



**Information for Write-In Candidates**  
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◆ **Filing Deadlines** ([13-10-601](#), MCA)

- The write-in declaration of intent form must be filed with the Secretary of State's office or county election office, accompanied by the filing fee, as follows:
  - ✓ For the Primary Election, no later than 5 p.m. on **Tuesday, May 3, 2016**.
    - The option to have a write-in vote counted on the primary ballot is only available for candidates for nonpartisan offices, or for candidates of parties qualified for the primary in Montana (see list of qualified parties at <http://sos.mt.gov/Elections/Parties>) that also have sufficient races to require that a primary ballot be printed for the party.
  - ✓ For the General Election, no later than 5 p.m. on **Tuesday, October 4, 2016**.
    - A write-in candidate who files a declaration of intent for a general election may not file with a partisan, nonpartisan, or independent designation, pursuant to [13-10-211\(7\)](#), MCA.
- You may also wish to contact the Commissioner of Political Practices at (406) 444-2942 for campaign finance information.

◆ **Links** (*the first link is a fillable PDF filing form that you can complete, print, sign in front of a notary and submit in person or via mail, fax or email to the appropriate filing office*):

- [Write-In Candidate Declaration of Intent and Oath](#)
- [Information on Use of Pre-Printed Labels](#)
- [Title 13 Election Laws](#)
- [2016 Election Candidate Calendar](#)

◆ **Where to file**

- Candidates for federal or state office file their Declaration of Intent form with the Secretary of State
- Candidates for local offices file their Declaration of Intent form with the county election administrator

◆ **Other Information**

- Except as provided in [13-10-211\(8\)](#), MCA, in order for votes to be counted for a write-in candidate, a write-in candidate must file a declaration of intent with the Secretary of State or county election administrator and pay any required filing fee, pursuant to [13-10-202](#), MCA.
- A write-in vote may be counted only if the write-in vote identifies an individual by any of the designations included on the declaration of intent form filed by the candidate pursuant to law.
- A candidate who files as an indigent candidate is not required to pay a filing fee, but is required to file petition signatures.
- For information about the use of pre-printed labels, please see <http://sos.mt.gov/Elections/Write-ins>.