


SECRETARY OF STATE
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Running for Statewide and District Judicial Office

Justice of the Supreme Court Judge of the District Court

Qualifications and Terms of Office

Justices of the Supreme Court must be citizens of the United States, residents of North Dakota, learned in the law, and possess any additional qualifications as prescribed by law. A Judge of the Supreme Court shall not engage in the practice of law. They also may not hold any elected or appointed public office other than judicial in nature. Justices of the Supreme Court must possess a certificate of admission to the bar of this state and an annual license from the state board of law examiners ([North Dakota Constitution, Article VI, Section 10](#) and [NDCC §§ 27-11-01](#) and [27-11-22](#)).

The 10-year terms of office for Justices of the Supreme Court begin on January 1st following the date of election.

Judges of the District Courts must be citizens of the United States, residents of North Dakota, learned in the law, and possess any additional qualifications as prescribed by law. A Judge of the District Court shall not engage in the practice of law. They also may not hold any elected or appointed public office other than judicial in nature. Judges of the District Courts must possess a certificate of admission to the bar of this state and an annual license from the state board of law examiners ([North Dakota Constitution, Article VI, Section 10](#), [NDCC §§ 27-11-01](#) and [27-11-22](#), and see applicable rules of judicial conduct).

The 6-year terms of office for Judges of the District Court begin on January 1st following the date of election.

Running in the Primary Election

The offices of Justice of the Supreme Court and Judges of the District Courts are non-partisan offices. Candidates must file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination with the Secretary of State containing at least 300 signatures ([NDCC § 16.1-11-06](#)).

A Complete Filing Must Include:

1. A [Petition/Certificate of Nomination \(SFN 2704\)](#) containing the signatures of at least 300 qualified North Dakota electors;
2. An [Affidavit of Candidacy \(SFN 2703\)](#);
3. A [Statement of Interests \(SFN 10172\)](#).

Circulating a Petition/Certificate of Nomination

A Petition/Certificate of Nomination may not be circulated or signed prior to **January 1, 2020**.

When and Where to File

Candidates may not file earlier than January 2, 2020 or later than 4:00 p.m. Central Time on the 64th day before the June 9, 2020 Primary Election.

The filing deadline with the **Secretary of State is 4:00 p.m. Central Time on April 6, 2020**. Filings must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State's office by the filing deadline.

Running as a Write-In Candidate in the Primary Election

A person who intends to be a write-in candidate for Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of the District Court at the Primary Election shall file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Secretary of State. The Certificate of Write-In Candidacy must contain the complete address of the candidate ([NDCC Ch. 16.1-12](#)).

A Complete Filing Must Include:

1. A [Certificate of Write-In Candidacy \(SFN 50599\)](#);
2. A [Statement of Interests \(SFN 10172\)](#).

When and Where to File

Certificates of Write-In Candidacy must be filed by 4:00 p.m. Central Time on the 21st day before the June 9, 2020 Primary Election.

The filing deadline with the **Secretary of State is 4:00 p.m. Central Time on May 19, 2020**. Filings must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State's office by the filing deadline.

Running in the General Election

The two candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court and for Judge of the District Court receiving the highest number of votes at the June 9, 2020 Primary Election will automatically be placed on the General Election ballot. No person may be deemed nominated as a candidate for any office at any primary election unless the candidate receives a number of votes equal to the number of signatures required on a petition to have a candidate's name for that office placed on the primary ballot ([NDCC § 16.1-11-36](#)).

No person may file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination to place their name on the general election ballot as an independent for a non-partisan office as is the case with partisan offices ([NDCC §§ 16.1-12-02](#) and [16.1-12-09](#)).

Running as a Write-In Candidate in the General Election

A person who intends to be a write-in candidate for Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of the District Court at the November 3, 2020 General Election shall file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Secretary of State by 4:00 p.m. Central Time on the 21st day before the General Election. The Certificate of Write-In Candidacy must contain the complete address of the candidate (NDCC Ch. [16.1-12](#)).

A Complete Filing Must Include:

1. A [Certificate of Write-In Candidacy \(SFN 50599\)](#);
2. A [Statement of Interests \(SFN 10172\)](#).

When and Where to File

Certificates of Write-In Candidacy must be filed by 4:00 p.m. Central Time on the 21st day before the November 3, 2020 General Election.

The filing deadline with the **Secretary of State is 4:00 p.m. Central Time on October 13, 2020**. Complete filings must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State's office by the filing deadline.

Campaign Finance and Disclosure

Candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court and judges of the district court are subject to the registration and campaign finance and disclosure requirements found in (NDCC Ch. [16.1-08.1](#)).

Forms

The state forms (SFN's) listed above are available from the Secretary of State's office and may also be accessed from the Secretary of State's [web site](#).

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