

2026 November General Election US Senate Independent Candidate Ballot Access Quick Look One Pager



★ VIRGINIA ★
DEPARTMENT
of ELECTIONS

Additional information can be found in the US Senate Candidate Bulletin found on ELECT's website:
<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/candidatepac-info/candidate-bulletins/>.

File the following with the **Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT)** between **1/2/26** and **7 pm, 6/16/26**.

1. Certificate of Candidate Qualification

[ELECT-501\(FED\)-Certificate-of-Candidate-Qualification-Federal-Offices-rev-11-10-23.pdf](ELECT-501(FED)-Certificate-of-Candidate-Qualification-Federal-Offices-rev-11-10-23.pdf)

**May be postmarked by 6/16/25 deadline if mailed registered or certified USPS mail. Be prepared to provide a copy of the receipt on 6/16/26.*

2. Declaration of Candidacy

[https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formswarehouse/ballot-access-candidate-qualification/sbe-505-520-declaration-of-candidacy/ELECT-505-520-Declaration-of-Candidacy-\(Rev-7-1-24\).pdf](https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formswarehouse/ballot-access-candidate-qualification/sbe-505-520-declaration-of-candidacy/ELECT-505-520-Declaration-of-Candidacy-(Rev-7-1-24).pdf)

**Must be filed with the first petition pages filed.*

3. Petitions of Qualified Voters

[https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formswarehouse/ballot-access-candidate-qualification/sbe-506-521-petition-of-qualified-voters/ELECT-506-521-Petition-of-Qualified-Voters-letter-size-\(rev-5-8-24\).pdf](https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formswarehouse/ballot-access-candidate-qualification/sbe-506-521-petition-of-qualified-voters/ELECT-506-521-Petition-of-Qualified-Voters-letter-size-(rev-5-8-24).pdf)

**Effective July 1, 2024 (SB165) candidates may begin collecting petition signatures on January first of the year in which the election is held.*

***Signature Requirement:** 10,000 signatures from qualified voters, including the signatures of at least 400 qualified voters from each congressional district in the Commonwealth.

**While you do not need to file all petition pages at the same time, the first page filed must be filed with the Declaration of Candidacy.*

**Find more information on petitions in Virginia Administrative Code 1VAC20-50-20:*

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title1/agency20/chapter50/section20/>

Candidate Flow Chart

