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**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

PO BOX 202801  
HELENA MT 59620-2801  
[www.sos.mt.gov](http://www.sos.mt.gov)  
(406) 444-2034  
(406) 444-4249 (FAX)  
(406) 444-9068 (TTY)

**Linda McCulloch**  
Secretary of State

To: Potential 2012 Independent, Minor Party, and/or Indigent Candidate

From: Linda McCulloch, Secretary of State

Thank you for your inquiry about qualifying as an independent, minor party, and/or indigent candidate for the 2012 election cycle.

Please see below and attached information about filing for office.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary of State, Elections and Government Services at (406) 444-5346 or [soselections@mt.gov](mailto:soselections@mt.gov) or visit our website at [sos.mt.gov](http://sos.mt.gov).

You may also wish to contact the Commissioner of Political Practices at (406) 444-2942 for campaign finance information.

Links: [Independent, Minor Party or Indigent Candidate Declaration, Oath and Petition](#)  
[Affidavit of Signature Gatherer](#)  
[2012 Candidate Calendar](#)  
[Title 13 Election Laws](#)



## Information for Independent, Minor Party and Indigent Candidates

Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch

Elections and Government Services

[soselections@mt.gov](mailto:soselections@mt.gov) • [sos.mt.gov](http://sos.mt.gov)

### ◆ Filing Deadlines ([13-10-503](#), MCA)

- March 5, 2012                      Deadline to submit signed petitions to county election administrators. (Consistent with [13-10-503](#), MCA, if there are insufficient signatures on the petition submitted by the March 5, 2012 deadline, additional signatures may be submitted to the county election office before 5:00 p.m. on March 12, 2012.)
- March 12, 2012                    Deadline to file Declaration and Oath of Candidacy, and pay filing fee (unless indigent) with appropriate filing officer

### ◆ Signature Requirements ([13-10-601](#), MCA)

- 5% or more of the total votes cast for the successful candidate for the same office at the last general election

#### ▪ 2012 Offices

#### Certified Signatures Required

✓ United States Senator	9,993
✓ United States Representative	10,885
✓ Governor	15,934
✓ Secretary of State	11,686
✓ Attorney General	12,284
✓ State Auditor	12,327
✓ Superintendent of Public Instruction	11,725
✓ Clerk of Supreme Court	11,186
✓ Public Service Commissioner #2	2,621
✓ Public Service Commissioner #3	2,584
✓ Public Service Commissioner #4	2,438
✓ State Senator	<i>See page 4 below</i>
✓ State Representative	<i>See page 5 below</i>

## ◆ Other Important Information

- While there is no earliest date to submit candidate petition signatures to county election administrators, the candidate declaration form cannot be filed with the appropriate filing officer before January 12, 2012.
- Under [13-10-507](#), MCA, a person seeking office as an independent candidate may **not** be associated with a political party for 1 year prior to the submission of the candidate's nomination petition. For the purposes of the law, "associated with a political party" means having run for office as a partisan candidate or having held an office with a political party designation.
- Individuals cannot file as independent candidates (or as party candidates) for nonpartisan offices.
- Under [13-10-602](#), MCA, a political party and its regularly nominated candidates, members, and officers have the sole and exclusive right to the use of the party name. A candidate for office may not use any word of the name of any other political party or organization other than that by which the candidate is nominated. An independent candidate may not use any word of the name of any existing political party or organization in his or her candidacy.
- An individual who files as an indigent candidate is not required to pay a filing fee and must submit the same total number of signatures as an independent or minor party candidate. A candidate who files as an indigent-independent candidate or as an indigent-minor party candidate is only required to file one set of petition signatures.
- An individual who files for Governor must file with a Lieutenant Governor candidate.
- For presidential filing information, see <http://sos.mt.gov/Elections/Filing>.



**Signatures Required in 2012 for Independent,  
 Minor Party or Indigent Candidates for State Senator**  
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Senate District	Last Successful Candidate	Votes for Last Successful Candidate	Petition Signatures Required (Five Percent of Votes Cast for Last Successful Candidate)	Senate District	Last Successful Candidate	Votes for Last Successful Candidate	Petition Signatures Required (Five Percent of Votes Cast for Last Successful Candidate)
2	RYAN ZINKE	5498	275	27	GARY BRANAE	3806	191
3	BRUCE TUTVEDT	7370	369	33	BOB HAWKS	6189	310
6	JOHN BRUEGGEMAN	6784	340	34	JOE BALYEAT	8386	420
7	GREG HINKLE	5555	278	36	DEBBY BARRETT	6784	340
9	RICK RIPLEY	5655	283	37	STEVEN GALLUS	6168	309
10	BRAD HAMLETT	4102	206	38	JIM KEANE	6516	326
16	JONATHAN WINDY BOY	4538	227	41	CHRISTINE KAUFMANN	5987	300
18	JOHN BRENDEN	4736	237	43	GENE VUCKOVICH	3046	153
19	DONALD STEINBEISSER	7383	370	45	JIM SHOCKLEY	8667	434
21	SHARON STEWART-PEREGOY	4113	206	46	CAROL WILLIAMS	7965	399
22	TAYLOR BROWN	5031	252	47	RON ERICKSON	9439	472
24	KIM GILLAN	5490	275	50	CLIFF LARSEN	6693	335
26	LYNDA MOSS	4405	221				



## Signatures Required in 2012 for Independent, Minor Party or Indigent Candidates for State Representative

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*Elections and Government Services*

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House Dist.	Last Successful Candidate	Votes for Last Successful Candidate	Petition Signatures Required (5% of Votes Cast for Last Successful Candidate)	House Dist.	Last Successful Candidate	Votes for Last Successful Candidate	Petition Signatures Required (5% of Votes Cast for Last Successful Candidate)
1	GERALD (JERRY) BENNETT	2210	111	51	ROBYN DRISCOLL	1069	54
2	MIKE CUFFE	2767	139	52	VIRGINIA COURT	1403	71
3	JERRY O'NEIL	1747	88	53	ELSIE ARNTZEN	1572	79
4	DEREK SKEES	1944	98	54	MARGIE MACDONALD	1208	61
5	KEITH REGIER	3547	178	55	CARY SMITH	2852	143
6	BILL BECK	3209	161	56	DON ROBERTS	3679	184
7	RANDY BRODEHL	2251	113	57	DAN KENNEDY	3916	196
8	STEVE LAVIN	1465	74	58	KRAYTON KERNS	2258	113
9	SCOTT M. REICHNER	3324	167	59	JOANNE G. BLYTON	2426	122
10	MARK W. BLASDEL	3536	177	60	DAVID HOWARD	3429	172
11	JANNA TAYLOR	3160	158	61	JOHN ESP	3730	187
12	DANIEL R. SALOMON	1851	93	62	DAN SKATTUM	1765	89
13	PAT INGRAHAM	3572	179	63	TOM BURNETT	2735	137
14	GORDON R. HENDRICK	2841	143	64	FRANKE WILMER	1979	99
15	JOE READ	1180	59	65	KATHLEEN WILLIAMS	1288	65
16	LILA J. WALTER EVANS	849	43	66	MIKE PHILLIPS	1747	88
17	CHRISTY CLARK	2061	104	67	GORDON (GORDY) VANCE	3171	159
18	JESSE O'HARA	3405	171	68	KELLY FLYNN	3513	176
19	MIKE MILBURN	2972	149	69	TED WASHBURN	3493	175
20	STEVE FITZPATRICK	1580	79	70	MICHAEL (MIKE) MORE	2835	142
21	JEAN PRICE	1646	83	71	BOB WAGNER	3523	177
22	TRUDI SCHMIDT	1243	63	72	JEFFREY W. WELBORN	3332	167
23	CARLIE BOLAND	1241	63	73	PAT NOONAN	1868	94
24	BRIAN HOVEN	852	43	74	MAX YATES	1855	93
25	CLEVE J. LONEY	2205	111	75	EDITH (EDIE) MCCLAFFERTY	2247	113
26	ROBERT "BOB" MEHLHOFF	1613	81	76	JON SESSO	1761	89
27	ROB COOK	2271	114	77	ALAN HALE	2567	129
28	ROY HOLLANDSWORTH	3062	154	78	STEVE GIBSON	2011	101
29	RYAN OSMUNDSON	2361	119	79	CHUCK HUNTER	2930	147
30	BILL HARRIS	3527	177	80	LIZ BANGERTER	2141	108
31	FRANK J. SMITH	1908	96	81	GALEN HOLLENBAUGH	2115	106
32	TONY BELCOURT	1276	64	82	MIKE MENAHAN	2312	116
33	KRIS HANSEN	1926	97	83	HARRY W. KLOCK	3592	180
34	WENDY WARBURTON	1810	91	84	MIKE MILLER	3273	164
35	WAYNE C. STAHL	3501	176	85	CYNTHIA HINER	1809	91
36	AUSTIN KNUDSEN	2174	109	86	KATHY SWANSON	2684	135
37	WALTER L MCNUTT	3205	161	87	PATRICK CONNELL	3586	180
38	MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.	1932	97	88	RON EHLI	2244	113
39	LEE RANDALL	3253	163	89	GARY MACLAREN	3570	179
40	BILL MCCHESENEY	1763	89	90	EDWARD GREEF	2463	124
41	STERLING SMALL	1130	57	91	TIMOTHY J. FUREY	1718	86
42	CAROLYN PEASE-LOPEZ	1676	84	92	BRYCE BENNETT	2235	112
43	DUANE ANKNEY	2801	141	93	DICK BARRETT	2578	129
44	JONATHAN MCNIVEN	1946	98	94	ELLIE HILL	2607	131
45	TOM BERRY	3165	159	95	DIANE SANDS	2395	120
46	KEN PETERSON	4453	223	96	CAROLYN SQUIRES	1783	90
47	JAMES KNOX	2202	111	97	MICHELE REINHART	2019	101
48	DOUGLAS "DOUG" KARY	1735	87	98	SUE MALEK	2019	101
49	MARY MCNALLY	1512	76	99	BETSY HANDS	1946	98
50	TOM MCGILLVRAY	2012	101	100	CHAMP EDMUNDS	1884	95