Candidate Handbook

2026

Gila County Elections Department
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INTRODUCTION

Are you considering running for office or starting a political committee? If so, this handbook is for you!

While Arizona Revised Statutes should be consulted for legal issues or questions, this handbook contains important information that may be helpful to those individuals running for office in Gila County. Topics include organizing your campaign committee, filing nomination papers and nominating petitions, as well as filing campaign finance and financial statements. Take the time to read through this handbook before proceeding. And **be sure to consult your attorney for legal advice or your accountant for financial advice.**

Feel free to contact the Gila County Department of Elections if you have questions or if you have suggestions for ways in which we can improve this handbook. Good luck!

GILA COUNTY CONTACTS

Elections Office **5515 S Apache Ave, Suite 900, Globe, AZ 85501**

General Information	(928) 402-8709 or (928) 402-8708
Voting Equipment	(928) 402-8750
Apache Language Voter Outreach	(928) 402-8628

Toll Free: 1-800-425-5095, ext. 8708, 8709, 8750
FAX: (928) 402-4319
TDD: 711

Eric A. Mariscal	Director	Email: emariscal@gilacountyaz.gov
Alfonso Alvarez	Elections Specialist	Email: aalvarez@gilacountyaz.gov
Shane Hicks	Elections Assistant	Email: shicks@gilacountyaz.gov
Dorian Nosie-Romo	Apache Language Voter Outreach	Email: dnosie-romo@gilacountyaz.gov

Recorder's Office **1400 E Ash St, Globe, AZ 85501**

Voter Registration (928) 402-8734
Toll Free: (800) 291-4452
FAX: (928) 425-9270

Wendy Mannigel-Smith (928) 402-8735
Email: wmannigel-smith@gilacountyaz.gov

2026 IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

PRIMARY ELECTION	
First Date Partisan Candidates Can File Partisan Nominating Petitions including Precinct Committeemen (150 Days before election)	Mon, February 23, 2026
Last Date Partisan Candidates Can File Partisan Nominating Petitions including Precinct Committeemen (120 Days before election)	Mon, March 23, 2026, at 5 pm
Last Day Partisan **Write-in** Precinct Committeemen Candidates Can File (76 Days)	Wed, May 20, 2026, at 5pm
Last Day Partisan **Write-In** Candidates Can File (40 Days)	Thurs, June 25, 2026, at 5pm
Voter Registration Closes (29 Days)	Tues, June 22, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.
Early Voting Begins (27 Days)	Wed, June 24, 2026
Sample Ballots Mailed (11 Days)	Fri, July 24, 2026
Primary Election	**Tues, July 21, 2026**
GENERAL ELECTION	
First Date Candidates Can File "Nomination Other Than by Primary" or Independent (150 Days)	Mon, March 7, 2026
Last Date Candidates Can File "Nomination Other Than by Primary" (120 Days)	Mon, April 6, 2026, at 5 pm
First Date Non-Partisan (Special Districts, Schools, Community College) Candidates Can File (150 Days)	Mon, June 6, 2026
Last Date Non-Partisan (Special Districts, Schools, Community College Candidates Can File (120 Days)	Mon, July 6, 2026, at 5 pm
Last Day Write-in Non-Partisan (Special Districts, Schools, Community College) Candidates Can File (76 Days)	Wed, Aug 19, 2026, at 5 pm
Last Day all other Write-in Candidates Can File (40 Days)	Thurs, Sept 24, 2026, at 5 pm
Voter Registration Closes (29 Days)	Mon, Oct 5, 2026, at Midnight
Early Voting Begins (27 Days)	Wed, Oct 7, 2026
Sample Ballots Mailed (11 Days)	Fri, Oct 23, 2026
General Election	**Tues, Nov 3, 2026**

OFFICES APPEARING ON THE 2026 ELECTION BALLOT

Primary Election Ballot:

Office	Term
Superior Court Judge Division 2	2027 thru 2030
Clerk of Superior Clerk	2027 thru 2030
Recorder	2027 thru 2028
Constable – Globe Regional	2027 thru 2030
Constable – Payson Regional	2027 thru 2030
Justice of the Peace – Globe Regional	2027 thru 2030
Justice of the Peace – Payson Regional	2027 thru 20230
Precinct Committeeman	2027 thru 2028
City Council	2027 thru 2030

General Election Ballot:

All Offices Listed Above (Except Precinct Committeeman)
All the following as necessary:
School District Governing Boards
Community College Governing Board
Special Taxing District Governing Boards:
Fire Districts
Sanitary Districts
Water Districts
Wastewater Districts
Propositions, if any
Local Ballot Measures, Runoff elections if any

QUALIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

[Ariz. Const. Art. VII, § 15 and ARS §16-121(A)]

Every person elected or appointed to any elective office of trust or profit under the authority of the state, or any of its political divisions or municipalities, shall be a qualified elector of the political division or municipality in which the person seeks election at the time of filing nomination papers. A qualified elector is a person who is:

- Properly registered to vote
- Will be at least 18 years of age on or before the date of the election

QUALIFICATIONS FOR COUNTY OFFICERS

General Qualifications [ARS §11-402]

A person shall not be eligible for a county office, whether elective or appointive, nor shall a certificate of election or commission be issued to any person, unless the person is, at the time of the election or appointment:

- 18 years of age or over
- A resident of the state
- Able to read and write the English language
- Will be a qualified elector of the district which he or she proposes to represent at the time of the candidate filing.

The Board of Supervisors shall be the sole judge of these qualifications, subject to review by certiorari in the superior court.

County Attorney [ARS §11-531]. A person who is eligible for this office:

- Is an attorney at law, licensed and in good standing in this state
- Meets the general qualifications for county office

School Superintendent [ARS §15-301]. A person who is eligible for this office:

- Holds a regular certificate to teach in the schools of this state
- Meets the general qualifications for county office

Superior Court Judge [Ariz. Const. Art. VI, §22]. The person who is eligible for this position is:

- At least 30 years of age
- Of good moral character
- Admitted to the practice of law in Arizona for at least five years
- A resident of the state for five years prior to taking office
- An elector of the county in which the duties of the office are to be exercised
- Able to read and write the English language
- Meets the general qualifications for county office

2026 NOMINATION PETITION SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Before signatures can be collected a Candidate Statement of Interest form must be filed A.R.S. 16-311(H). Nomination petitions shall be signed by a number of qualified electors who are qualified to vote for the candidate whose nomination petition they are signing as follows:

If for a candidate for a county office or superior court judge, at least one per cent (1%) but not more than ten per cent (10%) of the total number of qualified signers in the county or district. ARS § 16-322(A)(4)

If for a community college district, by at least one-quarter of one percent (1/4%) but not more than ten per cent (10%) of the total voter registration in the district. ARS §16-322(A)(5)

If for county precinct committeeman, by at least two percent but not more than ten per cent (10%) or ten signatures, whichever is less, of the party voter registration in the precinct. ARS §16-322(A)(6)

If for the governing body of a special district as described in Title 48, by a number of qualified electors equal to at least one-half of one percent of the vote in the special district but not more than two hundred fifty and not fewer than five signatures. ("The vote" is the number of votes cast in the last election.) ARS §16-322(A) (12)

The following are the unofficial signature requirements based on the October 1, 2025 voter registration numbers. These numbers will be updated in January with the official signature requirement numbers.

Office	Democratic	Republican	Other (Then by Primary)
County-Wide	181-1,807	277-2,764	No less than 307
Globe Justice of the Peace & Constable	93-930	86-860	No less than 128
Payson Justice of the Peace & Constable	88-878	191-1,909	No less than 179

CAMPAIGN POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Political Committee Statement of Organization

- A candidate who receives contributions or makes expenditures exceeding $1,500.00 must file a Political Committee Statement of Organization. Campaign finance reports are **required** and must be filed on time.
- The committee's name must include the name of the candidate. A committee must have a chairman and a treasurer. The candidate may be the chairman and the treasurer of his/her committee.
- The committee must notify the county elections office of the financial institution(s) where campaign contributions shall be deposited, and campaign monies expended. The notification may be made at the time the Political Committee Statement of Organization is filed or within ten (10) days after opening the account(s). Before accepting a contribution or making an expenditure the financial institution(s) must be designated.
- The committee shall file an amended Political Committee Statement of Organization reporting any change of the information appearing on the previously filed statement within ten (10) business days after the change.
- A political committee may terminate its activities only when the committee chairman and treasurer file a **Termination Statement** stating it will no longer receive any contributions or make any disbursements, that the committee has no outstanding debts or obligations, and that any surplus monies have been properly disbursed. **See ARS 16-914.**

PARTISAN NOMINATION PAPER

Any person desiring to become a candidate and to have their name printed on the official ballot for any election office at a primary election shall be a qualified elector of either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party and shall complete, sign, and file a Nomination Paper that includes:

- Name of the office sought
- Name of the political party of registration
- Date of the primary election
- Date of the general election
- Number of years as a U.S. citizen
- Number of years as an Arizona citizen
- Number of years in Gila County
- Number of years in the voting precinct
- Actual residence address or description of place of residence
- Post office address, if applicable
- Exact manner name is to appear on the ballot
- Signed statement relating to campaign financing and reporting

A candidate for public office shall be a qualified elector at the time of filing, shall be qualified to hold the office they seek and shall reside in the county, district or precinct which the person proposes to represent.

NOMINATION OTHER THAN BY PRIMARY ELECTION

A candidate who is a registered member of a party not entitled to representation, or who is registered as an Independent or No Party Preference, may be nominated as a candidate for Gila County public office "other than by the primary election." Candidates wishing to be nominated other than by primary election shall file the required candidate papers and petitions while primary nomination papers and petitions are required to be filed. Candidates nominated other than by primary election shall not be voted for at the primary election but shall be voted for at the general election.

Petitions for nomination other than by primary election shall be signed by at least 3% of the number of persons who are registered to vote in the county or district for which the candidate is nominated and who are not members of the Democratic or Republican Party.

A petition circulated for a nomination other than by primary election candidate shall be signed only by voters who have not signed the nomination petition of a candidate for the same office voted for at the primary election.

PARTISAN NOMINATION PETITION

Any person desiring to become a candidate at any election and to have their name printed on the official ballot shall file nomination petitions.

A nomination petition is the form used for collecting the required number of signatures from qualified electors and is circulated by or on behalf of the person seeking to become a candidate for a political office.

The nomination petition size is determined by Arizona Revised Statute:

- 8½" long x 11" wide.
- headed by a caption stating the purpose of the petition.
- followed by the body of the petition stating the intent of the petitioners.
- ten (10) lines spaced 1/2" apart consecutively numbered one (1) through ten (10).

The signature portion of the petition shall be divided into columns headed by the titles:

- signature.
- printed name.
- actual residence address or description of place residence, city, town or post office.
- date of signing.

A primary election candidate shall file partisan nomination petitions that contain signatures equaling no less than 1% and no more 10% of the total voter registration of the party of the candidate within the jurisdiction of the office they seek.

PETITION CIRCULATION

Before circulating petitions:

- Review A.R.S. § 16-315. Form of Petitions
- Complete the caption at the top of the front side of the petition.
- Decide if a photo of the candidate is to be included (optional.)
- Ensure any petition used matches the size and format requirements as required in Arizona Revised Statutes. Candidates may choose to have petitions professionally printed.
- Always print the petition form on 8½ X 11-inch paper. The second page (Instructions for Circulator) <u>must</u> be copied on the reverse side of the nomination petition.

- A ***fillable form*** is available online on the Gila County Elections homepage.

The circulator of a petition must:

- Be qualified to register to vote in the State of Arizona.
- Witness each person signing the petition.
- Complete the circulator's statement on the back of the petition. Print or type name, residence address, or if no street address, a description of residence location and sign the back of the petition.

Circulating Tips:

- Voters may sign as many petitions for the same office as there are positions necessary to fill the office at the election. **For Example:** For the Office of Treasurer, only one person shall be elected to fill the office. Therefore, a voter may sign only one nomination petition for a candidate who is running for the office of Treasurer.
- Candidates can sign their own petition.
- All petition columns **MUST** be filled in. The date column is the one most left blank.
- Anyone wishing to sign a petition **MUST SIGN THEIR OWN NAME**. A spouse, family member, friend, power of attorney, guardian, etc. may not sign a nomination petition on behalf of another person.
- The circulator or another person may **NOT** assist the signer by completing the remaining columns on the petition.
- No more than 10 signatures will be counted on a petition. Additional signatures collected in the margins will not be counted.
- Do not leave petitions in any public place where the circulator cannot witness signatures, i.e. restaurants
- Candidates are strongly encouraged to obtain actual physical residence addresses or descriptions of place of residence relative to a city, town or post office building. P. O. Boxes are not invalid per se but may be challenged in court.
- Suggestion---Collect more signatures than the minimum number required.

Who May Sign a Democrat Petition?

- Democrats registered in the jurisdiction of the office that the candidate seeks.
- Members of the unrecognized parties, independents or nonpartisans, registered in the jurisdiction of the office that the candidate seeks.

Who May Sign a Republican Petition?

- Republicans registered in the jurisdiction of the office that the candidate seeks.
- Members of the unrecognized parties, independents or nonpartisans, registered in the jurisdiction of the office that the candidate seeks.

What Parties are recognized for Gila County Elected Office?

- The Democrat Party
- The Republican Party
- Except for the office of Precinct Committeeman. Candidates for county precinct committeeman shall be elected by members of the political parties recognized at the state level.

Filing Petitions

- A petition may be filed with less than ten (10) signatures.
- At the time of filing, the petitions must be accompanied by the candidates Nomination Paper and Financial Disclosure Statement.
- A person may withdraw their signature from a petition by any of the following:
  1. Verify the withdrawal by signing a simple statement of intent to withdraw their signature at the county elections office.
  2. Mail a signed, notarized statement of intent to withdraw their signature to the Gila County Elections Office.
  3. The withdrawal must be received in the Gila County Elections Office not later than 5:00 p.m. on the date the petition containing the person's signature is filed.
- Web-based Supervisory and Precinct maps are available on the Gila County Elections webpage www.gilacountyaz.gov.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Candidates for Gila County and Superior Court offices must file a Financial Disclosure Statement at the same time as the Nomination Paper and Nomination Petitions are filed.

- The statement must cover the twelve (12) months prior to the date of filing.
- The statement must be signed by the candidate.
- The Gila County Elections office will refuse to accept the filing of the nomination paper and nomination petitions from candidates who fail to include a Financial Disclosure Statement.

What is a Financial Disclosure Statement?

The Financial Disclosure Statement form and instructions detail items that the candidate should disclose and need not disclose. In general, a Financial Disclosure Statement is a personal disclosure of:

- You and your spouse's name and the names of minor children of whom you have legal custody.
- Sources of personal compensation paid to you, your spouse, or any member of your household more than $1,000 in salary, wages, commissions, tips or other forms of compensation during the period covered by the report.
- Anything of value that any other person, outside your household, receives for your use or benefit of you or any member of your household.
- Professional, Occupational and Business Licenses.
- Personal Creditors / Personal Debt over $1,000.
- Personal Debtors over $1,000.
- A single gift or accumulation of gifts with a value over $500.
- Offices of Fiduciary Relationships in Businesses, Nonprofit Organization or Trusts.
- Owner or Financial Interest in Trusts, or Investment Funds.
- Bonds.
- Real Property Ownership.
- Business Names.
- Controlled Business Information.
- Dependent Business Information.
- Real Property Owned by Business.
- Business' Creditors.
- Business' Debtors.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS

General Information

- Campaign Finance Report Due Dates and Campaign Contribution Limits are shown on the pages following this Campaign Finance Reports narrative.

- Each candidate campaign committee that has filed a Political Committee Statement of Organization shall file campaign finance reports setting forth the committee's receipts and disbursements.

- Reports must be received in the Gila County Elections Office by 5:00 pm on the due date.

- For reports sent by certified mail with a U.S. mail postmark, the date of the postmark constitutes the date of filing.

- A regular mail postmark is not recognized as the date of filing. For reports sent via regular mail the date of filing is the date the report is received by the Elections Department.

- For reports sent by a commercial delivery service that provides a standardized delivery confirmation process, the date of delivery constitutes the date of filing.

- A committee that fails to file a report timely shall pay a penalty of ten dollars for each day that the filing is late during the first fifteen days after the filing deadline and twenty-five dollars for each subsequent day the filing is late. Penalties accrue until the late report is filed.

- A delinquent notice of failure to file shall be sent to the committee by email within five (5) days after the filing deadline.

- It is a defense if good cause is shown by the candidate or treasurer that an illness or absence from this state at the time the report was due or the written notice of failure to file was delivered if the illness or absence reasonably prevented the candidate or treasurer from filing the report or receiving the written notice.

- County candidate campaign finance reports may be filed electronically with the Gila County Elections Office. Campaign finance forms are available on the Secretary of State website or the Gila County website. They may be completed on-line, printed out, signed, and submitted electronically to the Gila County Elections Office.

Period No Activity Statement

In lieu of filing a Campaign Finance Report a candidate's campaign committee that received no contributions and made no expenditures within a reporting period may file a No Activity Statement.

Annual No Activity Statement

In lieu of filing a Campaign Finance Report a candidate's campaign committee that remains active after an election due to outstanding debts may file an Annual No Activity Statement no later than January 31 which states that the committee does not intend to receive any contributions or make any expenditures during the year. If the committee does receive a contribution or makes an expenditure during that year, the committee shall report the activity by filing a Campaign Finance Report.

Committee Termination Statement

A candidate campaign committee may be terminated by filing a Termination Statement.

The statement must certify that the committee will no longer receive any contributions or make any disbursements, that the committee has no outstanding debts or obligations and that surplus monies have been disposed of. A campaign finance report must be filed before or at the time of filing the Termination Statement, stating the manner of disposition of the surplus monies, the name and address of each recipient of surplus monies and the date and amount of each disposition of surplus monies.

After the filing of the Termination Statement, a political committee is not required to file any subsequent campaign finance reports and shall have no further receipts or disbursements without filing a new statement of organization.

2025 CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT DUE DATES

2025 3rd Quarter Report: July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025	**October 1, 2025 to October 15, 2025**
2025 November Pre-Election Report: October 1, 2025 to October 18, 2025	**October 19, 2025 to October 20, 2025**
2025 4th Quarter Report: October 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025	**January 1, 2026 to January 15, 2026**
2026 March Pre-Election Report: January 1, 2026 to February 21, 2026	**February 22, 2026 to February 23, 2026**
2026 1st Quarter Report: January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026	**April 1, 2026 to April 15, 2026**
2026 May Pre-Election Report: April 1, 2026 to May 2, 2026	**May 3, 2026 to May 4, 2026**
2020 2nd Quarter Report: April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026	**July 1, 2026 to July 15, 2026**
2026 August Pre-Election Report: July 1, 2026 to July 18, 2026	**July 19, 2026 to July 27, 2026**
2026 3rd Quarter Report: July 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026	**October 1,2026 to October 15, 2026**
2026 November Pre-Election Report: October 1, 2026 To October 17, 2026	**October 18, 2026 to October 19, 2026**
2020 4th Quarter Report: November 4, 2026 to December 31, 2026	**January 1, 2027 to January 15, 2027**
Final Campaign Finance Report Prior to Committee Termination	**End of Previous Period Through Today's Date**

2026 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS CPI ADJUSTED Effective January 1, 2025, PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 16-905(I)

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS	**Local Candidate per election CANDIDATE OR AUTHORIZED CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE**
Individual	$6,750
Partnership	$6,750
Candidate Committee	Generally prohibited (except donation of surplus funds)
PAC *without* Mega PAC status (using non-corporate/ non-union funds)	$6,750
PAC *with* Mega PAC status (using non-corporate/ non-union funds)	$13,500
Political Party (using non-corporate/ non-union funds)	$10,500 (to a party nominee only)
Corporation	Prohibited
Limited Liability Company	Prohibited
Trust, Joint Venture, Cooperative, or Other Unincorporated Organization or Association	Prohibited
Union	Prohibited

WRITE-IN CANDIDATE

A person who desires to run as a write-in candidate is not required to collect signatures on a candidate Nomination Petition. However, any person desiring to become a write-in candidate for an elective office shall file a Write-In Nomination Paper.

Write-in candidates for county office must file a Write-In Nomination Paper in the Gila County Elections Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the fortieth (40) day prior to the election. (A.R.S. §16-312(B).

Write-in candidates for precinct committeeman, school districts, or special districts must file a Write-In Nomination Paper in the Gila County Elections Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the seventy-sixth (76) day before the election. (A.R.S. § 16-312(B)(2).

Write-in candidate names will not be printed on the ballot. A list of write-in candidates and the offices they seek will be posted in a conspicuous location inside the polling place.

A vote for a write-in candidate is cast only when the voter writes the candidate's name on the ballot at the appropriate line for the office <u>and</u> fills in the oval on the ballot.

Any person who does not file a timely Write-In Nomination Paper shall not be counted in the tally of ballots. A.R.S. §16.312(C).

Write-In Candidate Filing Requirements:

1. On or before the filing deadline the candidate must file a Statement of Organization if the $1,500.00 threshold is exceeded.
2. At the time of filing the Write-In Nomination Paper, the candidate must file a Financial Disclosure Statement.
3. All filings must be submitted to the Gila County Elections Office.

- Filings will be accepted by mail. If received by the filing deadline date. In case of delivery delays **Mail Early as the postmark date will not be used to determine an on-time filing.**
- Filings will be accepted in person.
- Filings will be accepted by fax or email.

NOTE: A write-in candidate that loses a Primary election cannot be a write-in candidate for the same office in the General Election. They can, however, be a write-in candidate for a different office in the General Election.

PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN

At the primary election, the members of a political party in each precinct shall choose one, or more, of their members as a county precinct committeeman. The members shall choose one additional precinct committeeman for each 125 voters or major fraction thereof registered in the party and in the precinct as reported by the County Recorder on March 1st of the year in which the general election is held. The whole number of precinct committeemen of a political party shall constitute the county committee of the party.

Any member of a recognized political party who is registered voter in the precinct is eligible to seek the office of precinct committeeman of his/her party.

Candidates for precinct committeeman must meet the same filing requirements as candidates for county office, except for filing a candidate committee registration form as registering a candidate committee is not required for precinct committeeman candidates.

Precinct committeemen may be elected for any party qualified on a state level, i.e. Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian.

Candidate packets for Precinct Committeemen will be available through the County Party Chair or the Gila County Department of Elections beginning January 2026.

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Special Districts include Fire, Water, Domestic Water, Sewer, and Wastewater districts. Board members for special districts run for office in even numbered years. Candidates for special district governing board member office must meet the same filing requirements as candidates for county office.

Candidate packets for Special District Board Members will be available through the District Chairman of the Board or designated Board administrator beginning April 1, 2026 or by contacting the Gila County Elections Department.

SCHOOL BOARD AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

The County School Superintendent is responsible for school board and community college board member elections. Contact Roy Sandoval or Cindy Fisher-Smith for further information at (928)402-8784 or (928) 402-8783.

CANDIDATE FILING CHECK-LIST

Partisan Nomination and Nomination Other than by Primary Election

- ❑ 1. A **Political Committee Statement of Organization** must be filed **if** contributions or expenditures have exceeded $1,500.00.

- ❑ 2. The candidate filing periods for all other required documents (listed below) begins **March 7, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. and ends April 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** Candidates (or their representatives) must present **ALL** the following documents at one time. Candidates will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Partial filings **WILL NOT BE** accepted!

- ❑ A. **Nomination Paper, Affidavit of Qualification and Campaign Finance Laws Statement** (All three of these are on the same one-page form)
  - Make sure to answer every question and fill in every blank.
  - Write the candidate's name exactly how he or she wants it to be printed on the ballot. The candidate's last name must appear first. Nicknames are permissible as long as they do not suggest a title.
  - The candidate must sign the form.

- ❑ B. **Financial Disclosure Statement**
  - For the 12-month period preceding the filing (This is a different time period from the public officer filing in January).
  - Check the second box "I am a Candidate…"
  - The candidate must sign the form.

- ❑ C. **Nomination Petitions**
  - The candidate must file at least the minimum number of signatures required for the office sought and no more than the maximum number. The Elections Office cannot accept the nomination papers if the minimum number of signatures have not been obtained. Signatures in excess of the maximum will not be counted.
  - Check to see that the circulator portion on the back of each petition is complete:
    - Did the circulator print his or her name, residence address, city or town, and county on the back of each petition?
    - Did the circulator sign the back of each petition?
  - Check to see that the signature portion of each petition is complete:
    - Is there a date for each signature?
    - Is there an actual residence address including city or town, or a description of the residence location, for each signature?
  - Check to see that there are no more than 10 signatures on each petition.
  - Incomplete signature lines or signatures in excess of 10 on a petition page cannot be accepted.

CANDIDATE FILING CHECK-LIST

Write-In Candidate (Except for Precinct Committeeman)

- ❑ 1. A **Political Committee Statement of Organization** must be filed **if** contributions or expenditures have exceeded $1,500.00.

- ❑ 2. The candidate filing periods for all other required documents (listed below) **ends 40 days prior to the election.** Candidates (or their representatives) must present **ALL** of these documents at one time. Candidates will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Partial filings **WILL NOT BE** accepted!

- ❑ A. **Write-In Candidate Nomination Paper, Affidavit of Qualification and Campaign Finance Laws Statement.** (All three of these are on the same one-page form)

  - Make sure to answer every question and fill in every blank.
  - Write the candidate's name exactly how he or she wants voters to write it on the ballot. The candidate's last name must appear first. Nicknames are permissible as long as they do not suggest a title.
  - The candidate must sign the form.

- ❑ B. **Financial Disclosure Statement**
  - Covers 12-month period preceding the filing (This is a different time period from the public officer filing in January).
  - Check the second box "I am a Candidate…"
  - The candidate must sign the form.

2026 GILA COUNTY ELECTIONS

In 2026 there will be two County-wide elections. Brief descriptions of those elections follow:

PRIMARY ELECTION

A primary election shall be held on the first Tuesday in August in any year in which a general election or special election is held and at which candidates for public office are to be elected. (A.R.S. § 16-201)

The purpose of the primary election is to nominate candidates to run for office in the general election. The candidates receiving the most votes for the office they seek shall receive their party nomination and shall have their name printed on the general election ballot. The recognized parties for Gila County office are the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. Currently the Democratic, Republican and Libertarian parties have achieved permanent status in state elections.

Who May Vote in a Primary Election? All qualified electors who are registered on or before the 29th day prior to the election.

What is the Arizona Open Primary? The Arizona Open Primary allows an elector who is registered as an Independent, or no party preference, or who is a member of a political party that is not entitled to representation at the primary election, to vote a ballot of either the Democratic, Green or Republican party. If additional parties qualify for representation at the state level, those ballots will also be available.

Registered members of the Democratic, Libertarian, Republican and any other recognized party must vote their party ballot.

An elector registered in one of the parties not entitled to representation in the primary election must declare the party ballot they wish to vote before receiving a ballot.

Party Nomination Requirements

At a primary election, each political party entitled to representation in the primary election and intending to make nominations for the ensuing general election, shall nominate its candidates for all elective senatorial, congressional, state, judicial, county and precinct offices to be filled at such election, except for presidential electors.

Democratic and Republican candidates for Gila County office are nominated by primary election. All political parties entitled to representation at the state level may elect precinct committeemen.

Nomination Other Than by Primary Election

A candidate who is a registered member of a party not entitled to representation or is registered as an Independent or No Party Preference, may be nominated as a candidate for county public office "other than by the primary election".

Failure to Nominate a Candidate in a Primary Election

If no candidate is nominated in the primary election for a particular office, then no candidate for that office for that party may appear on the general election ballot, except for presidential electors.

GENERAL ELECTION

On the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of every even-numbered year, a general election shall be held for the election of representatives in congress, members of the legislature, and state, county and precinct officers whose terms expire at the end of the year in which the election is being held or in the following year.

Contents of the General Election Ballot:

- Candidates nominated by primary election.
- Candidates nominated other than by primary election.
- Nonpartisan candidates (school districts and special taxing districts).
- City and Town Mayor and Council runoff elections.
- Ballot Measures (statewide propositions and local questions).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where are candidate materials available? County packets that include nomination papers, petitions, signature requirements, filing instructions, campaign finance and financial disclosure forms and instructions are available on the Gila County website. Hard copies are available at the Gila County Elections Office.

Who is a registered voter? A resident of the State of Arizona who has completed and submitted a voter registration to a county recorder, is a citizen of the United States, will be 18 years old or more on or before the date of the regular general election, who will have been a resident of the state 29 days preceding the next election, is able to write his name or make his mark, unless prevented from doing so by a physical disability, has not been convicted of treason or a felony, unless restored to civil rights, and has not been adjudicated an incapacitated person.

Who is a qualified elector? A person who is a resident within the boundaries of the district/precinct/area for which the election is being conducted and whose voter registration has been received by the Gila County Recorder prior to midnight of the 29th day preceding the date of the election.

Must I be a qualified elector in the jurisdiction that I wish to represent?
Yes. "… A candidate for public office shall be a qualified elector at the time of filing and shall reside in the county, district or precinct which the person proposes to represent." Arizona Revised Statutes §16-311(A)

Must I be a qualified elector of the party that I wish to represent?
Yes. "Any person desiring to become a candidate at a primary election for a political party and to have the person's name printed on the official ballot shall be a qualified elector of such party…" Arizona Revised Statutes §16-311(A).

To be a candidate for Gila County office in the <u>primary</u> election, must I be a registered member of either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?
Yes. The political parties that are recognized for Gila County office this year, and, therefore, entitled to representation on the County primary ballot, are the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. "Each county recorder shall determine the political parties qualified for the county ballot…". Arizona Revised Statutes §16-804(D).

Can I run for Gila County office if I am not a qualified elector of the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

Yes. "Any qualified elector who is not a registered member of a political party that is recognized pursuant to this title may be nominated as a candidate for public office other than by primary election…" Arizona Revised Statutes §16-341(A).

Where can I put signs?

You can only put up campaign signage on property where you have permission to do so. Political signs, handouts, etc. are not allowed on County property. The Gila County Courthouse will not be a polling place in the future, and, therefore, you cannot put up signs at the Courthouse on election day. Bumper stickers are OK.

Where can I circulate petitions?

Petitions can be circulated to (1) any registered voter who is a member of your political party or to (2) Independents or Party Not Designated registered voters, who live within the confines of the jurisdiction covering the office for which you intend to run.

Where can I get maps?

Board of Supervisor and precinct maps are now available on the Gila County Elections Department web page.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS/COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT MAPS AND PRECINCT MAPS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB!

The Gila County Department of Elections and the Public Works GIS Department are working on a new interactive mapping tool for Gila County citizens. Although the final mapping project is still a work in progress, an initial web-based mapping tool is now available for citizens/candidates use. To access these maps:

- Go to the following url: **http://www.gilacountyaz.gov**
- There will be a dropdown menu titled "Offices/Depts." Click on "Elections" from this dropdown menu.
- On the left-hand side of the Elections Department website, click on "Precinct and District Maps".
- There will be links to printable maps in PDF format as well as to an interactive mapping tool (Gila County GIS Center).
- Click on "Interactive Maps" to be forwarded to the GIS Center. If you are not automatically redirected to the GIS Center, click on the link provided.
- When you access the link, you may need to scroll through the Gila County GIS Center to find the precinct maps. Use the right and left arrows to find the "County Electeds" map.
- Click on "County Electeds" to view the interactive map. You may click on each precinct to view additional information. There are also tools to magnify, minimize, and print the map.
- For candidates seeking precinct boundary lines and district maps, the PDF will provide you with the greatest detail.