



OKLAHOMA

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

CANDIDATE FILING PACKET

2024

COUNTY SHERIFF

2024 STATE OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATE FILING PACKET

For use by candidates who file with the
Secretary of the County Election Board

This filing packet was prepared by the Secretary of the Oklahoma State Election Board for use by candidates filing for County Sheriff during the April 3–5, 2024 filing period.

IMPORTANT DATES

Candidate Filing Period

Wednesday, April 3, 8 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Thursday, April 4, 8 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Friday, April 5, 8 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Last time to file Contest of Candidacy

Tuesday, April 9, 5 P.M.

Primary Election Early Voting Thursday, June 13 8 A.M. – 6 P.M. Friday, June 14 8 A.M. – 6 P.M. Saturday, June 15 8 A.M. – 2 P.M. Election Day Tuesday, June 18 7 A.M. – 7 P.M. Last Time to File Contest of Election Friday, June 21, 5 P.M. Certification of Final Results Friday, June 21, 5 P.M.	Runoff Primary Election Early Voting Thursday, August 22 8 A.M. – 6 P.M. Friday, August 23 8 A.M. – 6 P.M. Saturday, August 24 8 A.M. – 2 P.M. Election Day Tuesday, August 27 7 A.M. – 7 P.M. Last Time to File Contest of Election Friday, August 30, 5 P.M. Certification of Final Results Friday, August 30, 5 P.M.	General Election Early Voting Wednesday, October 30 8 A.M. – 6 P.M. Thursday, October 31 8 A.M. – 6 P.M. Friday, November 1 8 A.M. – 6 P.M. Saturday, November 2 8 A.M. – 2 P.M. Election Day Tuesday, November 5 7 A.M. – 7 P.M. Last Time to File Contest of Election Friday, November 8, 5 P.M. Certification of Final Results Friday, November 8, 5 P.M.
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COUNTY SHERIFF

Candidate Filing Instructions

2024 Primary, Runoff Primary, and General Election

NOTICE: The materials in this packet were prepared and published by the State Election Board as a public service in January 2024 and were correct when published. It is the responsibility of each candidate to determine the qualifications and requirements for becoming a candidate for public office.

All candidates must submit the 2024 Declaration of Candidacy and a Voter Registration Verification Form, along with the appropriate filing fee or a petition supporting their candidacy to the Secretary of the County Election Board. Additional documents, such as the Criminal History Disclosure Supplemental Form, may be required. Use the Candidate Filing Checklist (Page 6) to assemble all necessary paperwork required to declare candidacy for the office sought.

Where to file

Candidates for County Sheriff file Declarations of Candidacy with the Secretary of the County Election Board at the appropriate County Election Board office.

Candidates may file in person, by mail, or the candidate may send an agent to file on their behalf. Regardless of the method of filing, all required filing documents must be received April 3, 4, or 5, 2024 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Filing fee

For candidates filing for office with the Secretary of the County Election Board, a **cashier's check or certified check made payable to Secretary of the County Election Board** shall accompany the Declaration of Candidacy and required paperwork. Cash cannot be accepted. Personal checks or campaign account checks cannot be accepted. Filing fees are nonrefundable.

Filing Fee for County Sheriff: \$300.00
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Petition

In lieu of a filing fee, a petition supporting the candidacy signed by not fewer than 2% of the number of registered voters in the appropriate district or county, as applicable for the office sought, may be submitted with the Declaration of Candidacy and required paperwork. A petition form is included on Page 14 of the Candidate Filing Packet.

- Candidates who file a petition for candidacy must use the approved petition form provided by the State Election Board.
- Copies of the petition form are to be printed by the candidate. "Pages of a petition supporting a Declaration of Candidacy shall be printed on white paper measuring 8.5 inches by 11 inches. Pages of a petition shall be printed on only one side of said paper." (See Okla. Admin. Code § 230:20-9-1(c).) Each page of a petition shall include the candidate information.
- The petitioner must complete the top of each petition form to include the candidate's name, party name, office sought, district number (if applicable), and the county where the petition was circulated.



COUNTY SHERIFF

Candidate Filing Instructions

- “A signature on a petition in support of a Declaration of Candidacy filed by a candidate for a federal, state, or county office shall be the original, personally handwritten signature of a registered voter eligible to vote for the candidate and office. **No one may sign a petition in support of a Declaration of Candidacy for another registered voter.**” (See Okla. Admin. Code § 230:20-9-3.) Photocopies of signed petition forms will not be accepted.
- Petition forms must accompany the Declaration of Candidacy and **must be submitted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. during the official filing period on April 3, 4 or 5, 2024.** (Early, late or incomplete submissions cannot be accepted.)
- The Secretary of an Election Board who accepts a Declaration of Candidacy supported by petition will count the number of signatures submitted on the petition to determine if the total number equals or exceeds the amount required. Any other candidate who files for the same office, or a registered voter in the event a candidate is unopposed, is entitled to verify the registration information of each person who signed the petition. In the event that a sufficient number of invalid signatures exists to render the petition insufficient, the candidate or the voter may so state in a contest of candidacy petition which may be filed as provided by state law.

The official number of signatures required for each office is based on the number of registered voters as of November 1, 2023. (See Okla. Admin. Code § 230:20-9-4.) Signature requirements can be found on the State Election Board candidate filing page at oklahoma.gov/elections/candidates/candidate-filing.html.

Withdrawal of candidacy

- A candidate may **withdraw from the Primary Election** by filing a written notice with the Secretary of the County Election Board **before 5 p.m.** on the second business day following the close of the filing period – **Tuesday, April 9, 2024.**
- A candidate may **withdraw from the Runoff Primary Election** by filing a written notice **before 5 p.m.** on Friday following the Primary Election – **June 21, 2024.**
- A candidate may **withdraw from the General Election** by filing a written notice **before 5 p.m.** on the Friday following the Runoff Primary Election – **August 30, 2024.**

Forms for withdrawal are available on the State Election Board candidate filing page at oklahoma.gov/elections/candidates/candidate-filing.html or from your County Election Board.

Contests of candidacy

Any candidate who files with the Secretary of the County Election Board may contest the candidacy of any other candidate for the same office by filing a written petition with the Secretary of the County Election Board **before 5 p.m.** on the second business day following the close of the filing period – **Tuesday, April 9, 2024.**

The contest of candidacy petition must be accompanied by a cashier's check or certified check in the amount of \$250.00, payable to Secretary of the County Election Board. Cash cannot be accepted. Personal checks or campaign account checks cannot be accepted. To respond to the petition, the contestee must also post a deposit in the same manner as the petitioner, except that the deposit may be posted at the time of the contestee's appearance at the scheduled hearing.



COUNTY SHERIFF

Candidate Filing Instructions

General information

1. Candidates may file for the nomination of a political party only if said party is recognized by the laws of the State of Oklahoma.
2. Candidates may file for no more than one office at any election. A Special Election and a Regular Election held on the same date are considered one election.
3. To become a candidate for office and have one's name appear on a ballot, a person must file a Declaration of Candidacy as prescribed by the Secretary of the State Election Board, accompanied by either a filing fee in the amount specified by the laws of the State of Oklahoma or a petition bearing the required number of signatures of registered voters. (See Pages 2-3.) A complete Declaration of Candidacy shall include **both pages** of the Declaration of Candidacy form – signed where indicated and notarized, along with the Criminal History Disclosure Supplemental Form, if applicable.
4. All candidates are required to submit a Voter Registration Verification Form as part of the Declaration of Candidacy. Forms may be downloaded from the OK Voter Portal at <https://okvoterportal.okelections.us/> or obtained from the candidate's County Election Board or the State Election Board. **By law, the Secretary of the County Election Board can only accept a Declaration of Candidacy if the information contained on the Voter Registration Verification Form matches the information provided on the Declaration of Candidacy (including residence address), and if such Declaration meets all other requirements of state law.** (See [26 O.S. § 5-111](#).) The Voter Registration Verification Form includes the candidate's name, date of birth, address of residence, party affiliation, voter identification number, the precinct and county where the candidate is registered, and the original date of the voter registration within the county, if available. Additionally, the form will include the districts in which the candidate is registered to vote including state senator, state representative, county commissioner, municipality, and any ward, school or technology center district, if applicable.
5. All required pages of the Declaration of Candidacy must be completely filled out and signed by the candidate. The Candidate Oath (Page 10) must be notarized by a Notary Public or other person authorized to administer oaths.
6. A candidate's name will be printed on the ballot as it is entered on the first line of Section 1 of the Declaration of Candidacy; however, no candidate shall have any prefix, suffix, or title placed before or after the ballot name. A suffix such as Jr., Sr., II, or III, may be permitted if it is part of the candidate's name. (See OKLA. ADMIN. CODE § 230:20-3-38.) A candidate's full legal name also must be provided on the Declaration of Candidacy (Page 8).
7. All candidates are required to read the Candidate Qualifications and answer the questions for the office sought as part of the Declaration of Candidacy.
8. All candidates are required by state law to disclose on the Declaration of Candidacy whether they ever have been convicted, pled guilty or nolo contendere, or otherwise been determined to be guilty of a misdemeanor involving embezzlement or of a felony in Oklahoma or in any other state and/or whether an arrest warrant is outstanding in connection with such misdemeanor or felony. A candidate who



COUNTY SHERIFF

Candidate Filing Instructions

checks YES to any question in the Criminal History Disclosure section of the Declaration of Candidacy (Page 10) is required to fill out, sign, and submit the Criminal History Disclosure Supplemental Form (Page 12).

9. In contests of candidacy, the Secretary of the County Election Board is the constructive service agent for each candidate who has filed. By the act of filing a Declaration of Candidacy, each candidate is conclusively presumed to have accepted these terms.
10. The Secretary of the County Election Board has the authority, by state law, to reject any Declaration of Candidacy, which on its face shows that the candidate does not meet the qualifications to become a candidate for the office indicated, as set forth in the Oklahoma Statutes. **Candidates with questions regarding their qualifications for candidacy should consult statutory requirements and/or their legal counsel before filing a Declaration of Candidacy.**



2024 OKLAHOMA DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

Candidate Filing Checklist

Use this checklist to complete and assemble all required Declaration of Candidacy pages before filing with the Secretary of the County Election Board April 3–5, 2024.

<input type="checkbox"/> DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY Candidate Information, Candidate Qualifications, Criminal History Disclosure and Oath (Sections 1-8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate must personally sign the Declaration of Candidacy where indicated and the candidate's signature must be notarized. See Pages 8 and 10.	REQUIRED for all candidates.
<input type="checkbox"/> VOTER REGISTRATION VERIFICATION FORM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be included with Declaration of Candidacy. • Information on form must be accurate and match the information provided on the Declaration of Candidacy. See Page 4 and Appendix B	REQUIRED for all candidates.
<input type="checkbox"/> CRIMINAL HISTORY DISCLOSURE SUPPLEMENTAL FORM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be completed if candidate checks YES to any question in the Criminal History Disclosure section of the Declaration of Candidacy. • Provide all requested information. See Page 12.	REQUIRED for candidates who check YES to any question in the Criminal History Disclosure (Section 7) on the Declaration of Candidacy form.
<input type="checkbox"/> FILING FEE (CASHIER'S or CERTIFIED CHECK) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only a cashier's check or certified check made payable to Secretary of the County Election Board can be accepted. • Cash cannot be accepted. • A personal check or campaign account check cannot be accepted. • All candidate filing fees are nonrefundable. See Page 2. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> OR Petition in lieu of filing fee </div>	REQUIRED unless filing by petition. When a candidate submits a filing fee, a petition is not required.
<input type="checkbox"/> PETITION SUPPORTING CANDIDACY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must contain the required number of signatures in the county or district for the office sought. • The number of signatures required for each office and district for which the County Election Board accepts Declarations of Candidacy can be found at oklahoma.gov/elections/candidates/candidate-filing.html. • Email info@elections.ok.gov or contact your County Election Board for more information. See Pages 2-3 and 14.	REQUIRED unless submitting a filing fee. When a candidate submits a petition bearing the required number of signatures, a filing fee is not required.
<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All candidates must read the qualifications for the office sought before signing the Declaration of Candidacy. • Candidates with questions concerning their qualifications for office should consult with their legal counsel. See Appendix A.	REQUIRED for all candidates.
<input type="checkbox"/> OKLAHOMA ETHICS COMMISSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information included for convenience of candidates. • Direct all questions to the Ethics Commission. See Appendix C.	ETHICS FORMS FILED with the County Election Board. (See Okla. Admin. Code § 230:20-11-2.)



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2024 OKLAHOMA DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

Candidate Information and Oath

NOTICE: All information provided on the Declaration of Candidacy and supplemental forms will be made available to the public, except address information.

SECTION 1 – Ballot Information (required)

Candidate's name (as it will appear on ballot)

Candidate's legal name

Candidate's voter registration name

Title of office sought

District of office sought (if applicable)

SECTION 2 – Party Affiliation Information (required if filing for a partisan office)

Candidate for the:

☐

_____ Party

☐

Independent (no party)

SECTION 3 – Voter Registration Information (required)

Voter ID number

Date of birth

I am a registered voter in:

Precinct # _____

County _____

SECTION 4 – Address Information (required)

Voter registration address

City

State

ZIP code

Residence address

City

State

ZIP code

Mailing address

City

State

ZIP code

SECTION 5 – Contact Information (optional)

Phone

Email

Alternate phone

Website

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

This declaration is accompanied by a (check one):

☐

Check #: _____

☐

Petition # of pages: _____ and # of signatures: _____

☐

Not in person

Received by (initials): _____

☐

Voter Verification Form Included

Received by (initials): _____



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2024 OKLAHOMA DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

Candidate Information and Oath

Candidate's name (as it
will appear on the ballot):

SECTION 6 – Qualifications (required)

COUNTY SHERIFF

- ☐ Yes ☐ No Have you been a resident of the State of Oklahoma for two (2) years and a registered voter of the party whose nomination you seek, or a registered Independent, within the county from which you seek election for the six (6) months next preceding the first day of the filing period?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Are you at least twenty-five (25) years of age next preceding the date of filing for office?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you possess at least a high school education, and have you served as a duly certified peace officer, in a full-time capacity, for a period of four (4) years or more prior to the date of filing for office?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No I have read the qualifications for this office attached to the filing packet and affirm that I am qualified for this office.

SECTION 7 – Criminal History Disclosure (required)

- ☐ Yes ☐ No Have you been convicted, pled guilty or nolo contendere, or otherwise been determined by a court of proper authority in Oklahoma or in another state to be guilty of a misdemeanor involving embezzlement or of a felony under the laws of this state or of the United States?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, has it been fifteen (15) years or longer since the completion of your sentence?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Have you been named in an outstanding warrant for arrest for a misdemeanor involving embezzlement or a felony in this or any other state or of the United States?

If you answered YES to any of the above questions, you are required to fill out and sign the Criminal History Disclosure Supplemental Form and include it with your Declaration of Candidacy.

SECTION 8 – Oath and Notarization (required)

I, the undersigned, swear or affirm that the information provided in this Declaration of Candidacy, including any information on the Voter Registration Verification Form and Criminal History Disclosure Supplemental Form, is true and correct, that I have read the Candidate Qualifications for the office that I seek, that I am fully qualified to become a candidate for said office, and that I will be fully qualified to hold said office, if elected.

Candidate's signature

X _____ Date _____

SEAL

State of _____ County of _____

Signed and sworn to before me on _____ by _____
Date Name of candidate

My commission expires on _____ Commission Number _____

Signature of Notary Public or Officer Authorized to Administer Oath

Title of Notary Public or Officer Authorized to Administer Oath



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2024 OKLAHOMA DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

Criminal History Disclosure Supplemental Form

Candidate's name	Title of office sought
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If you have been convicted, pled guilty or nolo contendere, or otherwise been determined by a court of proper authority in Oklahoma or in another state to be guilty of a misdemeanor involving embezzlement or of a felony under the laws of this state or of the United States, or if at this time you are named in an outstanding warrant for arrest for a misdemeanor involving embezzlement or for a felony in the State of Oklahoma or in another state, you are required to complete this Criminal History Disclosure form.

For convictions or pleas to such offenses:

Name of offense	
City, county and state of conviction, plea, or deferral of sentence	Name of court
Date of conviction, plea of guilty or nolo contender, or deferral of sentence	
Type of sentence received (i.e., payment of fine, suspended or deferred sentence, incarceration in jail or prison)	
Original length of sentence	Date of completion of sentence
Have you received a full and complete pardon for this offense? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

For outstanding warrants involving such offenses:

Name of offense	
City, county and state of issuance of outstanding warrant	Name of court
Date of issuance of outstanding warrant	

Candidate's signature

X _____ Date _____

Use additional copies of this form if more space is required.

Page ____ of ____

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2024 OKLAHOMA DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

Petition Supporting a Candidate for County Office

Candidate's name	Party affiliation	Title of office sought	District (if applicable)	County where circulated
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I, by signing this petition, ask the Secretary of the County Election Board to accept a Declaration of Candidacy from the person named above as a candidate for the county office listed above. I, by signing this petition, certify that I am a registered voter in the State of Oklahoma, in the above-named county, and above-named district (if applicable) and that my name, address, and date of signing this petition are as follows:

	Voter's signature	Voter's name (PRINT)	Voter's street address (PRINT)	City (PRINT)	ZIP code	Date signed		
						Month	Day	Year
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								

 **Notice to Circulator: Only registered voters of the above-named county and district (if applicable) may sign this petition Page.**

Witnessed by:	Circulator's name (printed)	Circulator's signature
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Oklahoma Candidate Qualifications

County Sheriff

Oklahoma Statutes, Title 19, Section 131.1: “A. To file as a candidate for any county office, a person must have been a registered voter and have maintained a current principal residence within the county for the six-month period immediately preceding the first day of the filing period prescribed by law.

B. To file as a candidate for the office of county commissioner, a person must have been a registered voter within the county commissioner district and have maintained a current principal residence within such district for the six-month period immediately preceding the first day of the filing period prescribed by law.

C. For purposes of this section, evidence of a “principal residence” may include, but not be limited to, the address listed on:

1. A federal or state tax return;
2. A driver license; or
3. An automobile registration.”

Oklahoma Statutes, Title 19, Section 132: “No person shall be eligible to any county office unless he shall be, at the time of his election or appointment, a qualified voter of the county.”

Oklahoma Statutes, Title 19, Section 510: “Any person, otherwise qualified, who has been a resident of the State of Oklahoma for two (2) years, has been a registered voter of the party whose nomination he or she seeks, or a registered Independent, within the county from which such person seeks election for the six (6) months next preceding the first day of the filing period, is at least twenty-five (25) years of age next preceding the date of filing for office, possesses at least a high school education and has served as a duly certified peace officer, in a full-time capacity, for a period of four (4) years or more prior to the date of filing for the office of county sheriff, shall be eligible to hold the office of county sheriff or to file therefor. Within twelve (12) months of taking office, all newly elected or appointed sheriffs shall complete a sheriff's administrative school which has been developed by the Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association and which has been approved by the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET). Failure to complete the sheriff's administrative school within the specified period shall preclude the new sheriff from obtaining CLEET certification. New sheriffs with prior CLEET certification, who fail to attend the sheriff's administrative school, shall have their CLEET certification revoked. Provided, however, the provisions of this section relating to qualifications shall not apply to any person serving as a county sheriff or to any person previously serving as county sheriff prior to the adoption of this statute.

For purposes of this section, 'peace officer' shall mean a full-time duly appointed or elected officer who is paid for working more than twenty-five (25) hours per week and whose duties are to preserve the public peace, protect life and property, prevent crime, serve warrants, and enforce state, federal or military laws and local ordinances of this state or any political subdivision thereof."

Oklahoma Statutes, Title 26, Section 5-105: "A. To file as a candidate for nomination by a political party to any state or county office, a person must have been a registered voter of that party for the six-month period immediately preceding the first day of the filing period prescribed by law and, under oath, so state. Provided, this requirement shall not apply to a candidate for the nomination of a political party which attains recognition less than six (6) months preceding the first day of the filing period required by law. However, the candidate shall be required to have registered with the newly recognized party within fifteen (15) days after such party recognition.

B. To file as an independent candidate for any state or county office, a person must have been registered to vote as an independent for the six-month period immediately preceding the first day of the filing period prescribed by law and, under oath, so state."

Oklahoma Statutes, Title 26, Section 5-105a: "A. A person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor involving embezzlement or a felony under the laws of this state or of the United States or who has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to such misdemeanor involving embezzlement or felony or who has been convicted of a crime in another state which would have been a misdemeanor involving embezzlement or a felony under the laws of this state or has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to such crime shall not be eligible to be a candidate for or to be elected to any state, county, municipal, judicial or school office or any other elective office of any political subdivision of this state for a period of fifteen (15) years following completion of his sentence or during the pendency of an appeal of such conviction or plea.

B. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to preclude a person who has received a pardon from being eligible for or from holding public office."



Voter Registration Verification Form for Candidates

You must include this form with your Declaration of Candidacy. The Secretary of the Election Board can only accept your Declaration if the information contained in this form matches the information provided on your Declaration, and if such Declaration meets all other requirements of state law. 26 O.S. Section 5-111.

Name: LAST NAME, FIRST NAME

Voter ID: 000000000 **County:** COUNTY

Birthdate: MM/DD/YYYY

Registration Date: MM/DD/YYYY

Political Affiliation: IND (MM/DD/YYYY)

Residence Address: 1234 ELECTION RD.
SOMEWHERE, OK 00000

Mailing Address:

Precinct Number: 000000

Districts:

Congressional: 00

State Senate: 000

State House: 000

County Commissioner: 00

School: SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board District: 00

Municipal: CITY/TOWN
Ward: N/A

Technology Center: OKLAHOMA TECHNOLOGY CENTER
Board District: 00

This form does not apply to candidates for federal office.

If you believe any of the information above is incorrect, please contact your County Election Board Secretary immediately.

OKLAHOMA ETHICS COMMISSION

2024 STATE CANDIDATE INFORMATION

One Election, Two Agencies. In addition to **State Election Board** requirements, state candidates must follow the rules and filing requirements of the **Oklahoma Ethics Commission**.

The **Ethics Commission** governs contributions and expenditures for state-level campaigns, including personal funds of the candidate used for the campaign.

Fees, Fines, Legal Action. Failure to register, file required reports, or follow the Ethics Rules may result in enforcement procedures, including assessment of fees or fines, investigations, and legal action.

ETHICS COMMISSION RESOURCES

Website | Guides | Ethics Staff

Ethics Commission Website. The Ethics website, www.ethics.ok.gov, is a candidate's one-stop-shop for campaigns. The Ethics website includes links to **The Guardian System** (the Commission's electronic filing system), important checklists, the Ethics Rules, and other resources for state campaigns.

Guide for Candidates (State Office). This guide provides a summary of the Ethics Rules and examples of common situations as applied to candidates for state office.

Reporting Calendars. Find printable calendars with important state candidate committee reporting dates on the Ethics website at www.ethics.ok.gov.

Ethics Staff. Contact the Ethics staff for questions about the Ethics Rules, filing requirements, and how to use The Guardian System.

Stay Informed!

Sign up to receive email or text notifications for Candidate Committees & follow the Commission on Social Media for important information.



Text **OKETHICS2024** to **GOV311** or **468311** to receive text notifications



Text **OKETHICS2024** [insert email address] to **GOV311** or **468311** or



Follow the Ethics Commission on Twitter **@EthicsOKgov**



Like the Ethics Commission on Facebook at www.facebook.com/EthicsOKgov

Top Ethics Tips:

1. Read the Guide for Candidates (State Office)
2. Open a campaign bank account **prior** to raising or spending funds
3. Identify committee officers & financial procedures prior to raising and/or spending funds
4. Determine when registration will be required for the committee (see "To-Do" list on back page)
5. Maintain records for at least four years, regardless of whether you are required to register with the Commission.
6. Contributions include funds, goods, services, & loans
7. Know & calendar the committee's mandatory dissolution date listed at the bottom of reporting calendar
8. If elected, candidates must file an initial Personal Financial Disclosure Statement (PFD) within 30 days of taking office.
9. **Filings are required until a final report is filed, and the committee is dissolved even if the candidate is not elected.**



www.ethics.ok.gov



(405) 521-3451



ethics@ethics.ok.gov



Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., **Rm. G-27**
OKC, OK 73105

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR "TO DO" LIST
FOR ALL STATE CANDIDATES

Candidate “To-Do” List for **All** State Candidates

The following checklist summarizes some basics for candidates who file Declarations of Candidacy with the State Election Board. This checklist is not comprehensive and does not modify any applicable Ethics Rules.

Item	Description
<input type="checkbox"/> Review the Guide & Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guides and Rules are available at www.ethics.ok.gov. The Candidate Guide (State Office) summarizes the Ethics Rules that apply to candidates for state office.
<input type="checkbox"/> Prior Committee Information	<p>Does this candidate have an active state-level campaign committee for a prior election?</p> <p>YES: Review the “Transition checklist” at www.ethics.ok.gov for important information on how to transition from one state committee to another state committee, including the 60 day transition period limit.</p> <p>NO: Continue to the next step.</p> <p>NOTE: Federal, County, Municipal & School District Candidates may not transfer or receive funds from State Candidates.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Name the Candidate Committee	<p>The candidate committee name must include, but is not limited to, the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the name of the candidate (i.e., full name, first name, middle name and/or last name of candidate); and the year of the General election. <p>Examples: “Doe for House 2024” or “John Doe for Senate 2024” or “Friends of John Doe 2024”</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Identify Officers for the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required to have at least a Chair and Treasurer (may be same person) Candidate may be the Chair, Treasurer, or both Officers must voluntarily serve and know they are legally responsible for filing timely and accurate reports Maintain up-to-date contact information for <u>each</u> officer in The Guardian System
<input type="checkbox"/> Open a Candidate Committee Depository (i.e., Bank, Credit Union, or Other Financial Institution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See www.irs.gov for details on how to obtain an EIN (Employer Identification Number). Depository account name must be the full name of committee (e.g., Doe for House 2024) Depository must regularly do business in Oklahoma <p>NOTE: All campaign funds expended and received <i>should</i> go through the committee’s depository account—including the candidate’s personal funds. A candidate who spends personal funds for his or her campaign may be reimbursed with candidate committee funds within 90 days. After the 90 days, non-reimbursed expenses are considered contributions to the campaign from the candidate, must be reported accordingly, and are non-reimbursable.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Determine When to Register a Candidate Committee with the Ethics Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has in excess of \$1,000 been raised for the campaign? Has in excess of \$1,000 been spent on the campaign (includes candidate’s personal funds and filing fees paid to the election board)? <p>YES: A “yes” to either question means the committee is required to file a Statement of Organization with the Ethics Commission, in The Guardian System, within 10 days of spending or receiving over \$1,000. Access The Guardian System at www.ethics.ok.gov. Registration is not complete until the registration/administration fee is paid. This fee may be paid using candidate committee funds.</p> <p>NO: A “no” to both questions means a committee can, but is not required to, file a Statement of Organization. Once over \$1,000 has been spent or received for the campaign, a Statement of Organization is required to be filed within 10 days in The Guardian System. If \$1,000 threshold not exceeded, registration is not required.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> File Required Reports if Required to Register	<p>Reports may be due quarterly, two weeks before an election, or within 24 hours of receipt of a contribution. If a candidate committee is required to register with the Ethics Commission, it is required to file reports until the committee is dissolved AND a final report is filed in accordance with the Ethics Rules. View reporting calendars at www.ethics.ok.gov.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> After Election Is Decided	<p>Was the candidate elected to office?</p> <p>YES: (1) Newly elected officers must file an Initial Personal Financial Disclosure Statement (PFD) within 30 days of taking office. Thereafter, the elected officer will file an annual PFD by May 15th; and (2) Continue filing reports until the committee is dissolved AND a final report is filed. Calendar the mandatory dissolution date.</p> <p>NO: Candidates who were not elected must (1) dissolve their committee within 2 years following the general election; and (2) file reports until the committee is dissolved AND a final report is filed. Calendar the mandatory dissolution date.</p>