Office of Elections. Additionally, the County Elections Division handles voter registration, the mailing and receipt of ballots, and establishes and operates voter service centers and places of deposit.

### County of Kauai

4386 Rice Street, 101  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766  
(808) 241-4800  
[elections@kauai.gov](mailto:elections@kauai.gov)  
[kauai.gov/elections](https://kauai.gov/elections)

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## City and County of Honolulu, Elections Division

Issues and files nomination papers for their city candidates. Additionally, the City Elections Division handles voter registration, the mailing and receipt of ballots, and establishes and operates voter service centers and places of deposit.

### City and County of Honolulu

530 South King Street, 100  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 768-3800  
[elections@honolulu.gov](mailto:elections@honolulu.gov)  
[honolulu.gov/elections](https://honolulu.gov/elections)

# Table of Contents

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## BECOME A CANDIDATE

Application	<a href="#">2</a>
Nomination Paper	<a href="#">4</a>
Voter Guide Statement and Photo	<a href="#">8</a>
Filing Your Nomination Paper	<a href="#">9</a>
Objection to a Nomination Paper	<a href="#">14</a>
Withdrawal of Candidates	<a href="#">14</a>

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Receiving and Filing a Nomination Paper	<a href="#">15</a>
Changes to My Information and Nomination Paper	<a href="#">16</a>
Signatures	<a href="#">17</a>
Ballot Name	<a href="#">17</a>
Political Party and Nonpartisan	<a href="#">18</a>
Voter Guide Statement and Photo	<a href="#">19</a>
Campaigning	<a href="#">19</a>
Withdrawal and Resignation	<a href="#">20</a>

## WHAT OFFICE CAN I RUN FOR?

2026 Election Contests	<a href="#">21</a>
Federal Office	<a href="#">22</a>
State Office	<a href="#">24</a>
County of Hawaii Office	<a href="#">28</a>
County of Maui Office	<a href="#">30</a>
County of Kauai Office	<a href="#">32</a>
City and County of Honolulu Office	<a href="#">34</a>
Next Election, 2028 Election Contests	<a href="#">36</a>

## BALLOT: PRIMARY TO THE GENERAL

What's on the Ballot?	<a href="#">37</a>
Primary Election	<a href="#">38</a>
General Election	<a href="#">40</a>

## CAMPAIGNING

Electioneering Boundary	<a href="#">41</a>
Advertising	<a href="#">41</a>
Campaign Signs Regulations	<a href="#">42</a>

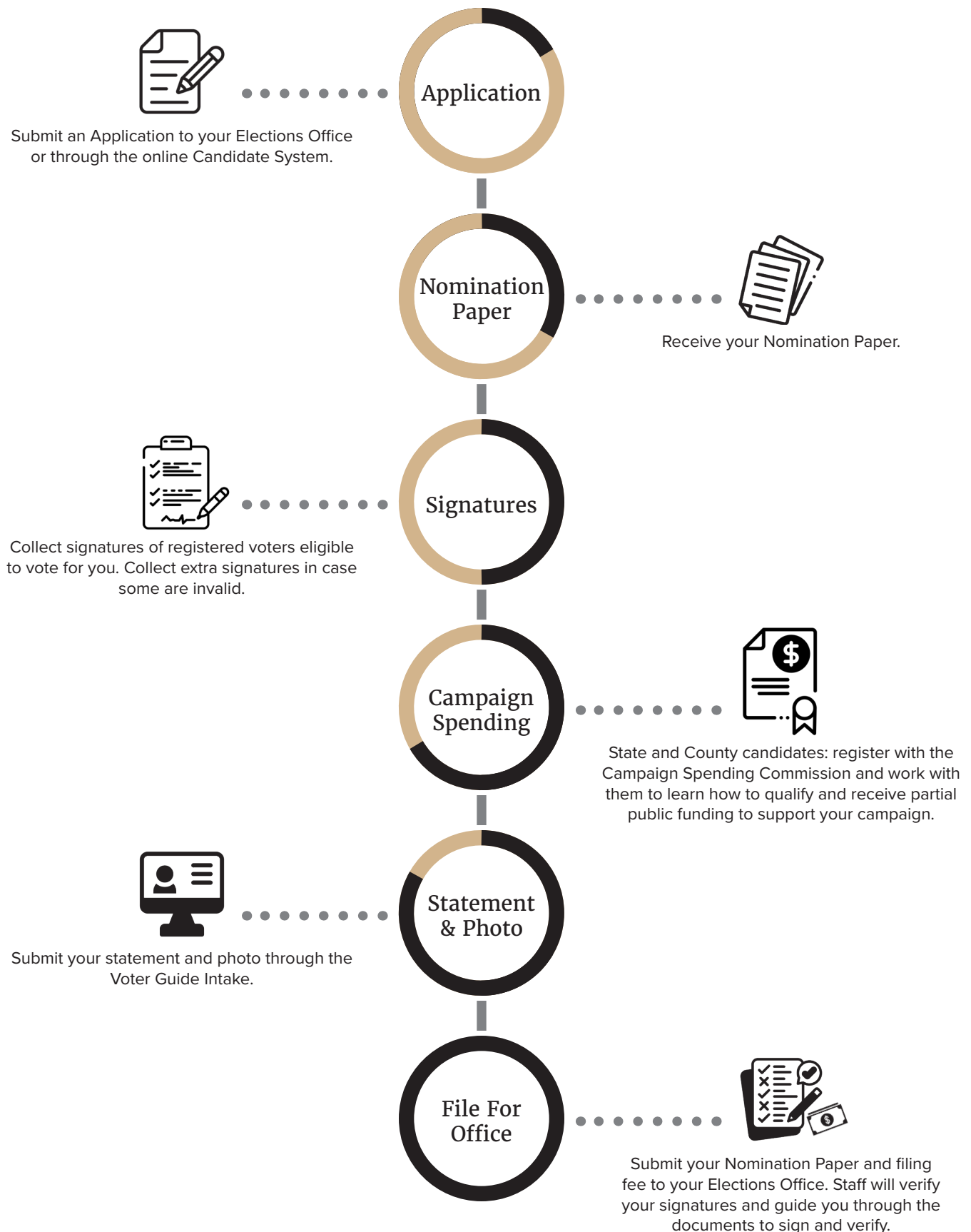
## ELECTIONS IN HAWAII

Voter Registration	<a href="#">46</a>
Mailing of Ballots	<a href="#">47</a>
Voting and Returning the Ballot	<a href="#">48</a>
Voter Service Centers	<a href="#">49</a>
Getting Results	<a href="#">49</a>
Voter Accessibility and Assistance	<a href="#">51</a>

## DATES AND DEADLINES

Dates and Deadlines	<a href="#">52</a>
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# Candidate Filing Process



# Become a Candidate

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The candidate filing process is how individuals qualify to run for office and appear on the ballot. It involves requesting a nomination paper, gathering signatures from registered voters, and submitting all completed forms and fees by the deadline.

When the candidate is ready to file for candidacy, they should bring the following items with them:

- nomination paper with the signatures they collected,
- filing fee, and
- identification for the notarization of the oath or affirmation (depending if a notary is available at the filing location).

For the 2026 Elections, candidates may begin to apply and receive nomination papers on February 2. Completed nomination papers must be filed by June 2, 2026, 4:30 PM, in order to become a candidate and appear on the ballot.

Federal and state offices (excluding the Office of Hawaiian Affairs) are partisan contests. Candidates may be a member of a political party or run as a nonpartisan candidate. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs and County offices are nonpartisan special contests. All candidates for these contests run as nonpartisan candidates.

# Application

To receive a nomination paper, candidates must first submit an *Application for a Nomination Paper*. Applications are available at **elections.hawaii.gov**, or from one of the locations listed below. Submit your completed application to one of these locations to receive a nomination paper.

Office hours may vary by location and some locations are by appointment only. Go to **elections.hawaii.gov** for each location's contact information and the most updated information.

## Federal & State candidates submit application to:

Office of Elections  
Hawaii Elections Division  
Maui Elections Division  
Kauai Elections Division

## County candidates submit application to:

Hawaii Elections Division  
Maui Elections Division  
Kauai Elections Division  
Honolulu Elections Division

The Office of Elections will issue and accept nomination papers for all federal and state elective offices, including the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

Nomination papers for county offices are only available from the respective County Elections Division. The Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai will also issue and accept their respective federal and state elective offices.

It is strongly recommended that first time candidates pick up their nomination paper in person. The election official issuing the nomination paper will explain the process and answer any questions the candidate may have.

## Candidate System for Online Issuing of Nomination Papers

Candidates may also receive a nomination paper online through the Candidate System. The system can be accessed at **elections.hawaii.gov**.

Candidates will complete an online application that will be used to generate a nomination paper that can be printed to use for collecting signatures. The system does not guarantee candidacy. Candidates will still need to submit the completed hard copy of their nomination paper to their election office by the candidate filing deadline, 4:30 PM on June 2, 2026.



## Application for a Nomination Paper

Application for a Nomination Paper				State of Hawaii   2026 Elections			
Please print clearly in black ink.							
The information contained on this form is public with the exception of HI Driver License or HI State ID Number, Social Security Number, Date of Birth, and Residence Address Number. If no Mailing Address is provided, Residence Address will be released to the public.							
1	Full Legal Name						
	Last Name		First Name		Middle or Initial(s)		Suffix (Jr., III)
	Name Commonly Known As (if different from legal name) <input type="checkbox"/> Same as Legal Name						
3	HI Driver License or HI State ID Number			If you do not have a HI Driver License or HI State ID, provide the last 4-digits of your Social Security Number		Date of Birth	
4	Residence Address				City		Zip Code
	Mailing Address <input type="checkbox"/> Same as Residence Address				City		Zip Code
	If your residence does not have a street address, describe the location (cross streets, landmarks).						
5	Phone Number		Email Address		Website		
6	Name of Contact Person, if any			Relation of Contact Person (Example: Campaign Mngr.)		Contact Person's Phone Number	
7	Felony Conviction		I am a citizen of the United States of America.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		I am a resident of the State of Hawaii.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
			I am a registered voter of the State of Hawaii.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
8	Office and District (Example: State Representative District 1, OHA At-Large Trustee State of Hawaii, Hawaii Mayor County of Hawaii)						
9	Political Party or Nonpartisan (complete if you are running for U.S. Rep., Gov., Lt. Gov., State Senator, or State Rep.)					Party Member	
						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
9	The information provided herein is true and correct and I hereby authorize the Chief Election Officer and/or the County Clerk to verify the above information.						
	Signature					Date	
OFFICE USE ONLY	Issued By	Date & Time	Location	Voter Registration	CJIS Verified	Proofed in System	
				Cong. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Senate <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Initials:
	Filed By	Date & Time	Location	VR Verified	CSC Affidavit Filed	Filing Fee Amount	Receipt Number
				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Ballot Name - maximum of 27 typed spaces; including letters, spaces, and punctuation marks. May include a nickname or Hawaiian equivalent in parenthesis. Titles and slogans are not allowed. Use this format: LASTNAME, Firstname M.I., Jr. (Nickname)							
Comments							

The following information is public and will be included in the Candidate Report that is posted at



**elections.hawaii.gov.**

- Office and Party Affiliation
- Legal Name
- Ballot Name
- Mailing Address
- Phone Number
- Email Address
- Website

# Nomination Paper

The nomination paper contains the candidate's information, office and political affiliation, self-subscribing oaths the candidate must sign, and signature pages. Candidates may apply for more than 1 nomination paper if they have not decided which office or party to run for. However, candidates may not file a nomination paper for more than 1 office or for more than 1 party; nor shall any person file a nomination paper both as a party candidate and as a nonpartisan candidate (HRS §12-3). Candidates are advised to file their nomination paper early and to allow ample time to comply with all requirements.

## Nomination Paper

Nomination Paper		Candidate Filing Deadline   Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 4:30pm
提名紙   Palapala Hāpai Moho   Papel iti Panakadutok   Papel ng Nominasyon		
<b>Candidate Information</b>		
Legal Name (First Middle Last)		
Name Commonly Known As (First Middle Last)		
Residence Address		
City	Zip Code	County
Mailing Address		
City	Zip Code	
<b>Contest Information</b>		
Office and District		
Political Party or Nonpartisan		
<b>Number of Signatures Required</b>		
We, by signature hereon, nominate the person named as a candidate on the ballot to be voted on at the next Primary or Special Election and we declare that we are duly registered voters and that we are eligible to vote for the candidate. We understand that we may sign nomination papers for only one candidate for a particular elective office if there is only one seat available. If more than one seat is available for election, then we may sign as many nomination papers as there are available seats.		
Issued By: A. L. LEE		
Page 1 Rev. 1/18/25		
Note: Pursuant to HRS §12-3, a nomination paper that is incomplete and/or a nomination paper that has been altered by anyone other than the chief election officer or the city/county clerk will not be accepted. Pursuant to HRS Chapter 19, any person who knowingly takes an oath on the nomination paper and wilfully makes a false statement of fact while under oath therein may be guilty of voter fraud which is a Class C felony, punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine.		

我們，謹於此簽名，提名以上名字的人作為在下屆初級或特殊選舉的候選人，並且聲明我們是已正式登記的選民，及合乎資格投票選舉候選人。我們明白，如果只有一個席位，我們只可以簽署一名候選人的提名文件。如果有一個以上的席位參選，那麼我們可以簽署多個提名文件。

Ma o kā mākou mau pūlima ma 'ane'i e hāpai 'ia ai ka mea nona ua inoa nei e lilo i moho ma ka pāloka e ho'olako 'ia ai ma ke Koho Wae Moho Wale Nō a i 'ole ke Koho Kūikawā, a ke hō'ia nei mākou he mau mea koho mākou i kū i ke kānāwai a ua hiki nō ke koho i ia moho. Maopopo iā mākou ua hiki ke pūlima i nā palapala hāpai moho no ho'okahi wale nō moho, o kekahi kūlana, inā ho'okahi wale nō noho. Inā he mau noho ka'awale hou aku e koho pāloka ai, ua hiki ke pūlima i nā Palapala Hāpai Moho e like me ka nui o nā noho ka'awale.

Dakami, babaen ti panagpirmami ditoy, dutokanmi ti tao a nainaganan iti ngato a kas papili iti balota a mabotosan inton sumaruno a Panagpipili Primaria wenno Naisangayan a Panagpipili ken ipaneknekami a nainkalintegani ti panakailista dagiti naganmi iti listaan dagiti mabalin nga agpili iti sumaruno a panagpipili. Maawatanmi a mabalinmi iti agpirma iti papel a mangdutok iti maysa laeng a papili nga agpaay iti maitutop a pagtakeman no maymaysa laeng iti takem a kasapulan. No nasursurok ngem maysa iti takem a kasapulan iti panagpipili, iti kasta mabalinmi iti agpirma kadagiti papeles a pangdutok a kas iti bilang dagiti pagtakeman a kasapulan.

Kami, na mga lumagda sa ibaba, ay iminumungkahi namin na ang nakapangalan na kandidato sa balota ay maiboboto sa susunod na Eleksyon Primarya o Espesyal at aming idinideklara na kami ay mga rehistradong botante at kami ay may karapatang bomoto para sa kandidato. Naiintindihan namin na kami ay lalagda lamang ng mga papel ng nominasyon para sa isang kandidato lamang para sa isang parikular na elektibong puwesto. Kung higit sa isa ang puwesto na maaaring iboto, sa gayon ay maaari kaming lalagda ng mga papel ng nominasyon batay sa dami ng puwesto.

## Candidate's Ballot Name

Each candidate must designate the name that they want to appear on the ballot. The ballot name will be placed on the nomination paper and must be finalized at the time of filing.

Each candidate is allowed a maximum of 27 characters on the ballot for their name including all letters, blank spaces, and punctuation marks. The ballot name may include a nickname or Hawaiian equivalent in parentheses. Titles and slogans are not permitted as part of the candidate's ballot name.

All candidates' names will be in the format prescribed by the Office of Elections to ensure consistency and equality. The chief election officer is authorized to conform all names printed on the ballot to the format prescribed in the Hawaii Administrative Rules.

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**Ballot Name Format: LASTNAME, Firstname M.I., Jr. (Nickname)**

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Candidates verify and confirm the correct spelling of their ballot name at the time of filing. Once the nomination paper is filed, the candidate's designated ballot name cannot be altered except for changes made by the Office of Elections to ensure consistency and equality.

## Signature Requirements

Prior to being filed, the nomination paper must be signed by a minimum number of properly registered voters who are qualified to vote for the candidate. Candidates are responsible for ensuring there are sufficient signatures of qualified voters on their nomination paper based on the office sought. To be valid, each signatory must:

- Include their name, signature, residence address, and month and day of birth for verification.
- Be registered to vote in the district from which the candidate seeks election.
- Sign a nomination paper for only 1 candidate for a specific elective office if there is only 1 seat available. However, if more than 1 seat is available for election, a signatory may sign as many nomination papers as there are available seats.



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**Candidates are advised to gather more signatures than is required in anticipation of invalid or unqualified signatures.**

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Examples of invalid or unqualified signatories are individuals who are not registered or the information provided on the nomination paper does not match the information in the voter registration system. Voter registration affidavits that have not been entered in the statewide voter registration system can not be used to validate a signature. Once the nomination paper is filed, candidates will not be allowed to add more signatures.

## Withdrawal of Signatures

A voter may withdraw their signature from a candidate's nomination paper by providing written notice to the chief election officer or clerk, in the case of a county office, at any time before the candidate's nomination paper is filed. The written notice must include the voter's name, residence address, month and day of birth, the voter's signature, the name of the candidate, and a statement that the voter wishes to remove their signature from the candidate's nomination paper. State law also requires that the notice of withdrawal must be received by the chief election officer or clerk no later than 4:30 PM on the fourth business day prior to the close of filing. Any request received after the candidate's nomination paper is filed or after the fourth business day prior to the close of filing will not be accepted. The candidate shall be sent written notice, within 24 hours of receipt of a request, that the voter has withdrawn their signature from the candidate's nomination paper and the voter's signature will not be counted.

## Nomination Paper - Signature Page

[illegible]

# TIPS

- Voters' information must match the information in the Voter Registration System. Voters can check or update their registration using the Online Voter Registration System at **[elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov)**.
- P.O. Boxes and mailing addresses are NOT accepted.
- Make sure voters put their month and day of birth and NOT the date they signed.
- Do not put ditto marks or write "same as above". Each line must contain the voter's information.

## Voter Guide Statement and Photo

The voter guide will include statements and photos from candidates, voting information, and explanations for amendment questions. The voter guide will be available ahead of ballots arriving to voters for the Primary and General Election at [elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov).

### Deadline to Submit Statement and Photo

Candidates interested in participating in the voter guide must submit their statement and photo BEFORE they file their nomination paper. Candidates may not add, edit, or remove their statement or photo once they file their nomination paper. Submission of a statement or photo is optional. If a candidate does not provide a statement or photo, a phrase indicating that a statement and photo was not provided (e.g. No Photo Submitted) will appear with the candidate's information in the voter guide.



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Candidates can use the Voter Guide Intake at [elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov) to submit their statement and photo.

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Candidates who do not have computer access may contact the Office of Elections for assistance.

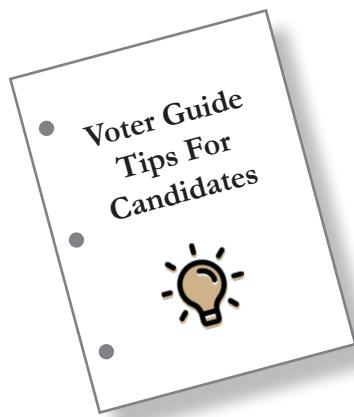
### Candidate Statement Requirements

Pursuant to law, the candidate statement must be fewer than 150 words. If over, statements will be truncated beginning with the sentence that contains the 150th word. Candidates are encouraged to review their statement for spelling and grammatical errors before submitting, because statements will be printed as submitted. Candidate information from the application will be included in the guide and will not count towards the word limit. Information includes: Legal Name, Ballot Name, Office, Political Affiliation, Phone, Email, Website.

Candidate statements may be rejected if it contains obscene and/or profane language. Candidates will be notified if their statement does not meet the requirements and they will have one business day to submit a new statement.

### Candidate Photo Requirements

Candidate photos should feature only the candidate and be recent, portrait style, front facing, showing the candidate's face and shoulders. For best results, candidates should use a plain, solid, light-colored background. Photo must be of sufficient resolution to be printed at approximately 3 x 3 inches (900 x 900 pixels). Items that can be construed as representing an organization should not be used. The Office of Elections will not edit or alter any photos. Candidates will be notified if their photo does not meet the requirements and they will have one business day to submit a new photo.



## Statement Tips

- Proofread carefully - treat it like a resume.
- Focus on what matters to your community.
- Share your goals and vision (what you aim to accomplish if elected).
- Highlight relevant experience (what qualifies you for the office).
- Stay positive - avoid criticizing opponents.

## Photo Tips

- Use a recent headshot (face and shoulders, portrait style).
- Show only you (no group shots).
- Avoid filters or heavy editing - your photo should reflect how you look.
- Use natural lighting and avoid harsh shadows.
- Ensure photo is clear, not blurry or pixelated.

## Filing Your Nomination Paper

State law prohibits exceptions or extensions to the filing deadline. Additionally, candidates are encouraged to file their nomination paper at the office of issuance. For those candidates who obtained their nomination paper online through the Candidate System, they may file their nomination paper at a location listed below.

### Federal & State candidates submit nomination paper to:

Office of Elections  
Hawaii Elections Division  
Maui Elections Division  
Kauai Elections Division

### County candidates submit nomination paper to:

Hawaii Elections Division  
Maui Elections Division  
Kauai Elections Division  
Honolulu Elections Division

The Office of Elections will accept nomination papers for all federal and state elective offices, including the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

Nomination papers for county offices can only be filed at the respective County Elections Division. The Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai will also accept their respective federal and state elective offices.

Office hours may vary by location and some locations are by appointment only. Go to [elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov) for each location's contact information and the most updated information.



**The deadline to file your nomination paper is June 2, 2026, 4:30 PM.**

## Filing Fee

The filing fee must be paid by cash, cashier's check, certified check, or money order at the time of filing. Personal or campaign checks are not accepted. Candidates running for federal or state office and who file their nomination paper with the County of Hawaii, Maui, or Kauai are encouraged to pay the filing fee by cashier's check, certified check, or money order. The filing fee varies depending on the office sought and is nonrefundable.

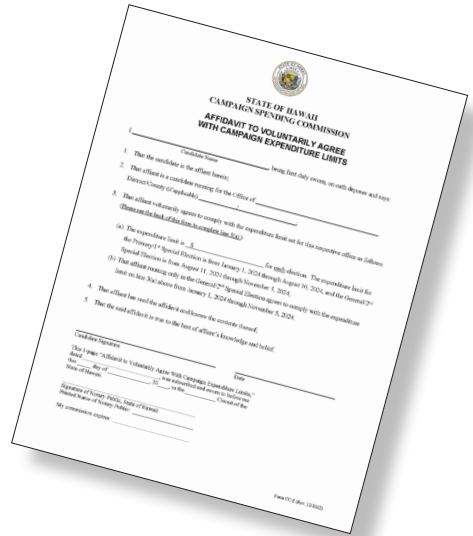
## Discounted Filing Fee

Before filing the nomination paper, State and County candidates may work with the Campaign Spending Commission (CSC) to learn how to qualify for and receive partial public funding to support their campaigns. As part of the partial public funding program requirements, candidates must agree to their respective campaign expenditure limits by filing a notarized *Affidavit to Voluntarily Agree with Campaign Expenditure Limits* with the CSC. Candidates who file the affidavit before filing their nomination paper are eligible for a discounted filing fee. Candidates may still file the affidavit to receive the discounted filing fee, even if they choose not to participate in the voluntary partial public funding program.

At the time of filing the nomination paper, candidates must provide the Office of Elections or Honolulu Elections Division with a receipt or copy of the filed affidavit to receive the discounted filing fee. State and county candidates residing in the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, or Kauai may file the affidavit with their County Elections Office at the time of filing.

A candidate who agrees to the expenditure limit, but subsequently exceeds the expenditure limit must pay the balance of the full filing fee and notify all opponents, the Office of Elections, and the Campaign Spending Commission by telephone and in writing the day the expenditure limit is exceeded. The candidate must also notify all contributors, within 30 days of exceeding the limit, that the expenditure limit was exceeded (HRS §11-426). The balance of the full filing fee must be paid to the Office of Elections or the County Clerk.

Contact the Campaign Spending Commission for more information about campaign expenditure limits and qualifying for partial public funding.



**Campaign Spending Commission**  
Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building  
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 300  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 586-0285  
[hawaii.gov/campaign](http://hawaii.gov/campaign)



## **Candidates Who Are Indigent**

Candidates who declare themselves indigent through an affidavit may have the filing fee waived. The affidavit must be accompanied by a petition signed by registered voters who constitute one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the total voters registered at the last preceding General Election in the district from which the indigent person seeks election. Indigent candidates must file a nomination paper and comply with other filing requirements.

## **Media Coverage**

Candidates who have secured media coverage are advised to coordinate with the office of filing prior to sending a press release. This is to ensure the candidate's nomination paper is in order prior to filing and adequate accommodations are set.

## **Audio Ballot**

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 requires an audio version of the ballot. Upon filing the nomination paper, the candidate will be asked to record their ballot name. This recording will be used to assist the production of the audio ballot ensuring the correct pronunciation of the ballot name. It will not be the actual recording used for the audio ballot.



## **Candidate Profile**

Candidates will review and certify that their ballot name, contests, and political preference is correct. Additionally, candidates will verify their contact information along with their statement and photo for the digital voter guide. Candidates will be reminded that there are other requirements to complete with other agencies. Depending on the office the candidate is seeking, candidates will need to check with the Federal Election Commission, State Campaign Spending Commission, State Ethics Commission, and/or their County Ethics.

## Nomination Paper - Certification Page

### Candidate Certification

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the candidate named herein, hereby certify by self-subscribing oath that:

1. I will qualify under the law for the office which I am seeking;
2. I have determined that all of the information on my nomination paper is true and correct, except for that information provided by the voters who signed my nomination paper; and
3. I am in compliance with HRS Section 831-2, dealing with felons, to the extent applicable.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Partisan Candidate Certification

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the candidate named herein, further certify by self-subscribing oath that I am a member of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### County Candidate Certification

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the county candidate named herein, further certify by self-subscribing oath that I have complied with the relevant provisions of the applicable county charter and county ordinances pertaining to elected officials.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Resignation Certification

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the candidate named herein, further certify by self-subscribing oath that I have complied with Article II, Section 7, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, Resignation from Public Office, and qualify under the law to be a candidate for another State or County office.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Complete Oath of Loyalty OR Affirmation

#### Oath of Loyalty

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear and declare, on oath that if elected to office I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, and the Constitution and laws of the State of Hawaii, and will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that if elected I will faithfully discharge my duties as

\_\_\_\_\_ to the best of my ability; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; So help me God.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Affirmation

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly, sincerely, and truly affirm and declare, that if elected to office I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, and the Constitution and laws of the State of Hawaii, and will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that if elected I will faithfully discharge my duties as \_\_\_\_\_ to the best of my ability; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This \_\_\_\_\_ page "Nomination Paper," dated \_\_\_\_\_, was subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_, in the \_\_\_\_\_ Circuit of the State of Hawaii.

Signature of Notary Public, State of Hawaii

Printed Name of Notary Public: \_\_\_\_\_

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

or By \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk or Public Officer authorized to administer oaths.

Office Use Only	Issued By: _____	Date & Time: _____	Location: _____	Filed By: _____	Date & Time: _____	Location: _____
	Ballot Name (LAST, First M.I., Jr. (Nickname)) _____					
Total Valid Signatures: _____						
Signatures Needed: _____						

Page 2

## Where Do I Sign?



### Candidate Certification

All candidates must sign this certification.

### Partisan Candidate Certification

Federal or state candidates running under a political party must sign this certification.

### County Candidate Certification

Only county candidates must sign this certification.

### Resignation Certification

Elected state or county public officials that are not up for election but running for a state or county seat.

### Oath of Loyalty or Affirmation

All candidates must take and sign either the oath or affirmation before a notary public.

## Certifications by Candidates

The certifications on the nomination paper are self-subscribing oaths that the candidate must sign. Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes §19-3.5, any person who knowingly takes an oath prescribed or authorized by law and willfully makes any false statement of fact while under oath therein shall be guilty of voter fraud, which is a Class C felony punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment and/or a \$10,000 fine.

### Felony

For state and county offices, under the Uniform Act on Status of Convicted Persons, a person sentenced for a felony may not become a candidate for or hold public office from the time of the person's sentence until the person's final discharge (HRS §831-2). An individual who has been sentenced for a felony must receive and present their final discharge papers before they are eligible to file a nomination paper. There is no requirement for federal offices.

### Partisan Candidates

Candidates running under a political party must certify by self-subscribing oath that they are a member of the political party. Candidates who are not members of a political party may be challenged and disqualified on that basis.

### Resignation from Office

Elected state or county public officials must resign from the office currently held before being eligible as a candidate for another state or county elective office. This applies only if the term presently held is not normally scheduled for election in the same year as the office sought. The candidate must resign from the office currently held before filing the nomination paper (Hawaii State Constitution, Article II, Section 7).

### Oath of Loyalty or Affirmation

Each candidate must take and subscribe to a prescribed written Oath of Loyalty or Affirmation before a notary public or a public officer authorized by law to administer oaths. The Oath of Loyalty or Affirmation may be completed before filing; or at the time of filing, depending on location. Check with the location before filing, as to whether a notary public or public officer authorized by law to administer oaths will be available.



Candidates should be prepared to provide a current identification containing the person's picture and signature (e.g., driver license or state ID) when the Oath of Loyalty or Affirmation is subscribed to before a notary public.

## Objection to a Nomination Paper

An objection to a candidate's nomination paper may be made by the chief election officer, the clerk for county contests, a registered voter, or an officer of a qualified political party. All objections must be submitted in writing and received not later than 4:30 PM on June 9, 2026.

An objection by a registered voter is made to the chief election officer or clerk in the case of county contests, who will reach a preliminary determination on the objection as to whether it may warrant disqualification. If the preliminary determination is that the objection may warrant disqualification, then the chief election officer or clerk in the case of county contests, will file a complaint in the circuit court for a determination of the objection.

An objection by an officer of a qualified party is filed in the circuit court for a determination of the objection. Candidates will be notified of any challenge by registered or certified mail. Refer to Hawaii Revised Statutes §12-8 for more specific information on challenges, evidentiary hearings, and decisions.

## Withdrawal of Candidates

Candidates who have filed a nomination paper may withdraw their candidacy for any reason by 4:30 PM on June 3, 2026. After this date candidates may only withdraw for reasons of ill health by 4:30 PM on June 19, 2026 for the Primary Election or by 4:30 PM on September 14, 2026 for the General Election.

To withdraw, the candidate must submit a written notice to the chief election officer for a candidate seeking federal or state office, or the appropriate clerk for a candidate seeking county office. Candidates who withdraw for reasons of ill health must also provide a statement from a licensed physician or physician assistant indicating that such ill health may endanger the candidate's life.

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## Receiving and Filing a Nomination Paper

### **Do I have to pick up my nomination paper in person?**

No, you may authorize someone to pick up your nomination paper. The authorized person must be able to provide specific information about you such as, legal name, date of birth, driver license or social security number, residence and mailing address, telephone number, and email.

Once a nomination paper is issued, no alterations or changes will be made. If the information is incorrect, the nomination paper will not be accepted for filing.

You may also use the online Candidate System to receive your nomination paper at **[elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov)**.

### **Why should I pick up my nomination paper in person?**

If you are a first time candidate, we strongly recommend that you pick up your nomination paper in person. When picking up a nomination paper, the election official issuing the paper will explain the filing process and answer any questions you may have. As the candidate, you are responsible for complying with the filing requirements and understanding the applicable laws regardless of who picks up the nomination paper or if you received it through the online Candidate System.

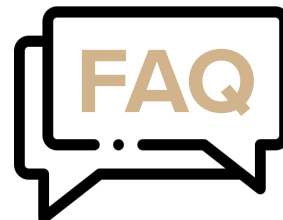
### **Can someone other than myself file my nomination paper or can I mail it in?**

Our laws do not prohibit you from having another person file your nomination paper or from filing through the mail. However, we strongly recommend that you file your nomination paper in person to ensure that you fulfill all of the requirements. Nomination papers submitted by mail must be received by the candidate filing deadline, not postmarked.

You are required to sign many documents in the candidate filing process. If any document is incomplete, the problem can be easily rectified when you file in person.

### **Can I file my nomination paper online through the Candidate System?**

No, the online Candidate System is only used to issue and print a nomination paper for collecting signatures. As the completed nomination paper must include original signatures and notarization; you must file a completed hard copy of your nomination paper to your elections office by the candidate filing deadline.



### **What do I need when I file my nomination paper?**

You will need the following items when you file your nomination paper:

- Your original nomination paper containing at least the minimum signatures required. However, it's recommended to collect more signatures in case some are invalid or not registered.
- Your filing fee in the form of cash, cashier's check, certified check, or money order. Candidates for federal or state office filing in the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, or Kauai are encouraged to pay by cashier's check, certified check, or money order. Personal or campaign checks will not be accepted.
- If participating in the discounted filing fee for state and county offices: a copy of the filed *Affidavit to Voluntarily Agree with Campaign Expenditure Limits* from the Campaign Spending Commission. State and county candidates who reside in the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, or Kauai may file the affidavit with their County Elections Office at the time of filing.
- A current identification containing your picture and signature (such as driver license or State ID) for the Oath of Loyalty/Affirmation. Check with the location before filing, as to whether a notary public or public officer authorized by law to administer oaths will be available.

Don't forget - before you file, submit your statement and photo through the Voter Guide Intake at **[elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov)**.

## **Changes to My Information and Nomination Paper**

### **What should I do if I decide to run for a different office or under a different political party?**

If you wish to make a change to your name, office, or political affiliation, you must obtain a new nomination paper. You must collect signatures on the new nomination paper. Signature collected on a previous nomination paper for another name, office, or political affiliation will not count towards the new nomination paper.

Do not alter any information on your nomination paper. A nomination paper that has been altered in any way will not be accepted for filing.

### **What if I change my residence address after I file my nomination paper?**

Once you file, you may not alter your nomination paper in any way. This includes changing the residence address listed on your nomination paper. If you are planning to change your address, please note that you must still meet the qualifications for the office you are seeking.

### **What should I do if I lose my nomination paper?**

If you lose your nomination paper, contact the office of issuance or reprint your nomination paper from the online Candidate System. You must still collect the required signatures and meet the filing deadline and requirements.

## Signatures

### **What happens if some of the people who sign my nomination paper are not registered voters, or do not live within the district I seek to represent?**

Signatures of persons who are not properly registered to vote or who do not reside in the correct district will not be counted. Election officials will verify that the people who sign your nomination paper are properly registered and eligible to sign your nomination paper before you file the nomination paper.

We strongly recommend that you obtain more signatures than required and file your nomination paper early to avoid the consequence of insufficient signatures. If you wait until the last day to file your nomination paper and the number of signatures, for any reason, is insufficient, you may not qualify to be a candidate. If you file early, and the number of valid signatures on your nomination paper is insufficient, you will have an opportunity to obtain additional signatures before the deadline.

### **What happens if my nomination paper does not have the required number of signatures or is incomplete in any way?**

State law prohibits the chief election officer or clerk from accepting or filing any nomination paper that is incomplete or does not have the required number of valid signatures.

### **May I add additional signatures to my nomination paper after I file them?**

No, once the nomination paper is filed you will not be allowed to alter it in any way. This includes adding additional signatures to your nomination paper. You are responsible for ensuring that the people who sign your nomination paper are qualified voters and reside in the correct district before they sign your nomination paper. Make sure your nomination paper contains at least the required number of signatures of qualified voters in the district before you file.

## Ballot Name

### **May I change the way my name will appear on the ballot after I file my nomination paper?**

No, once the nomination paper is filed you will not be allowed to alter it in any way. This includes changing the way your name will appear on the ballot as designated on your nomination paper. Make sure your name is spelled correctly before you file your nomination paper.

**In what order will candidate names appear on the ballot?**

State law requires that the names of the candidates will be placed upon the ballot for their respective offices in alphabetical order by the candidate's last name except for those cases listed here.

Candidate Vacancies: The name of the replacement candidates shall be printed in an available and appropriate place on the ballot, not necessarily in alphabetical order.

Vice President or Lieutenant Governor: In the General Election, the name of the candidate for Vice President or Lieutenant Governor will be placed immediately below the name of the candidate for President or Governor, respectively, of the same political party. The teams are placed on the ballot in alphabetical order by the last name of the candidate for President or Governor, respectively.

## Political Party and Nonpartisan

**If I am running as a partisan candidate, by what date do I have to be a member of the political party?**

You must be a member of the political party from which you seek office before you file your nomination paper. Our state law requires that you sign a certification, by self-subscribing oath, which states that you are a member of the specific party when you file your nomination paper. If you are not a member of the party when you file your nomination paper, you may be disqualified on that basis.

**If I run as a nonpartisan candidate for a partisan office, will I automatically move on to the general election ballot if I win my Primary?**

No, nonpartisan candidates who seek a partisan office must qualify to appear on the General Election ballot. To qualify, a nonpartisan candidate must:

- Receive at least 10% of the votes cast for the office; or
- Receive a vote equal to or greater than the lowest vote received by a partisan candidate who was nominated.

If more nonpartisan candidates qualify to run in the General Election than there are seats available, then the nonpartisan candidate who receives the most votes will appear on the General Election ballot.

Since Governor and Lieutenant Governor run as a team in the General Election, both nonpartisan candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor must qualify.

The nonpartisan qualification provisions listed above do not apply to candidates for Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), County of Hawaii, County of Maui, County of Kauai, or City and County of Honolulu.



## Voter Guide Statement and Photo

### **Where can I submit my statement and photo?**

Statements and photos can be submitted through the Voter Guide Intake at [elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov).

If you do not have access to a computer, you may submit a hand written statement at the time of filing. Please allow additional time for staff to input your statement into the intake.

### **Can I submit my statement and photo after I file my nomination paper?**

No, your candidate statement and photo must be submitted before filing your nomination paper.

This will allow us time to translate the candidate statements in the federal and state required languages of Chinese, Hawaiian, Ilocano, and Tagalog. Additionally, the voter guide must be available ahead of ballots arriving to voters.

### **Can I make edits to my statement or photo after I submit?**

Once you file your nomination paper, you may not add, edit, or remove your candidate statement or photo. Therefore, please review your statement and photo carefully before submitting.

If you haven't filed your nomination paper, you may submit a revised statement or photo. At the time of filing, you will confirm the statement and photo you want included in the voter guide.

## Campaigning

### **How can I get a list of candidates?**

List of applicants and candidates are updated daily after close of business during the candidate filing period at [elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov).

The list is also available at the Office of Elections and County Elections Division. These lists will not be mailed or faxed by any of the offices.

### **Where can I get preprinted labels?**

Preprinted mailing labels may be obtained for a fee from various service bureaus. The preprinted mailing labels may be obtained and used for election purposes only. Contact the County Elections Division to request the voter registration data file.

# Withdrawal and Resignation

## **What do I have to do if I change my mind about being a candidate after filing my nomination paper?**

After filing your nomination paper, you must officially withdraw from the election by submitting a request to withdraw to the chief election officer, or to the clerk in the case of county offices, by the withdrawal deadlines.

You may withdraw for any reason up to 4:30 PM on the day immediately following the close of filing, June 3, 2026. After this deadline, you have until the fiftieth day prior to the election to withdraw for reasons of ill health only. Requests to withdraw for reasons of ill health must be accompanied by a statement from a licensed physician or physician assistant indicating that such ill health may endanger your life. You may withdraw for reasons of ill health by 4:30 PM on June 19, 2026 for the Primary Election or by 4:30 PM on September 14, 2026 for the General Election.

## **When and why must an elected official resign from public office?**

A State or County elected official must resign from public office if they are seeking another State or County elective office; and the elected official's current term does not end in the same year as the office sought. The resignation requirements apply only to State and County offices. The candidate must resign from the office currently held before filing their nomination paper.

## **What do I have to do if I want to run for a different office after filing my nomination paper?**

You may obtain a nomination paper for the new office and collect new signatures. However, before you file your nomination paper for the new office, you must withdraw your nomination paper for the previous office. The filing fee is nonrefundable. You must meet the requirements for the new office. Deadlines remain unchanged.

# What Office Can I Run For?

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## 2026 Election Contests

The following offices are scheduled for election in 2026. If a vacancy election occurs, visit [elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov) for the most current information.

### Federal

- U.S. Representative districts I and II

### State

- Governor and Lieutenant Governor
- State Senator districts 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19<sup>1</sup>, 20, 21, 25
- State Representative districts 1 - 51
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Trustee:  
Maui resident, Oahu resident, At-Large (3 at-large seats)

### County of Hawaii

- Councilmember districts 1 - 9

### County of Maui

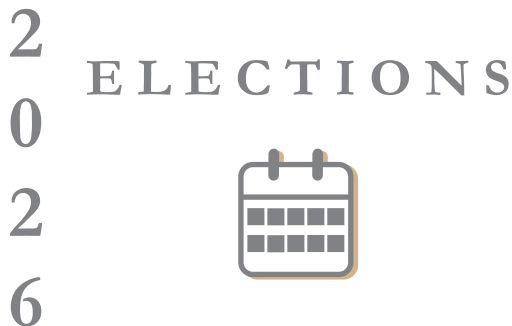
- Mayor
- Councilmember: East Maui, West Maui, Wailuku-Waihee-Waikapu, Kahului, South Maui, Makawao-Haiku-Paia, Upcountry, Lanai, Molokai

### County of Kauai

- Mayor
- Councilmember (7 at-large seats)

### City and County of Honolulu

- Councilmember districts II, IV, VI, VIII



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<sup>1</sup> A vacancy was created by the resignation of the Senator. As the original term of office expires on November 7, 2028, a vacancy election will be held in conjunction with the 2026 Elections to fill the remainder of the term.

# FEDERAL OFFICE

## U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

Candidates for federal legislative office who are nominated in the Primary Election and are unopposed in the General Election will be deemed elected to the office sought after the Primary Election regardless of the number of votes received by that candidate (Hawaii State Constitution, Article III, Section 4) (HRS §11-99).

### Seats Available and Districts

2 of 2 seats; Congressional districts I and II

### Term

2 years, January 2027 to January 2029

### Qualifications

- United States citizen for 7 years
- Inhabitant of Hawaii when elected
- At least 25 years of age

### Signature Requirement

25 registered voters of the State of Hawaii

### Filing Fee

\$75

Cashier's checks, certified checks, and money orders payable to the Office of Elections.

## OTHER AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

### **Federal Election Commission**

Individuals running for federal office will become a candidate when they raise or spend more than \$5,000 in contributions or expenditures. Federal candidates must designate a principal campaign committee. This campaign committee takes in contributions and makes expenditures for the candidate's campaign. Contact the FEC for information and to complete the forms.

#### **Federal Election Commission**

1050 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20463  
(800) 424-9530  
info@fec.gov  
fec.gov

### **Committee on Ethics**

Ethics rules require federal candidates to disclose financial information. Candidates for U.S. Representative should contact the House Committee on Ethics.

#### **House Committee on Ethics**

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-7103  
ethics.house.gov

## **The Hatch Act**

A federal law passed in 1939, limits certain political activities of federal employees, as well as some state, D.C., and local government employees who work in connection with federally funded programs. The law's purposes are to ensure that federal programs are administered in a nonpartisan fashion, to protect federal employees from political coercion in the workplace, and to ensure that federal employees are advanced based on merit and not based on political affiliation. If you are unsure about your employee status, check with your employer regarding your eligibility and contact the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, Federal Hatch Act Unit.

### **Political Activity “Hatch Act”**

1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 218  
Washington, DC 20036  
(800) 854-2824  
hatchact@osc.gov  
osc.gov

# STATE OFFICE

## GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

In the Primary Election, Governor and Lieutenant Governor are each a separate contest. However, in the General Election, Governor and Lieutenant Governor are voted for as a team by political party or as a team by nonpartisan. As such, at no time may someone appear as a candidate for Governor or Lieutenant Governor on the Primary or General Election ballot if there is no running mate on the ballot.

Given this, at the close of candidate filing, if there is no candidate for Governor or Lieutenant Governor of the same political party or nonpartisan, then the nomination paper for the prospective candidate will be void and the candidate will not appear on the Primary Election ballot.

Following the Primary Election, a nonpartisan candidate who would otherwise qualify as a candidate for Governor or Lieutenant Governor on the General Election ballot, will not qualify unless there is a running mate in the form of a nonpartisan candidate for Governor or Lieutenant Governor, who has otherwise met the nonpartisan qualification provisions to appear on the General Election ballot (Hawaii State Constitution, Article V, Sections 1 and 2).

### Seats Available and Districts

1 seat per office; statewide district - State of Hawaii

### Term

4 years, December 2026 to December 2030

### Qualifications

- Resident of Hawaii for not less than 5 years immediately preceding the election
- Registered voter of Hawaii
- At least 30 years of age

### Signature Requirement

25 registered voters of the State of Hawaii

### Filing Fee

- Full: \$750
- Discounted: \$75

Cashier's checks, certified checks, and money orders payable to the Office of Elections.

## STATE SENATOR

Candidates for state senator who are unopposed in the General Election will be deemed elected after the Primary Election (Hawaii State Constitution, Article III, Section 4).

### Seats Available and Districts

14 of 25 seats; Senate districts 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19<sup>1</sup>, 20, 21, 25

### Term

4 years, November 2026 to November 2030

### Qualifications

- Resident of Hawaii for not less than 3 years prior to election
- Qualified voter of the state senatorial district prior to filing

### Signature Requirement

15 registered voters of the senate district

### Filing Fee

- Full: \$250
- Discounted: \$25

Cashier's checks, certified checks, and money orders payable to the Office of Elections.

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Candidates for state representative who are unopposed in the General Election will be deemed elected after the Primary Election (Hawaii State Constitution, Article III, Section 4).

### Seats Available and Districts

51 of 51 seats; Representative districts 1 - 51

### Term

2 years, November 2026 to November 2028

### Qualifications

- Resident of Hawaii for not less than 3 years prior to election
- Qualified voter of the state representative district prior to filing

### Signature Requirement

15 registered voters of the representative district

### Filing Fee

- Full: \$250
- Discounted: \$25

Cashier's checks, certified checks, and money orders payable to the Office of Elections.

<sup>1</sup> A vacancy was created by the resignation of the Senator. As the original term of office expires on November 7, 2028, a vacancy election will be held in conjunction with the 2026 Elections to fill the remainder of the term.

## OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS (OHA) TRUSTEE

Candidates for Office of Hawaiian Affairs Trustee run in a nonpartisan special contest.

***Island Resident Trustee:*** If there is 1 candidate for a seat, the candidate is deemed elected at the close of filing. If there are 2 candidates for a seat, they will appear on the General Election ballot and the candidate receiving the most votes is deemed elected. If there are 3 or more candidates for a seat, they appear on the Primary Election ballot. If a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, excluding blank and overvotes, at the Primary Election, the candidate is deemed elected. Otherwise, the 2 candidates receiving the most votes will appear on the General Election ballot. The candidate who receives the most votes at the General Election is deemed elected.

***At-Large Trustee for 3 regularly scheduled seats on the ballot:*** If there are 3 candidates, the candidates are deemed elected at the close of filing. If there are 4, 5, or 6 candidates, they appear on the General Election ballot and the 3 candidates receiving the most votes are deemed elected. If there are 7 or more candidates, they appear on the Primary Election ballot. If a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, excluding blank and overvotes, the candidate is deemed elected. The next 4 candidates receiving the most votes will appear on the General Election ballot. Then, the 2 candidates who receive the most votes in the General Election are deemed elected.

If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the 6 candidates receiving the most votes will appear on the General Election ballot. The 3 candidates receiving the most votes in the General Election are deemed elected. (HRS §13D-4).

### Seats Available and Districts

5 of 9 nonpartisan seats; Maui resident, Oahu resident, At-Large (3 seats)

### Term

4 years, November 2026 to November 2030

### Qualifications

- Resident of respective island for seats requiring residency
- Registered voter of Hawaii

### Signature Requirement

25 registered voters of the State of Hawaii

### Filing Fee

- Full: \$250
- Discounted: \$25

Cashier's checks, certified checks, and money orders payable to the Office of Elections.



## OTHER AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

### Campaign Spending Commission

Candidates and their committee must register and file reports with the Campaign Spending Commission.

An individual is a candidate under the campaign spending law if the individual

- 1) files nomination papers for a state or county office;
- 2) receives contributions, makes expenditures, or incurs financial obligations of more than \$100 to bring about the individual's nomination or election to office;
- 3) gives consent for any other person to receive contributions, make expenditures, or incur financial obligations to aid the individual's nomination or election to office; or
- 4) is certified to be a candidate by the chief election officer or county clerk.

Contact the Campaign Spending Commission for information on registration, filing reports electronically, reporting deadlines, fundraising, contributions, loans, expenditures, advertisements, public funding, and fines.

#### **Campaign Spending Commission**

Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building  
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 300  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 586-0285  
[hawaii.gov/campaign](http://hawaii.gov/campaign)

### State Ethics Commission

Candidates for state office, including Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), are required by state law to file a disclosure of financial interests with the State Ethics Commission. The deadline to file the disclosure is June 12, 2026.

Candidates for state office should be aware that there are ethics laws that apply to political campaign activities of state legislators, employees, and board and commission members. Copies of the Commission's flyer, Campaign Restrictions for State Officials and State Employees, and required forms are available from the State Ethics Commission. To avoid inadvertent violations of the State ethics laws, refer to Chapter 84 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes or contact the State Ethics Commission for information and guidance.

#### **Hawaii State Ethics Commission**

1001 Bishop Street, Suite 970  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 587-0460  
[info.ethics@hawaii.gov](mailto:info.ethics@hawaii.gov)  
[ethics.hawaii.gov](http://ethics.hawaii.gov)

# COUNTY OF HAWAII OFFICE

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## COUNCILMEMBER

A candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast, excluding blank and overvotes, or is unopposed for a seat at the Primary Election, is deemed elected and the contest will not appear on the General Election ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for a seat at the Primary Election, the 2 candidates receiving the most votes will appear on the General Election ballot. The candidate who receives the most votes at the General Election is deemed elected (Hawaii County Charter, Article XIII, Section 13-27).

### Filing Fee

- Full: \$250
- Discounted: \$25

Cashier's checks, certified checks, and money orders payable to the Director of Finance.

### Seats Available and Districts

9 of 9 nonpartisan seats; Council districts 1 - 9

### Term

2 years, December 2026 to November 2028

### Qualifications

- Resident and registered voter of the council district for at least 90 days prior to the Primary Election
- Qualified voter of the County of Hawaii for at least 1 year prior to election

### Signature Requirement

15 registered voters of the council district

## OTHER AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

### Campaign Spending Commission

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- 1) files nomination papers for a state or county office;
- 2) receives contributions, makes expenditures, or incurs financial obligations of more than \$100 to bring about the individual's nomination or election to office;
- 3) gives consent for any other person to receive contributions, make expenditures, or incur financial obligations to aid the individual's nomination or election to office; or
- 4) is certified to be a candidate by the chief election officer or county clerk.

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235 S. Beretania Street, Room 300  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 586-0285  
[hawaii.gov/campaign](http://hawaii.gov/campaign)

### County of Hawaii Ethics

Hawaii County Code, Chapter 2, Article 15,

Section 2-91.1, requires that all elected officials and candidates for county office must file financial disclosure statements with the County Elections Division. Candidates for elective county office, including incumbents, shall file statements within 10 working days after the deadline for filing for office.

Additionally, elected officials must file disclosure statements within 20 working days after taking the oath of office and on/or before January 31 of each year thereafter until the end of the term of office.

#### **Office of the County Clerk**

25 Aupuni Street, Room 1502  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
(808) 961-8277  
[hiloelec@hawaiiicounty.gov](mailto:hiloelec@hawaiiicounty.gov)  
[elections.hawaiiicounty.gov](http://elections.hawaiiicounty.gov)

# COUNTY OF MAUI OFFICE

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## MAYOR

If there are 1 or 2 candidates for a seat, they will appear only on the General Election ballot. If there are 3 or more candidates for a seat, they will appear on the Primary Election ballot and the 2 candidates receiving the most votes will appear on the General Election ballot. The candidate who receives the most votes at the General Election is deemed elected (Maui County Charter, Article 7, Section 7-2).

### Seats Available and Districts

1 of 1 nonpartisan seat; countywide district - County of Maui

### Term

4 years, January 2027 to January 2031

### Qualifications

- Resident of the County of Maui for a period of at least 1 year prior to filing
- Qualified voter of the County of Maui

### Signature Requirement

15 registered voters of the County of Maui

### Filing Fee

- Full: \$500
- Discounted: \$50

Cashier's checks, certified checks, and money orders payable to the County of Maui.

## COUNCILMEMBER

If there are 1 or 2 candidates for a seat, they will appear only on the General Election ballot. If there are 3 or more candidates for a seat, they will appear on the Primary Election ballot and the 2 candidates receiving the most votes will appear on the General Election ballot. The candidate who receives the most votes at the General Election is deemed elected (Maui County Charter, Article 3, Section 3-2).

### Seats Available and Districts

9 of 9 nonpartisan seats; East Maui, West Maui, Wailuku-Waihee-Waikapu, Kahului, South Maui, Makawao-Haiku-Paia, Upcountry, Lanai, Molokai

### Term

2 years, January 2027 to January 2029

### Qualifications

- Resident in the area of the county from which the person seeks to be elected for a period of 1 year before filing
- Qualified voter of the County of Maui

### Signature Requirement

15 registered voters of the County of Maui

### Filing Fee

- Full: \$250
- Discounted: \$25

Cashier's checks, certified checks, and money orders payable to the County of Maui.

## OTHER AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

### Campaign Spending Commission

Candidates and their committee must register and file reports with the Campaign Spending Commission.

An individual is a candidate under the campaign spending law if the individual

- 1) files nomination papers for a state or county office;
- 2) receives contributions, makes expenditures, or incurs financial obligations of more than \$100 to bring about the individual's nomination or election to office;
- 3) gives consent for any other person to receive contributions, make expenditures, or incur financial obligations to aid the individual's nomination or election to office; or
- 4) is certified to be a candidate by the chief election officer or county clerk.

Contact the Campaign Spending Commission for information on registration, filing reports electronically, reporting deadlines, fundraising, contributions, loans, expenditures, advertisements, public funding, and fines.

#### **Campaign Spending Commission**

Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building  
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 300  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 586-0285  
[hawaii.gov/campaign](http://hawaii.gov/campaign)

### County of Maui Ethics

Section 10-3 of the Maui County Charter requires that all candidates for elective county office file a financial disclosure statement concurrently with the filing of nomination papers at the County Elections Division and Board of Ethics. Additionally, all elected county officers shall file a financial disclosure statement within 15 days of taking office.

#### **Office of the County Clerk**

200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
(808) 270-7749  
[county.clerk@mauicounty.us](mailto:county.clerk@mauicounty.us)  
[mauicountyvotes.gov](http://mauicountyvotes.gov)

# COUNTY OF KAUAI OFFICE

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## MAYOR

If there is only 1 candidate at the Primary Election, the candidate is deemed elected at that time. If there are 2 or more candidates at the Primary Election, the 2 candidates receiving the most votes will appear on the General Election ballot. The candidate who receives the most votes at the General Election is deemed elected (Kauai County Charter, Article I, Section 1.03).

### Seats Available and Districts

1 of 1 nonpartisan seat; countywide district - County of Kauai

### Term

4 years, December 2026 to December 2030

### Qualifications

- Resident of the County of Kauai for at least 3 years prior to election
- Qualified voter of the County of Kauai
- 30 years of age

### Signature Requirement

15 registered voters of the County of Kauai

### Filing Fee

- Full: \$500
- Discounted: \$50

Cashier's checks, certified checks, and money orders payable to the Director of Finance.

## COUNCILMEMBER

The 14 candidates receiving the most votes at the Primary Election will appear on the General Election ballot. The 7 candidates receiving the most votes at the General Election will be deemed elected (Kauai County Charter, Article I, Section 1.03).

### Seats Available and Districts

7 of 7 nonpartisan seats; countywide district - County of Kauai

### Term

2 years, December 2026 to December 2028

### Qualifications

Qualified voter of the County of Kauai for at least 2 year prior to election

### Signature Requirement

15 registered voters of the County of Kauai

### Filing Fee

- Full: \$250
- Discounted: \$25

Cashier's checks, certified checks, and money orders payable to the Director of Finance.

## OTHER AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

### Campaign Spending Commission

Candidates and their committee must register and file reports with the Campaign Spending Commission.

An individual is a candidate under the campaign spending law if the individual

- 1) files nomination papers for a state or county office;
- 2) receives contributions, makes expenditures, or incurs financial obligations of more than \$100 to bring about the individual's nomination or election to office;
- 3) gives consent for any other person to receive contributions, make expenditures, or incur financial obligations to aid the individual's nomination or election to office; or
- 4) is certified to be a candidate by the chief election officer or county clerk.

Contact the Campaign Spending Commission for information on registration, filing reports electronically, reporting deadlines, fundraising, contributions, loans, expenditures, advertisements, public funding, and fines.

#### **Campaign Spending Commission**

Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building  
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 300  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 586-0285  
[hawaii.gov/campaign](http://hawaii.gov/campaign)

### County of Kauai Ethics

Section 3-1.9 of the Kauai County Code requires that candidates for elective county office shall, within 7 days of filing a nomination paper, file with the County of Kauai Board of Ethics a financial disclosure statement. Upon assuming office, newly elected officials shall file an amended financial disclosure statement within 30 days of assuming office.

#### **Board of Ethics**

4444 Rice Street, Suite 300  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766  
(808) 241-4917  
[adavis@kauai.gov](mailto:adavis@kauai.gov)  
[kauai.gov/government/boards-and-commissions/board-of-ethics](http://kauai.gov/government/boards-and-commissions/board-of-ethics)

# CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU OFFICE

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## COUNCILMEMBER

If there is only 1 candidate for a seat, the candidate will appear on the Primary Election ballot, and be deemed elected at that time. If there are 2 candidates for a seat, they will only appear on the General Election ballot. If there are 3 or more candidates for a seat, they will appear on the Primary Election ballot. If a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, excluding blank and overvotes, at the Primary Election, the candidate is deemed elected. Otherwise, the 2 candidates receiving the most votes will appear on the General Election ballot. The candidate who receives the most votes at the General Election is deemed elected (City and County of Honolulu Charter, Article XIII, Section 13-116).

### Filing Fee

- Full: \$250
- Discounted: \$25

Cashier's checks, certified checks, and money orders payable to the City and County of Honolulu.

### Seats Available and Districts

4 of 9 nonpartisan seats; Council districts II, IV, VI, VIII

### Term

4 years, January 2027 to January 2031

### Qualifications

Resident and registered voter of the appropriate council district

### Signature Requirement

15 registered voters of the council district



## OTHER AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

### Campaign Spending Commission

Candidates and their committee must register and file reports with the Campaign Spending Commission.

An individual is a candidate under the campaign spending law if the individual

- 1) files nomination papers for a state or county office;
- 2) receives contributions, makes expenditures, or incurs financial obligations of more than \$100 to bring about the individual's nomination or election to office;
- 3) gives consent for any other person to receive contributions, make expenditures, or incur financial obligations to aid the individual's nomination or election to office; or
- 4) is certified to be a candidate by the chief election officer or county clerk.

Contact the Campaign Spending Commission for information on registration, filing reports electronically, reporting deadlines, fundraising, contributions, loans, expenditures, advertisements, public funding, and fines.

#### **Campaign Spending Commission**

Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building  
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 300  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 586-0285  
[hawaii.gov/campaign](http://hawaii.gov/campaign)

### City and County of Honolulu Ethics

Section 3-8.4 of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu requires that candidates for City and County of Honolulu elective offices, including incumbents, file financial disclosure statements with the Clerk's Office within 10 working days after the deadline for filing for office. Additionally, elected officials must file financial disclosure statements within 20 working days after taking the oath of office on or before January 31 of each year thereafter until the end of the term of office.

#### **Office of the City Clerk**

530 South King Street, Room 100  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 768-3800  
[clerks@honolulu.gov](mailto:clerks@honolulu.gov)  
[honolulu.gov/elections](http://honolulu.gov/elections)

## Next Election, 2028 Election Contests

The following offices are scheduled for election in 2028. If a vacancy election occurs, visit [elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov) for the most current information.

### Federal

- U.S. President and Vice President
- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Representative districts I and II

### State

- State Senator districts 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 12, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24
- State Representative districts 1 - 51
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Trustee: Hawaii resident, Molokai resident, Kauai resident, At-Large

### County of Hawaii

- Mayor
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Councilmember districts 1 - 9

### County of Maui

- Councilmember: East Maui, West Maui, Wailuku-Waihee-Waikapu, Kahului, South Maui, Makawao-Haiku-Paia, Upcountry, Lanai, Molokai

### County of Kauai

- Prosecuting Attorney
- Councilmember (7 at-large seats)

### City and County of Honolulu

- Mayor
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Councilmember districts I, III, V, VII, IX

ELECTIONS 2028



# Ballot: Primary to the General

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## What's on the Ballot?

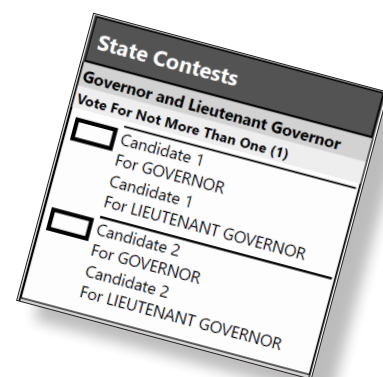
The contests that appear on each voter's ballot is determined by the residence address provided on their voter registration application. The order of offices and candidates on the ballot is determined by state law, Hawaii Revised Statutes §§11-114 and 11-115. For the 2026 Elections, offices are listed in the following order:

- U.S. Representative
- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- State Senator
- State Representative
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- County Mayor
- County Councilmembers
- State Constitutional Amendment Questions (General Election ballot only)
- County Charter Amendment Questions (General Election ballot only)

The names of candidates are placed on the ballot under their respective offices in alphabetical order by the candidate's last name except for those cases listed below.

Candidate Vacancies: The name of a replacement candidate shall be printed in an available and appropriate place on the ballot, not necessarily in alphabetical order.

Lieutenant Governor: In the General Election, the name of the candidate for Lieutenant Governor shall be placed immediately below the name of the candidate for Governor of the same political party. The teams are placed on the ballot in alphabetical order by the last name of the candidate for Governor.



# Primary Election

Hawaii conducts a single-party Primary Election to nominate the candidates to represent a political party (or nonpartisan) in the General Election.

All political preferences appear on the Primary Election ballot. Voters must:

- 1 Select a political preference, then
- 2 Only vote for candidates within that political preference.

Votes for candidates of another political preference are not counted. Only the votes cast for the political preference selected will count.

All political preferences appear on the Primary Election ballot pursuant to the Hawaii State Constitution, Article II, Section 4, which states “Secrecy of voting and choice of political party affiliation or nonpartisanship shall be preserved.” Additionally, political preference is not captured when registering to vote. Also, indicating a political preference on the Primary Election ballot does not register the voter for that political party. Voters interested in becoming a member of a political party should contact the party directly.

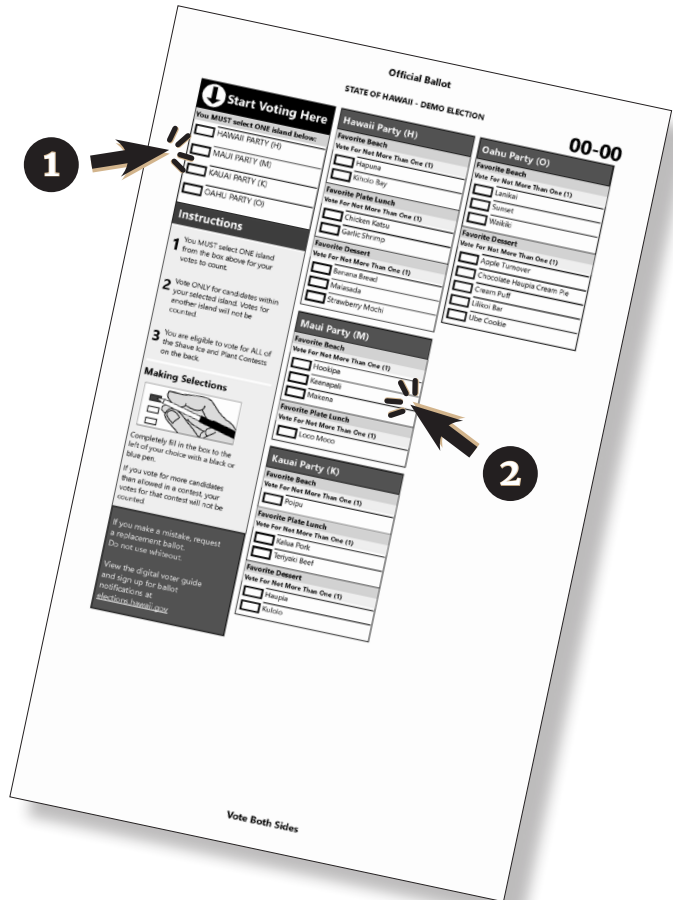
The order political preferences appear on the Primary Election ballot is determined by lot pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes §12-21, so that there is an equal chance of a political preference being listed first on the ballot.

There is a header indicating each political preference section, as well as headers identifying the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and County contests.



**Everyone is eligible to vote for OHA and County contests, regardless of their selected political preference.**

This encompasses the nonpartisan offices of OHA Trustee, County Mayor, County Prosecuting Attorney, and County Councilmember.



## Partisan Candidates

Candidates interested in running for a partisan office under a political party must be registered with the party before filing nomination papers. Candidates should contact the party directly for more information on becoming a member. Go to **[elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov)** for the most updated list of qualified political parties.

A political party must be qualified in Hawaii in order to field candidates for the election. Parties have until 4:30 pm on February 19, 2026 to file a petition to qualify for the 2026 Elections. The petition must be issued by the Office of Elections and contain 861 signatures of currently registered voters in the State of Hawaii. The party must also file their party rules and officers with their petition. To request a petition and learn more about the requirements to qualify a political party, go to **[elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov)**.

The person receiving the greatest number of votes at the Primary Election as a candidate of a party for an office shall be the candidate of the party in the General Election, but not more candidates for a party than there are offices to be elected (HRS §12-41(a)).

## Nonpartisan Candidates

Individuals not affiliated with any political party in Hawaii may run as nonpartisan candidates for any partisan office. To qualify for the General Election, nonpartisan candidates must meet one of the following qualifications:

- Receive at least 10% of the votes cast for the office; or
- Receive a vote equal to or greater than the lowest vote received by a partisan candidate who was nominated.

If more nonpartisan candidates qualify to run in the General Election than there are seats available, then the nonpartisan candidate who receives the most votes will appear on the General Election ballot (HRS §12-41(b)).

For a nonpartisan candidate for Governor or Lieutenant Governor to qualify for the General Election, the nonpartisan candidate must have a corresponding nonpartisan running mate on the ballot. If no corresponding running mate qualifies, then the nonpartisan candidate will not be considered qualified and will not appear on the General Election ballot.

Nonpartisan qualification provisions for the General Election do not apply to candidates for OHA and County contests.

# General Election

The General Election ballot includes the candidates nominated in the Primary Election and ballot questions. The General Election ballot does not require the selection of a political preference; voters may vote for any candidates across parties. Voters may also vote for the OHA and County contests.

In a presidential election year, the president and vice president candidates only appear on the General Election ballot. The next presidential election will be held in 2028. Some qualified political parties in Hawaii conduct presidential preference polls to determine the state's presidential choice to their national party. The state and national party will determine and submit their presidential nominees to our office to be placed on the General Election ballot. Parties or groups not qualified in Hawaii nominate their candidates for placement on the General Election ballot through a presidential petition process. To request a presidential petition or for more information on the process, go to **[elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov)**.



Constitutional amendment and charter amendment questions only appear on the General Election ballot. Constitutional amendments are proposed and submitted by the Hawaii State Legislature. There is no initiative process under state law that would allow registered voters or citizen groups to propose and submit questions to amend the Hawaii State Constitution. Charter amendment and initiative questions are submitted by the respective county clerk, consistent with their county laws. State constitutional amendment questions are listed in the order provided by the Hawaii State Legislature. County charter amendment and initiative questions are listed in the order provided by the respective county clerk.

# Campaigning

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## Electioneering Boundary

Campaign activities for the purpose of soliciting votes for or against any person, political party, or position on a question are prohibited within 200 feet from the perimeter of any voter service center, place of deposit, and its appurtenances. This includes the building in which the voter service center and place of deposit is located, any parking lot adjacent to the building and routinely used for parking at that building, routes of access between the building and any parking lot, and any route of access between any public thoroughfare and the building.

Any person who remains or loiters within the 200 foot electioneering boundary for the purpose of campaigning will be guilty of a misdemeanor. Campaign activities include distribution, circulation, carrying, holding, posting, or staking of campaign cards, pamphlets, posters, and other literature; use of public address system and other public communication media; use of motor caravans, parades, and entertainment troupes; and distribution of goods and services.

## Advertising

The Office of Elections does not monitor, regulate, or enforce campaigning and advertising. For more information contact the Campaign Spending Commission. In addition, all candidates are urged to check their respective county ordinances regulating advertisements.



**Campaign Spending Commission**  
Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building  
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 300  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 586-0285  
[hawaii.gov/campaign](http://hawaii.gov/campaign)

Any advertisement, including signs and banners, that is broadcast, televised, circulated, published, distributed, or otherwise communicated, including by electronic means, shall contain the name and address of the candidate, candidate committee, noncandidate committee, or other person paying for the advertisement.

In addition to this requirement, the advertisement must contain a notice in a prominent location either that:

- The advertisement is approved and authorized by the candidate; provided that an advertisement paid for by the candidate or candidate committee does not need to include the notice of approval and authority; or
- The advertisement has not been approved by the candidate (HRS §11-391).

Bumper stickers and other sundry items are exempt from the disclaimer requirement (HRS §11-302 & HAR §3-160-2).

For advertisements missing the disclaimer, the Campaign Spending Commission has adopted a Schedule of Fines at [ags.hawaii.gov/campaign/legal-resources/schedule-of-fines/](https://ags.hawaii.gov/campaign/legal-resources/schedule-of-fines/).

## Campaign Signs Regulations

As reference, the following are excerpts from state law and county ordinances related to campaign sign regulations. The public may contact law enforcement if a violation has happened.

### State of Hawaii

#### State Highway – Permit

No person or government agency, whether federal, state, or county, shall, in any manner or for any purpose do any of the following acts without a written permit from the director of transportation or the director's authorized representative: [p]lace, erect, leave, or store any structure, motor or other vehicle, equipment, or any other object wholly or partially within the right-of-way of any state highway; provided that this paragraph shall not apply to the holding or displaying of movable signs, for the purpose of carrying on political campaign activities (HRS §264-6).

#### Outdoor Advertising

No person shall erect or maintain any outdoor advertising outside the right of way boundary and visible from the main-traveled way of any federal-aid or state highway within the State, except for the following:

- Directional and other official signs and notices;
- Signs, displays, and devices advertising the sale or lease of the property upon which they are located;
- Signs, displays, and devices advertising activities conducted on the property upon which they are located; and
- Signs lawfully in existence on October 22, 1965 that have been determined as landmark signs (HRS §264-72).



#### When and Where Permitted

Signs urging voters to vote for or against any person or issue, may be erected, maintained, and used, except where contrary to or prohibited by law (HRS §445-112).

A prior version of this law prohibited the posting of such signs more than forty-five (45) days prior to an election. However, it was deemed unconstitutional and unenforceable by the Attorney General. As such, it was subsequently amended to its current form which has no such prohibition. Att. Gen. Op. 96-4 & Act 194, SLH 2003.



## Regulation by Counties

Except for outdoor advertising devices authorized under HRS §445-112 (16) and (17), the several counties may adopt ordinances regulating billboards and outdoor advertising devices not prohibited by HRS §§445-111 to 445-121.

### County of Hawaii

Hawaii County Code, Chapter 3, Section 3-3, Definitions:

(28) “Sign” means any device, figure, painting, picture, drawing, placard, poster, awning, canopy, street clock, light, model, notice or bill, including any announcement, declaration, display, illustration, insignia, or message which is: (A) Used to advertise or promote the interests of any person or entity or to communicate information of any kind to the public; (B) Placed on or applied to real property outdoors, attached to the exterior of buildings or structures or is located or displayed directly on the exterior or interior surface of a window; and (C) Visible from any public street, park, other public place or pedestrian way. A sign also includes, but is not limited to, any and all pictorial representations, letters, numerals, emblems, flags, banners, pennants, inscriptions, or patterns whether affixed to a building, painted, or otherwise depicted on a building, or placed separate from any building; provided that traffic control devices prescribed by chapter 291C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall not be construed as signs under this chapter. “Signs” as used in this chapter is not meant to include or prohibit street addresses required by chapter 14, sculpted ornamental shrubbery or ground cover, or signage that is constitutionally protected or otherwise permitted by state or federal law.

Additionally, please note that Act 194, signed into law on June 18, 2003 amended Hawaii Revised Statutes §445-112 to remove any durational limits on the posting of political signs. As such, any durational limits on the posting of political campaign signs in the County Code are no longer applicable. Conformance with all other sign requirements addressed by the building and traffic provisions of the County Code will still be required.

For complete information on sign regulations for the County of Hawaii, please refer to the Hawaii County Code, Chapter 3 Signs and direct any questions to the Department of Public Works.



#### Department of Public Works

Aupuni Center  
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 7  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
(808) 961-8331  
[dpw.hawaiicounty.gov/home-publicworks](http://dpw.hawaiicounty.gov/home-publicworks)

## County of Maui

Maui County Code, Chapter 16.12A, Noncommercial Signs, Section 16.12A.030, Signs authorized for all districts without a permit: For all districts, signs or posters not exceeding eighteen square feet in display surface, announcing candidates seeking political office are authorized.

## County of Kauai

Section 15-4.6 Signs Not Requiring a Permit. The following types of signs are exempt from the permit requirements of this Article, but must comply with the requirements of sections 15-4.4 (Prohibited Signs), 15-4.7 (Construction and Location of Signs), and 15-4.10 (Violation and Penalty).

(a) Temporary Signs.

(2) Political Campaign Sign. Any sign which:

(A) Identifies the headquarters of a political candidate, and shall not exceed the size limitation set forth in Section 15-4.5(b).

(B) Identifies and/or provides information about a political candidate or issue to be voted upon. It shall not be posted within the street right-of way boundary of any public road or highway and shall not block, obstruct or impede, partially or completely, any public sidewalk or pedestrian walkway and shall not exceed the size limitations set forth in Section 15-4.5(b).

For complete information on campaign sign regulations for the County of Kauai, see Article 4, Section 15 (Outdoor Signs) of the Kauai County Code and direct any questions to Department of Public Works, Building Division.



### **Department of Public Works, Building Division**

4444 Rice Street, Suite 175  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766  
(808) 241-4854  
[kauai.gov/publicworks/building](http://kauai.gov/publicworks/building)

## City and County of Honolulu

Political campaign signs fixed to the ground or to a structure were prohibited under Section 21-3.90-2(d) of the Land Use Ordinance (LUO). This prohibition, however, was found unconstitutional by the courts and was repealed by the Council. Therefore, no regulation exists at present.

Signs identifying the campaign headquarters of a political candidate or issue are permitted, and are regulated as “business signs.” Such signs must be located on the premise of the headquarters, and are subject to the LUO sign regulations regarding number, type, and size for the underlying zoning district (see Section 21-7.40).

Signs associated with campaign headquarters which are located in the following places are regulated:

- On the lot outside the campaign office; or
- On the exterior face of the building where the campaign headquarters is located; or
- Directly fixed to a window (inside or outside) of the campaign office when they can be seen from a public right-of-way or the parking lot of an adjoining lot.

Before installing a headquarters sign, it is necessary to obtain a sign permit issued by the Department of Planning and Permitting. Information on such signs and interpretation or clarification of the rules may be obtained by contacting the Department of Planning and Permitting.



### **Department of Planning and Permitting**

650 South King Street, 7th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 768-8000  
[honolulu.gov/dpp](http://honolulu.gov/dpp)

The LUO does not regulate advertisements fixed to a motor vehicle and political signs carried by individuals.

No person shall use any type of aircraft or other self-propelled or buoyant airborne object to display in any manner or for any purpose whatsoever any sign or advertising device. For the purpose of this section, a “sign or advertising device” includes, but is not limited to, a poster, banner, writing, picture, painting, light, model, display, emblem, notice, illustrations, insignia, symbol, or any other form of advertising sign or device.

# Elections in Hawaii

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The Office of Elections and County Elections Divisions administer elections in Hawaii. The Office of Elections, based on the island of Oahu, is responsible for managing candidate filing, the printing and counting of ballots, and voter education. There are 4 County Elections Divisions, each operated by the respective counties: Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, and City & County of Honolulu. The County Elections Divisions are responsible for voter registration, the mailing and receipt of ballots, voter service centers, and places of deposit.

## Voter Registration

To register to vote, a person must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of Hawaii. To receive a ballot, voters must be properly registered. This means that voters who have changed their name, mailing address, or place of residence must update their voter registration information. Updates can be made online, with a paper application, or at the DMV.

- **Online:** Voter registration can be completed or updated online at [elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov) by individuals who have a Hawaii Driver License or Hawaii State ID.
- **Paper Application:** Paper voter registration applications are available at U.S. Post Offices, State Libraries, Satellite City Halls, most state agencies, County Elections Divisions, and the Office of Elections. The application can also be obtained and printed from [elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov).
- **DMV:** Voter registration is also a part of the Hawaii Driver License and State ID Applications. When applying for a driver license or State ID, individuals may opt to register to vote if they meet the qualifications.



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**Keep your registration up to date. Ballot packets are sent to the voter's mailing address associated with their voter registration record.**

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Voters can check their voter registration online or by contacting the Office of Elections or their County Elections Division to confirm that their record is up to date.

Voters registering for the first time in Hawaii by a paper application must turn in their paper application at least 10 days before Election Day. However, voters can continue to register online. Additionally, same-day voter registration is available at a voter service center. Each County Elections Division establishes voter service centers, which are open 10 business days prior to Election Day and during Election Day. Within 10 days of Election Day, voters should register at a voter service center to ensure they receive their ballot and vote in time.

Voters in Hawaii do not specify their political preference when registering to vote. All political preferences are listed on the ballot during the Primary Election. To vote in partisan contests, a voter must first choose their political preference. A voter's political preference is kept private and in no way connected to their registration record.

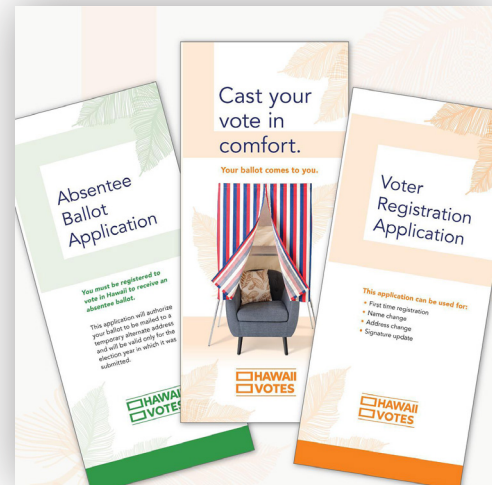
## Voter Data

Hawaii's voter registration data is an electronic file available for purchase, for election purposes only. Contact the applicable County Elections Division to request voter registration data.

## Voter Registration Drives and Materials

The Office of Elections provides materials for organizations and individuals, such as candidates, to register and educate eligible citizens statewide. Materials include, the Voter Registration Application, Absentee Ballot Application, and the voting by mail brochure.

The Voter Registration Application and Absentee Ballot Application are available in packs of 50. A maximum of 100 of each application may be requested every 30 days. Applications are also available to print from **elections.hawaii.gov**. Completed applications may be submitted to the County Elections Division.



To request voter registration materials, complete the online intake at **elections.hawaii.gov**.

## Mailing of Ballots

Registered voters receive a ballot packet in the mail at least 18 days before Election Day. Packets are sent by the County Elections Divisions through the United States Postal Service (USPS) and include a ballot, a secrecy sleeve, and a postage-paid return envelope.

Voters who do not receive a ballot packet in the mail should check that their voter registration is up-to-date and contact their County Elections Division for a replacement.

Voters who may be away during an election may request their ballot packet be sent to an alternate mailing address for the primary election, general election, or both by completing an Absentee Ballot Application. The application is available online at **elections.hawaii.gov**, and it must be received by the voter's County Elections Division 7 days prior to the election.

## Voting and Returning the Ballot

Once the voter receives their ballot, they should review the instructions and contests on both sides. If the contest appears on their ballot, they are eligible to vote for it. It is not necessary to select a candidate in every contest for the ballot to be counted. Any contest left blank will be reported as such, and votes cast in other contests will still be counted.

If a voter makes a mistake, damages the ballot, or changes their mind while voting, they may request a replacement from their County Elections Division. Voting errors cannot be fixed using correction tape or by initialing the error.

The voted ballot is folded into the optional secrecy sleeve before sealing it in the return envelope. The secrecy sleeve ensures the voter's right to secrecy as ballots are prepared for counting. Part of the ballot should stick out, but the votes are concealed. Then, voters must sign the return envelope.

For each election, an electronic ballot is available to accessibility needs voters and uniformed and overseas voters. The electronic ballot is emailed to voters to mark using a compatible device like a computer or tablet. After voting, the voter may return their voted ballot electronically or by mail using the original return envelope. The electronic ballot is also available to voters who have not received a ballot or need a replacement within 5 days of Election Day. Voters request an electronic ballot from their County Elections Division.

The return envelope is postage-paid and pre-addressed to the respective County Elections Division for voters to drop it back in the mail. Voters can also return their ballot return envelopes by hand delivery to a ballot drop box. Drop boxes are located throughout the county and the ballot return envelopes are collected by the County Elections Division. After returning their ballot return envelope, voters can confirm it has been received by calling their County Elections Division. Additionally, voters can sign up with BallotTrax at [elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov) to receive text, email, or phone notifications regarding the status of their ballot.



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**The ballot return envelope must be received by the County Elections Division by 7:00 PM on Election Day to count. Ballot return envelopes postmarked by the deadline but not received by the deadline cannot be counted.**

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## Signature Verification

Ballot return envelopes are received by the County Elections Divisions either from USPS or collected from ballot drop boxes. Ballot return envelopes are scanned upon receipt and validated by matching the signatures on the return envelopes to the signatures on file with the voter registration records. If a signature matches, the record is tagged "voted." Ballot return envelopes validated by the County Elections Division are secured for transfer to the state-operated counting center.

If the signature is missing or does not match, it is reviewed by the County Elections Division, and the voter is contacted to remedy the signature. If the signature is corrected within 5 business days following Election Day, the ballot return envelope is validated. If it is not corrected, the ballot return envelope remains invalid and the ballot will not counted.

## **Transfer of Ballot Return Envelopes**

Once ballot return envelopes are validated by County Election Officials, they are secured for transfer to the state-operated counting centers to be opened. There are 4 counting centers statewide, with 1 in each county. Ballot return envelopes are transferred to the counting centers in the presence of Official Observers, who serve as the “eyes and ears” of the public. Official Observers are required to be present during the counting of ballots to ensure the security and integrity of the election.

## **Voter Service Centers**

Voter service centers are established in each county to provide accessible in-person voting and same-day registration. Locations statewide are equipped with accessible voting equipment. Voters may use an accessible ballot marking device, Verity Touch Writer, to vote their ballot and then print and cast their ballot.

A voter is allowed to cast only one ballot. If a voter has already submitted their ballot by mail and then attempts to vote in person at a voter service center, they will not be permitted to vote again. Likewise, if a voter casts their ballot in person at a voter service center, their mail ballot packet is canceled. If the County Elections Division later receives the canceled mail ballot return envelope, it will not be accepted.

## **Watchers**

Each qualified political party is entitled to appoint watchers to observe the conduct of the election at the voter service centers. There may be only one watcher per qualified political party in a voter service center at a time. Watchers must be registered voters in the State of Hawaii. They must not interfere with the activities of any voter or election official. Watchers will be given identification stating their name and the political party they represent. Any violations of election laws observed should be reported to the respective Clerk of the voter service center. Qualified political parties are to submit their watchers to the respective County Elections Division.

## **Getting Results**

The County Elections Divisions validate and secure ballot return envelopes to transfer to the counting center, where the ballots are processed, counted, and tabulated. At the counting center, ballot return envelopes are opened, then the ballots are counted and securely stored. Counting can begin 18 days before each election. Volunteers are recruited to help open return envelopes and process ballots. All operations within the counting center are monitored by Official Observers.

Ballots are removed from the return envelope in a three-step process to ensure the secrecy of the vote. First, return envelopes are opened and the secrecy sleeve containing the ballot is removed. The empty return envelopes are placed in a separate pile and kept away from the secrecy sleeves. Once all envelopes on the table have been emptied, the envelopes are collected and checked to ensure they are empty. Finally, the ballots are removed from their secrecy sleeves, unfolded, and placed into securable boxes for easy transport. Boxes of voted ballots are brought to the vote counting equipment within the counting center, where they are scanned. Once scanned, boxes are secured maintaining the integrity of the ballot.

## Reporting the Results

Although ballots are removed from the return envelope and scanned up to 18 days before Election Day, no votes are tabulated until Election Day. The first results reports are released after the close of voting at 7:00 PM on Election Day or after the last voter in line at that time has cast their ballot, whichever is later. Once all voter service centers, statewide, confirm that the last voter in line has cast their ballot and they are closed, the results reports will be posted at **[elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov)**.

The first results reports (Report 1) include ballots that were received before Election Day. The second release of results (Report 2) adds in-person voting from the voter service centers and any mail ballots that were counted between Report 1 and Report 2.

As each counting center finishes scanning all ballots received, a County Summary Report will be released. This report includes the ballot envelopes that the County Elections Division collected by the close of voting, 7:00 PM, from locations such as USPS and ballot drop boxes. The County Summary Report is released as it becomes available. For example, the County of Kauai may finish processing and their County of Kauai Summary Report will be released, but the County of Hawaii might not be finished processing so their County Summary Report will not be released until their Counting Center finishes processing. After all counting centers have finished scanning ballots, updated Statewide Summary and Precinct Detail reports are compiled and released.



The results reports released on Election Day are the preliminary results. The final set of results reports is released after the deadline to correct missing or non-matching signatures, which is 4:30 PM on the 5th business day following the election. The election objection deadline is August 24, 2026 for the Primary Election and November 23, 2026 for the General Election.



## Recounts

An automatic recount is triggered if the difference between 2 candidates – who would qualify to appear on the General Election ballot or would be elected, is 0.5% or 100 votes, whichever is lesser (HRS §11-158). Election Officials will notify the candidates, using the contact information provided at the time of filing, of the date and time the recount will be conducted.

## Voter Accessibility and Assistance

If a voter needs assistance through the election process, including registering to vote, marking their ballot, or using the accessible voting equipment, voters may have a trusted individual like a friend, family member, or caregiver provide them with the help they need. Voters should be cautious of any signs of voter intimidation when seeking help. It is important to remember that the person helping should not coerce or display partisan interests.

To provide protection against voter intimidation or persuasion, Hawaii law prohibits candidates who are listed on the voter's ballot and the voter's employer or union agent from providing voting assistance.

### Statewide Elections Accessibility Needs Advisory Committee

The legislature established a Statewide Elections Accessibility Needs Advisory Committee to ensure equal and independent access to voter registration, casting of ballots, and all other election services. The Committee is composed of five members appointed by the governor, each of whom must identify as a voter with accessibility needs arising from a disability that requires an accommodation to vote.

The Committee reviews election procedures, services, technology, and access to information, and can provide recommendations to the Office of Elections. The Committee holds public meetings to discuss accessibility related issues and improvements. To receive notices about upcoming public meetings, materials, and newsletters, visit **[elections.hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov)** and sign up to be added to the mailing list. Individuals may contact the committee at:



#### **Statewide Elections Accessibility Needs Advisory Committee**

c/o Office of Elections  
802 Lehua Avenue  
Pearl City, HI 96782  
[elections@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections@hawaii.gov)

# Dates and Deadlines

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## February

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Mon | Feb 2, 2026 | 7:45 am

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### Candidate Filing Starts

First day candidates can obtain a nomination paper to utilize in collecting signatures from voters eligible to vote for them. This is also the first day candidates can file their completed nomination paper along with a filing fee to appear on the ballot.

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Thu | Feb 19, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### Deadline: Qualify a Political Party

Parties qualifying for the 2026 Election must obtain 861 signatures of currently registered voters in the State of Hawaii on a petition issued by the Office of Elections. The petition along with the party rules and officers must be submitted to the Office of Elections by this deadline.

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Thu | Feb 19, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### Deadline: Qualified Political Parties File Rules and Officers

The Democratic Party of Hawaii, Libertarian Party of Hawaii, and the Hawaii Republican Party must file their party rules and officers with the Office of Elections by this deadline.

## March

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Thu | Mar 19, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### Deadline: File Objection to a Political Party Petition

An objection to a political party petition may be made by a political party or the chief election officer. All objections must be filed with the Office of Elections by 4:30 PM on the 20th business day after the petition has been filed. Therefore, the deadline could be earlier if the political party filed its petition earlier.

## June

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Tue | Jun 2, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### Deadline: Candidate Filing

Last day candidates can file their nomination paper along with a filing fee to appear on the ballot. Nomination papers will not be accepted after the deadline.

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Wed | Jun 3, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### Deadline: Candidate Withdrawal For Any Reason

Candidates may submit a request to withdraw their candidacy for any reason to the Office of Elections for federal and state contests or to their County Elections Division for county contests.

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Tue | Jun 9, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### **Deadline: File Objection to a Candidate's Nomination Paper**

An objection to a candidate's nomination paper may be made by the chief election officer, the clerk for county contests, a registered voter, or an officer of a qualified political party. Registered voters must file their objection with the Office of Elections for federal and state contests or their County Elections Division for county contests. Objections made by an officer of a political party must be filed directly with the Circuit Court.

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Fri | Jun 19, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### **Deadline: Candidate Withdrawal For Ill Health**

Candidates may submit a request to withdraw their candidacy from the Primary Election for reasons of ill health to the Office of Elections for federal and state contests or to their County Elections Division for county contests. Candidates must also provide a statement from a licensed physician or physician assistant indicating that such ill health may endanger the candidate's life.

## **July**

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Wed | Jun 24, 2026

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### **UOCAVA Mail Ballot Packets**

The County Elections Divisions send the Primary Election ballot packets to overseas voters 45 days prior to the election pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). UOCAVA voters include members of the U.S. Uniformed Services and the merchant marines and their family members, and U.S. citizens residing abroad.

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Sat | Jul 18, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### **Deadline: Political Parties Submit Voter Service Center Watchers**

Qualified political parties submit names of voter service center watchers for the Primary Election to the County Elections Divisions.

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Tue | Jul 21, 2026

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### **Mail Ballot Packets**

Voters will have received their mail ballot packets for the Primary Election. The mail ballot packet includes the ballot, secrecy sleeve, postage-paid return envelope, and instructions.

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Tue | Jul 21, 2026

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### **Places of Deposit Open**

Places of deposit may also open as early as the mailing of ballot packets. Places of deposit are established by the County Elections Divisions as an additional location for voters to drop off their ballot return envelopes. The hours and locations of the places of deposit will be published through a joint proclamation in May 2026.

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Mon | Jul 27, 2026

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### **Voter Service Centers Open**

Voter service centers are open through Election Day. Services include accessible voting, in-person voting, and same day registration. Voter service centers are operated by the County Elections Divisions. The hours and locations will be published through a joint proclamation in May 2026.

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Wed | Jul 29, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### **Deadline: Submit Paper Voter Registration Application**

Last day to submit a paper Voter Registration Application for the Primary Election. Voters may continue to register using the Online Voter Registration System or at a voter service center.

## **August**

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Sat | Aug 1, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### **Deadline: Request Absentee Ballot**

Voters who are away from their Hawaii residence during the election may request an absentee ballot be sent to an alternate mailing address.

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Sat | Aug 8, 2026

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### ***PRIMARY ELECTION***

Ballot return envelopes must be received by the County Elections Division by close of voting, 7:00 PM.

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Fri | Aug 14, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### **Deadline: Cure Deficient Ballot Return Envelope**

On the ballot return envelope, if the voter's signature is missing or does not match the signature on file in the voter registration system, the County Elections Division will contact the voter to remedy the signature. If the signature is corrected within 5 business days following Election Day, the ballot return envelope is validated. If it is not corrected, the ballot return envelope remains invalid and not counted.

## September

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Mon | Aug 24, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### **Deadline: File Election Objection**

A candidate, qualified political party, or 30 voters of an election district may file a complaint with the Hawaii Supreme Court. The complaint must present reasons that could cause a difference in the Primary Election results.

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Mon | Sep 14, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### **Deadline: Candidate Withdrawal For Ill Health**

Candidates may submit a request to withdraw their candidacy from the General Election for reasons of ill health to the Office of Elections for federal and state contests or to their County Elections Division for county contests. Candidates must also provide a statement from a licensed physician or physician assistant indicating that such ill health may endanger the candidate's life.

## October

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Fri | Sep 18, 2026

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### **UOCAVA Mail Ballot Packets**

The County Elections Divisions send the General Election ballot packets to overseas voters 45 days prior to the election pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). UOCAVA voters include members of the U.S. Uniformed Services and the merchant marines and their family members, and U.S. citizens residing abroad.

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Wed | Oct 14, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### **Deadline: Political Parties Submit Voter Service Center Watchers**

Qualified political parties submit names of voter service center watchers for the General Election to the County Elections Divisions.

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Fri | Oct 16, 2026

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### **Mail Ballot Packets**

Voters will have received their mail ballot packets for the General Election. The mail ballot packet includes the ballot, secrecy sleeve, postage-paid return envelope, and instructions.

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Fri | Oct 16, 2026

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### **Places of Deposit Open**

Places of deposit may also open as early as the mailing of ballot packets. Places of deposit are established by the County Elections Divisions as an additional location for voters to drop off their ballot return envelopes. The hours and locations of the places of deposit will be published through a joint proclamation in May 2026.

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Tue | Oct 20, 2026

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### **Voter Service Centers Open**

Voter service centers are open through Election Day. Services include accessible voting, in-person voting, and same day registration. Voter service centers are operated by the County Elections Divisions. The hours and locations will be published through a joint proclamation in May 2026.

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Mon | Oct 26, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### **Deadline: Submit Paper Voter Registration Application**

Last day to submit a paper Voter Registration Application for the General Election. Voters may continue to register using the Online Voter Registration System or at a voter service center.

## **November**

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Mon | Oct 27, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### **Deadline: Request Absentee Ballot**

Voters who are away from their Hawaii residence during the election may request an absentee ballot be sent to an alternate mailing address.

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Tue | Nov 3, 2026

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### ***GENERAL ELECTION***

Ballot return envelopes must be received by the County Elections Division by close of voting, 7:00 PM.

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Tue | Nov 10, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### **Deadline: Cure Deficient Ballot Return Envelope**

On the ballot return envelope, if the voter's signature is missing or does not match the signature on file in the voter registration system, the County Elections Division will contact the voter to remedy the signature. If the signature is corrected within 5 business days following Election Day, the ballot return envelope is validated. If it is not corrected, the ballot return envelope remains invalid and not counted.

## March (2027)

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Mon | Nov 23, 2026 | 4:30 pm

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### **Deadline: File Election Objection**

A candidate, qualified political party, or 30 voters of an election district may file a complaint with the Hawaii Supreme Court. The complaint must present reasons that could cause a difference in the General Election results.

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Wed | Mar 3, 2027

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### **Deadline: Disqualify Political Party**

The Office of Elections determines by this day if a political party has qualified to field candidates for the 2028 Election based on the results of the 2026 Elections.