

CANDIDATE FILING GUIDE

2026 GENERAL ELECTION

Charleston County




CHS VOTES

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Above: Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections Executive Director Isaac Cramer

Dear Potential Candidate,

Welcome to the Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections' Candidate Filing Guide for 2026.

This guide is designed to help you confidently navigate the process of becoming a candidate for public office.

In this guide, you'll find clear information to ensure you understand the filing process and are well prepared for your campaign to begin.

Inside, you'll find:

- Important Filing Dates and Deadlines
- Eligibility Requirements
- 2026 Election Information
- Frequently Asked Questions

This year, we will also be holding a Candidate Workshop on Tuesday, March 3, at 6:00 PM. We'll review everything you need to know about filing and running for an elected office, and provide helpful resources. For more information, see [page 4](#).

We encourage you to carefully review this guide and contact us with any questions or for further support.

Your commitment to public service strengthens our community, and we're here to assist you every step of the way.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isaac Cramer'.

Isaac Cramer
Executive Director

CANDIDATE FILING WORKSHOP

Tuesday, March 3
6pm-8pm

Charleston County Board of Elections
4340 Corporate Rd. North Charleston, SC 29405

Purpose

The Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections (BVRE) is hosting a Candidate Filing Workshop for anyone planning to file for office in Charleston County in 2026.

Why Attend?

- ✓ Learn how to file for a partisan or nonpartisan office, including fees, deadlines, and preparation steps
- ✓ Understand election laws that apply to candidates
- ✓ Get answers to your questions from BVRE officials
- ✓ Receive resources to share with constituents

How do I sign up?

Scan the QR code to RSVP for the Workshop or visit our website at chsvotes.gov.





Election Information

PRIMARY ELECTION

Election Day is Tuesday, June 9



- Polls open 7:00AM - 7:00PM.
- Vote at your polling place, which is based on your address. Find your Election Day polling place at scvotes.gov.

Voter Registration Deadlines



In Person	Friday, May 8 by 5:00 PM
Online/E-mail/Fax	Sunday, May 10 at 11:59 PM
Mail (Postmark)	Monday, May 11

Early Voting



**Tuesday, May 26 - Friday, June 5 (no Saturdays or Sundays)
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM**

- Downtown
- James Island
- Mt. Pleasant
- North Charleston
- West Ashley

Locations are tentative. We will provide additional information once all locations have been confirmed.

Absentee Deadlines



Application Deadline	Friday, May 29 at 5:00 PM
Ballots Must be Received by	Tuesday, June 9 at 7:00 PM

PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION

Election Day is Tuesday, June 23



- Polls open 7:00AM - 7:00PM.
- Vote at your polling place, which is based on your address. Find your Election Day polling place at scvotes.gov.

Voter Registration Deadlines



In Person	Friday, May 8 by 5:00 PM
Online/E-mail/Fax	Sunday, May 10 at 11:59 PM
Mail (Postmark)	Monday, May 11

Early Voting



**Wednesday, June 17 - Friday, June 19
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM**

- Downtown
- James Island
- Mt. Pleasant
- North Charleston
- West Ashley

Locations are tentative. We will provide additional information once all locations have been confirmed.

Absentee Deadlines



Application Deadline	Friday, June 12 at 5:00 PM
Ballots Must be Received by	Tuesday, June 23 at 7:00 PM

PRIMARY ELECTION CALENDAR

MAY

						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

Voter Registration Deadlines

In Person by 5:00PM

Online/E-mail/Fax at 11:59PM

Mail (Postmark)

Voting Dates

Early Voting

Election Day

Runoff Early Voting (if applicable)

Runoff Election Day (if applicable)

JUNE

1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Absentee Deadlines

Absentee ballots start being mailed to voters.

Absentee applications must be received by 5:00PM.

Absentee ballots must be received by 7:00PM.

Runoff absentee applications must be received by 5:00PM.

Runoff absentee ballots must be received by 7:00PM.

General Election

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3



- Polls open 7:00AM - 7:00PM.
- Vote at your polling place, which is based on your address. Find your Election Day polling place at scvotes.gov.

Voter Registration Deadlines



In Person	Friday, October 2 by 5:00 PM
Online/E-mail/Fax	Sunday, October 4 at 11:59 PM
Mail (Postmark)	Monday, October 5

Early Voting



**Monday, October 19 - Saturday, October 31 (no Sundays)
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM**

- Downtown
- Hollywood
- James Island
- Johns Island
- Mt. Pleasant
- North Charleston
- West Ashley

Locations are tentative. We will provide additional information once all locations have been confirmed.

Absentee Deadlines



Application Deadline	Friday, October 23 at 5:00 PM
Ballots Must be Received by	Tuesday, November 3 at 7:00 PM

GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

OCTOBER

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Voter Registration Deadlines

In Person by 5:00PM

Online/E-mail/Fax at 11:59PM

Mail (Postmark)

Voting Dates

Early Voting

Election Day

Absentee Deadlines

Absentee ballots start being mailed to voters.

Absentee applications must be received by 5:00PM.

Absentee ballots must be received by 7:00PM.

NOVEMBER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Partisan Filing Overview

Office	Filing Requirements	Filing Location	Filing Fee
State House of Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filing Fee* • <u>Statement of Intention of Candidacy and Party Pledge Form</u> 	Charleston County Elections OR State Election Commission	\$208.00
County Councilmember	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filing Fee* • <u>Statement of Intention of Candidacy and Party Pledge Form</u> 	Charleston County Elections	\$829.48
Register of Deeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filing Fee* • <u>Statement of Intention of Candidacy and Party Pledge Form</u> 	Charleston County Elections	\$5,938.11
Probate Judge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filing Fee* • <u>Statement of Intention of Candidacy and Party Pledge Form</u> 	Charleston County Elections	\$5,938.11

*Filing fee only applies if filing as a Democratic or Republican candidate.

Nonpartisan Filing Overview

Office	Filing Requirements	Filing Location
Soil and Water Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Petition</u>	Charleston County Elections
County School Board of Trustees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Statement of Intention of Candidacy</u>	Charleston County Elections
James Island Public Service District	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Statement of Intention of Candidacy</u>	Charleston County Elections
St. Andrews Public Service District	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Statement of Intention of Candidacy</u>	Charleston County Elections



Partisan Offices

SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Filing Dates

Monday, March 16 at 12:00 PM - Monday, March 30 at 12:00 PM

Filing is open during standard office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.
No filing on Saturdays or Sundays.

Filing Location

Candidates may file at either their county board of elections or the State Election Commission.

- **Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections**
4340 Corporate Road
North Charleston, SC 29405
- **State Election Commission**
1122 Lady Street, Suite 500
Columbia, SC 29201

Filing Requirements

- **Statement of Intention of Candidacy and Party Pledge**

Candidates must sign the SICPP form in the presence of an election official, but may complete the rest of the form before filing.

- **Filing Fee**

Filing fees must be paid via a check or money order made out to the party.

Filing Fee

\$208.00*

Qualifications

- Must be a legal resident of the district at the time of filing.

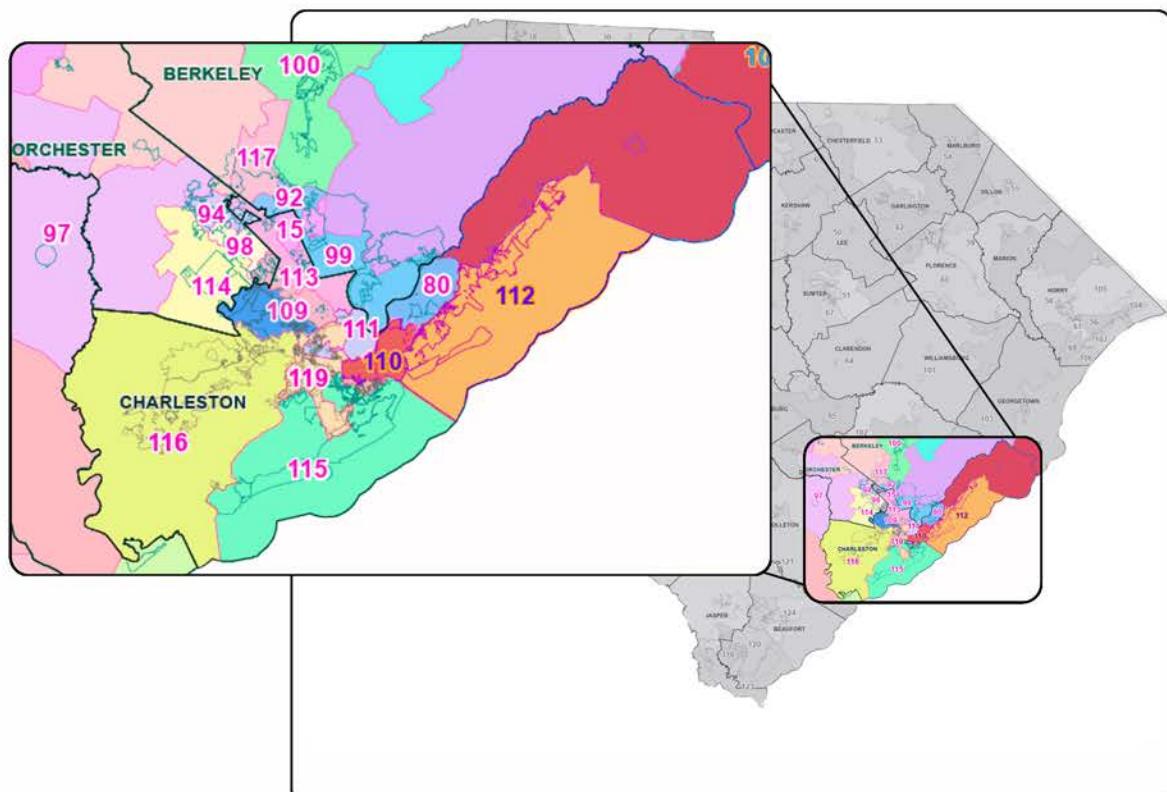
*Filing fee only applies if filing as a Democratic or Republican candidate.

SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Districts

All 124 seats in the South Carolina House of Representatives are up for election, including the 13 districts that include parts of Charleston County.

 District 15	 District 109	 District 112	 District 115
 District 80	 District 110	 District 113	 District 116
 District 94	 District 111	 District 114	 District 119
 District 108			



Charleston County Council

Filing Dates

Monday, March 16 at 12:00 PM - Monday, March 30 at 12:00 PM

Filing is open during standard office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.
No filing on Saturdays or Sundays.

Filing Location

Candidates must file at the Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections office.

- **Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections**
4340 Corporate Road
North Charleston, SC 29405

Filing Requirements

- **Statement of Intention of Candidacy and Party Pledge**

Candidates must sign the SICPP form in the presence of an election official, but may complete the rest of the form before filing.

- **Filing Fee**

Filing fees must be paid via a check or money order made out to the party.

Filing Fee

\$829.48*

Qualifications

- Must be a resident of the county and district at the time of the election.

*Filing fee only applies if filing as a Democratic or Republican candidate.

Charleston County Council

Districts

Five of the nine County Council Districts will be on the ballot.



District 1



District 5



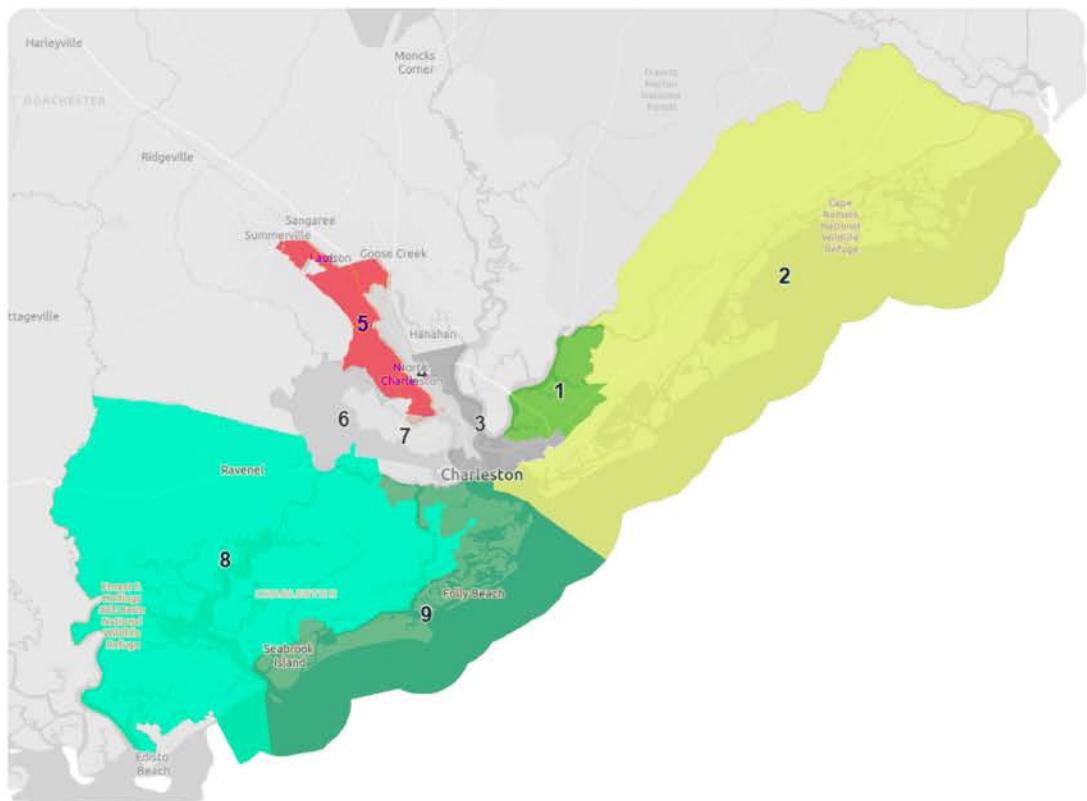
District 9



District 2



District 8



Charleston County Register of Deeds

Filing Dates

Monday, March 16 at 12:00 PM - Monday, March 30 at 12:00 PM

Filing is open during standard office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. No filing on Saturdays or Sundays.

Filing Location

Candidates must file at the Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections office.

- **Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections**
4340 Corporate Road
North Charleston, SC 29405

Filing Requirements

- **Statement of Intention of Candidacy and Party Pledge**

Candidates must sign the SICPP form in the presence of an election official, but may complete the rest of the form before filing.

- **Filing Fee**

Filing fees must be paid via a check or money order made out to the party.

Filing Fee

\$5,938.11*

Qualifications

- Must be a resident of the county at the time of the election.

*Filing fee only applies if filing as a Democratic or Republican candidate.

Charleston County Probate Judge

Filing Dates

Monday, March 16 at 12:00 PM - Monday, March 30 at 12:00 PM

Filing is open during standard office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. No filing on Saturdays or Sundays.

Filing Location

Candidates must file at the Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections office.

- Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections**
4340 Corporate Road
North Charleston, SC 29405

Filing Requirements

- Statement of Intention of Candidacy and Party Pledge**

Candidates must sign the SICPP form in the presence of an election official, but may complete the rest of the form before filing.

- Filing Fee**

\$5,938.11*

Qualifications

- Must be a resident of the county at the time of the election.

*Filing fee only applies if filing as a Democratic or Republican candidate.



Nonpartisan Offices

Charleston County School Board of Trustees

Filing Dates

Wednesday, April 15 at 12:00 PM - Monday, August 17 at 12:00 PM

Filing is open during standard office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. No filing on Saturdays, Sundays, or on county holidays.

Filing Location

Candidates must file at the Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections office.

- **Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections**
4340 Corporate Road
North Charleston, SC 29405

Filing Requirements

- **Statement of Intention of Candidacy (SIC)**

Candidates must sign the SIC form in the presence of an election official, but may complete the rest of the form before filing.

Qualifications

- Must be a resident of the county and district at the time of the election.

Charleston County School Board of Trustees

Districts

Five of the nine School Board of Trustees Districts will be on the ballot.



District 1



District 5



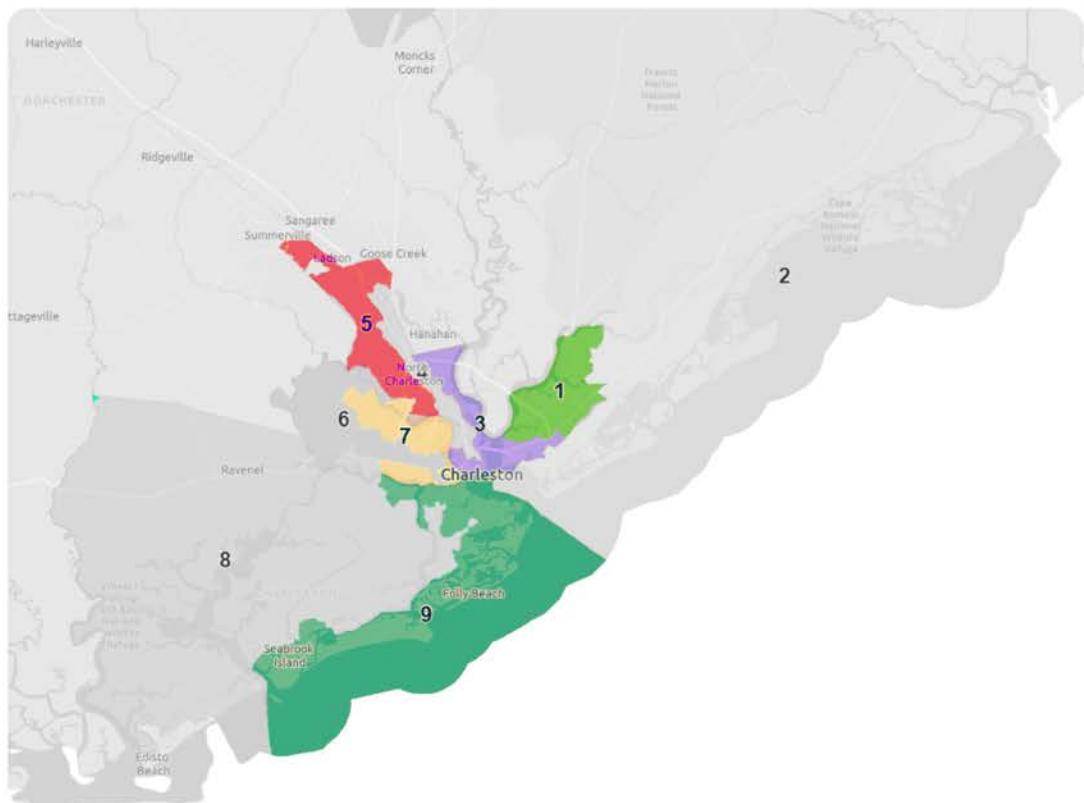
District 9



District 3



District 7



James Island Public Service District

Open Seats

- **At-Large (4 seats)**

Filing Dates

Wednesday, April 15 at 12:00 PM - Monday, August 17 at 12:00 PM

Filing is open during standard office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. No filing on Saturdays, Sundays, or on county holidays.

Filing Location

Candidates must file at the Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections office.

- **Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections**
4340 Corporate Road
North Charleston, SC 29405

Filing Requirements

- **Statement of Intention of Candidacy (SIC)**

Candidates must sign the SIC form in the presence of an election official, but may complete the rest of the form before filing.

Qualifications

- Candidates must be residents of the district at the time of the election.

St. Andrews Public Service District

Open Seats

- At-Large (1 seat)
- Section 1 (1 seat)
- Section 2 (1 seat)

Filing Dates

Wednesday, April 15 at 12:00 PM - Monday, August 17 at 12:00 PM

Filing is open during standard office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. No filing on Saturdays, Sundays, or on county holidays.

Filing Location

Candidates must file at the Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections office.

- **Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections**
4340 Corporate Road
North Charleston, SC 29405

Filing Requirements

- **Statement of Intention of Candidacy (SIC)**

Candidates must sign the SIC form in the presence of an election official, but may complete the rest of the form before filing.

Qualifications

- Candidates must be residents of the district at the time of the election.

Soil and Water Commissioner

Open Seats

- At-Large (2 seats)

Filing Dates

Wednesday, April 15 at 12:00 PM - Wednesday, July 15 at 12:00 PM

Filing is open during standard office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. No filing on Saturdays, Sundays, or on county holidays.

Filing Location

Candidates must file at the Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections office.

- **Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections**
4340 Corporate Road
North Charleston, SC 29405

Filing Requirements

- **Petition**

Requires 100 signatures of qualified registered electors or one percent of the qualified registered electors of the district.

Petition forms and additional guidance for completing petition forms can be found on the State Election Commission's website, scvotes.gov.

Qualifications

- Must be a resident of the county at the time of the election.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - FILING

Do I have to pay a filing fee to run for office?

It depends. If you are running for a partisan office and are affiliating with either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party, you must pay a filing fee. If you choose to affiliate with a different party, there is not filing fee.

For nonpartisan offices on the 2026 ballot, you do not pay a filing fee.

What are the accepted forms of payment for the filing fee?

You must pay via check or money order.

Who do I make the check or money order out to?

Checks or money orders should be made out to the appropriate state political party.

Can I file online?

No, candidates must file in person.

Can someone else drop off my filing form and filing fee?

Yes, as long as you sign in the presence of a notary public and have them complete the notary section on the filing form.

How can I see who has filed for office?

You can view all candidates via the State Election Commission's [Candidate Tracking System](#).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - FILING

Can I use my nickname on the ballot?

Yes, under certain circumstances. Per SC State Law Section 7-13-325:

"The name of a candidate authorized by law to appear on a ballot in a general, special, or primary election in this State for any office may be one of the following or a combination of them:

the candidate's given name;

a derivative of the candidate's given name properly acquired under the common law and used in good faith for honest purposes;

or a nickname which bears no relation to the candidate's given name but which is used in good faith for honest purposes and does not exceed fifteen letters on the ballot."

I have an advanced degree or special designation. Can I include that on the ballot?

Per SC State Law Section 7-13-325, you must either use your given name, a derivative name, or nickname. The derivative name or nickname may not imply professional or social status, an office, or military rank.

Can I withdraw my candidacy after filing?

You can withdraw as a candidate. To have your name removed from the ballot, you must withdraw by the 53rd day before the election at 5:00 p.m. This year, the withdrawal deadline is Friday, September 4, at 5:00 pm.

Please see the State Election Commission's [Policy on Candidate Withdrawals](#) for more information. A [Candidate Withdrawal Form](#) that includes all required information can be found on our website.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - FILING

Do I have to file my campaign finance information?

Yes, please see the [**State Ethics Commission's website**](#) for more information on deadlines.

How do I file my Statement of Economic Interest and make Campaign Disclosure reports?

You can find more information on filing Statement of Economic Interest forms and Campaign Disclosure reports on the [**State Ethics Commission's website**](#).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - ELECTIONS

What's the difference between a primary election and a general election?

Primary elections determine a party's candidate in the general election. Only the Democratic and Republican Parties have primary elections. Other political parties hold a convention to determine their party's candidate in the general election.

Why am I not on the June primary ballot?

If only one person affiliated with their particular party filed for a partisan seat, they will be the default candidate for their party in the general election.

Will there be a runoff for my race?

For the June Primaries, candidates must get a majority of votes. A majority is defined as 50% of the votes plus one additional vote.

If no candidate won a majority of votes, a runoff election will be held between the top two vote-getters.

For the November General Election, candidates do not have to receive a majority of votes. The candidate with the most votes wins.

However, if two candidates tie, a runoff will be held to determine the winner.

Are there rules or guidelines I need to follow while campaigning?

Yes, there are limitations on how you can campaign. For more information, see the State Election Commission's [Candidate Dos and Don'ts](#).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I stay up to date?

Follow us on social media for updates on election news and more!



@charlestonvotes



@chsvotes



@charlestonvotes

What if I have more questions?

Reach out to us!



(843) 744-8683



vote@charlestoncounty.org



chsvotes.gov



Office Address

4340 Corporate Road
North Charleston, SC 29405

Monday - Friday

8:30AM - 5:00PM



Mailing Address

PO Box 71419
North Charleston, SC 29415

Helpful Resources

Filing Forms

- [**Partisan Candidate Filing Form**](#)
- [**Nonpartisan Candidate Filing Form**](#)
- [**Petition Form**](#)

Candidate Information

- [**State Election Commission - Candidate Tracking System**](#)
- [**Election Guide for Candidates**](#)
- [**Policy on Candidate Withdrawals**](#)

Campaign Finance and Ethics

- [**South Election Commission - Campaign Finance and Ethics**](#)
- [**South Carolina Ethics Commission - Electronic Ethics Filing**](#)