

2026 Judicial Elections Webinar

December 3, 2025

[2] FOR INCUMBENTS: Ballot Access Requirements

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Michigan Department of State

Session Materials

- > PowerPoint Presentation2
- > [Bureau of Election's Ballot Access website](#) to find:
 - Filing Forms with Instructions → Incumbent Judge: Incumbent Judicial Affidavit of Identity and Affidavit of Candidacy
 - Filing Guide → Filing for Office: Court of Appeals, District, Circuit, and Probate Judge



Michigan Bureau of Elections

Filing Requirements For Incumbent Judges

December 2025

Definition of Incumbent

- Judge seeking reelection to the same office only.

Note: Per MCL 168.409i, MCL 168.421, MCL 168.441, and MCL 168.467k:

Any person duly elected to the office of judge who desires to resign shall file a written notice containing the effective date of such resignation with the court administrator and a copy with the governor and secretary of state.

This includes resigning from one judicial office when appointed to another.



Candidate Qualifications

1. Be licensed to practice law in Michigan;
2. Have practiced law for at least five years, and;
3. Be younger than age 70 on Election Day.

Court of Appeals Judge
Circuit Court Judge
District Court Judge
Probate Court Judge
Probate District Court Judge

Registered and qualified elector of the State of Michigan by the filing deadline or the date the Incumbent Judicial Affidavit of Identity and Affidavit of Candidacy is filed.



Filing Requirements

1. Incumbent Judicial Affidavit of Identity and Affidavit of Candidacy submitted **in duplicate** by March 23, 2026, by 5 p.m.

Note: All statements, reports, late filing fees, and fines required of the candidate, or any candidate committee organized to support their election under Michigan Campaign Finance Act have been filed or paid.



Incumbent Affidavit of Identity and Affidavit of Candidacy

Any statements, reports, late filing fees and fines must be paid prior to signing or the candidate will be removed from the ballot. This error cannot be amended



- The residential address of an incumbent judicial candidate is withheld from the candidate listing.
- Phone and email are not required but are highly suggested for quicker and easier correspondence related to the affidavit of identity.

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Where Do I File?

Position	Where To File	Appointment Required
Court of Appeals Judge	SOS-Bureau of Elections	Highly Recommended
Circuit Court Judge	SOS-Bureau of Elections	Highly Recommended
District Court Judge	SOS-Bureau of Elections	Highly Recommended
Probate District Judge	SOS-Bureau of Elections	Highly Recommended
Probate Court Judge	County	Check With County

Filing Deadline?

Incumbent

March 23, 2026 by 5 p.m.

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Filing Dates, Forms and Petitions

Office	Type of Nomination	Forms and Petitions Required	Filing Location	Filing Deadline	Withdrawal Deadline
Court of Appeals	Affidavit of Identity and Affidavit of Candidacy	Incumbent Judicial Affidavit of Identity & Affidavit of Candidacy form in duplicate	SOS-Bureau of Elections	3/23/2026 by 5pm	3/26/2026 by 5pm
Circuit Court Judge	Affidavit of Identity and Affidavit of Candidacy	Incumbent Judicial Affidavit of Identity & Affidavit of Candidacy form in duplicate	SOS-Bureau of Elections	3/23/2026 by 5pm	3/26/2026 by 5pm
District Court Judge	Affidavit of Identity and Affidavit of Candidacy	Incumbent Judicial Affidavit of Identity & Affidavit of Candidacy form in duplicate	SOS-Bureau of Elections	3/23/2026 by 5pm	3/26/2026 by 5pm



Filing Dates, Forms and Petitions

Office	Type of Nomination	Forms and Petitions Required	Filing Location	Filing Deadline	Withdrawal Deadline
Probate Court Judge	Affidavit of Identity and Affidavit of Candidacy	Incumbent Judicial Affidavit of Identity & Affidavit of Candidacy form in duplicate	County Clerk	3/23/2026 by 5pm	3/26/2026 by 5pm
Probate District Court Judge	Affidavit of Identity and Affidavit of Candidacy	Incumbent Judicial Affidavit of Identity & Affidavit of Candidacy form in duplicate	SOS-Bureau of Elections	3/23/2026 by 5pm	3/26/2026 by 5pm



Contact Information

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