



Multnomah County Elections Division

Candidate Guide

2026 Primary - Metro Candidates



INTRODUCTION TO THE 2026 METRO CANDIDATE GUIDE

The Multnomah County Elections Division produces candidate guides to share information about running for local offices.

This guide is not legal advice and should not be used for that purpose. Every effort is made to ensure that the information enclosed is current and accurate. However, in any instance that information within this guide conflicts with local or state laws, it is your responsibility to understand and comply with the law. If you are considering running for office, it may be advisable to consult with legal counsel.

The only local offices on Multnomah County's May 2026 Primary Election ballot will be Metro positions:

- **Metro Council President**
- **Metro Councilor District 1**
- **Metro Councilor District 2**
- **Metro Councilor District 4**
- **Metro Auditor**

This guide includes information about important election deadlines, qualifications for elected Metro offices, how to file your candidacy and Voters' Pamphlet statement, as well as other resources.

Please note: You only file your Metro declaration of candidacy paperwork with Multnomah County Elections. However, a Voters' Pamphlet Candidate Statement must be filed separately with each of the Metro counties (Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington) where it is to be published.

Contact Multnomah County Elections Division with Questions

Email: filings@multco.us

Phone: 503-988-8613 or 503-988-VOTE

Web: MultnomahVotes.gov

Address: 1040 SE Morrison Street, Portland, OR 97214

**Meet with elections staff to learn about the filing processes or review filings for completeness!
Use the [scheduling link](#) or call 503-988-8613 to set up a 30-minute meeting.**

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Candidate Deadlines & Checklists

Important Dates & Deadlines for Metro Candidates

September 11, 2025	First day Metro candidates can file declaration of candidacy
September 11, 2025	First day Metro candidates can file County Voters' Pamphlet materials
5:00 PM, March 3, 2026	Deadline for <i>elected incumbent</i> Metro candidates to file their declaration of candidacy
5:00 PM, March 10, 2026	Deadline for <i>non-incumbent</i> or <i>appointed incumbent</i> Metro candidates to file their declaration of candidacy
5:00 PM, March 12, 2026	Deadline for Metro candidates to file a statement for inclusion in the County Voters' Pamphlet(s)
5:00 PM, March 13, 2026	Deadline for Metro candidates to file Candidate Withdrawal form so their name is not printed on the 2026 Primary ballot
May 19, 2026	Primary Election Day!
June 15, 2026	Last day for County to certify official Primary Election results to Metro
5:00 PM, August 27, 2026	Deadline for Metro candidates nominated to General Election run-off to file a statement for inclusion in the County Voters' Pamphlet(s)
November 3, 2026	General Election Day!
November 30, 2026	Last day for County to certify official General Election results to Metro

Candidate Filing Checklist

All Materials Must Be Received By 5:00 PM on Your Filing Deadline Day

<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate Filing Form
<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate Filing Fee: \$100 for Council President or Auditor; \$25 for Councilor
<input type="checkbox"/>	OR Signature Petition in Lieu of Filing Fee Signature sheets must be received by Multnomah County Elections by 5:00 PM on your filing deadline. To ensure signatures are verified by the deadline, you should submit your sheets 7 days beforehand. Note: elected incumbent candidates' filing deadline is 7 days before other candidates' deadline.

Voters' Pamphlet Statement Filing Checklist

All Materials Must Be Received By 5:00 PM on March 12th

<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate Statement Form
<input type="checkbox"/>	"Optional Information" for Candidate Statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate Photo (optional)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Completed Endorsement Forms(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100 Voters' Pamphlet Filing Fee (per county where statement is to be published)

ABOUT METRO ELECTIONS & TERMS OF OFFICE

Metro election requirements are governed by state statute and the Metro Charter.

Metro’s elected offices are Council President; six Councilors, each representing a Metro district; and Auditor. Metro officeholders are elected to staggered four-year terms, which means that half of the offices are on the ballot every two years at the Primary Election (May of even years).

A candidate is elected if they receive more than 50% of votes in their Primary Election contest. If no candidate for an office receives more than 50% of votes in the Primary, the two candidates who receive the most votes participate in a runoff at the November General Election. The candidate who receives the most votes in the runoff election is elected. Candidates elected to Metro offices begin their terms on the first Monday in January, whether they were elected in May or November.

Metro elections are nonpartisan, which means candidates’ political party affiliations are not printed on the ballot. All candidates for a Metro office will be listed together on every ballot in the district, no matter their or the voters’ party registration.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR METRO OFFICEHOLDERS

The [Metro Charter](#) establishes legal qualifications for Metro offices.

Metro Positions & Qualifications

Position on the May 2026 Ballot:	Qualifications for Office:	Elected by:
Metro Council President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered Oregon voter when term of office begins Has resided within the boundaries of Metro for 12 months immediately before term of office begins 	At-Large (all voters registered within Metro’s boundaries)
Metro Councilor, Districts 1, 2, 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered Oregon voter when term of office begins Has resided in their Metro councilor district for 12 months immediately before term of office begins 	By District (only voters registered within the councilor district’s boundaries)
Metro Auditor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered Oregon voter when term of office begins Has resided within the boundaries of Metro for 12 months immediately before term of office begins Certified public accountant or certified internal auditor at time of election 	At-Large (all voters registered within Metro’s boundaries)

Checking Your Qualifications for Metro Office

Generally, you can check your voter registration status using [My Vote](#). If you cannot find your voter registration record, contact your County's elections office for more information.

To verify your residency in Metro at-large or in a specific Metro councilor district, you can use Multnomah County's [interactive map](#):

1. In the menu on the right side of the map, uncheck the "Voting Districts" box
2. Check the "Congressional, State, and Local Jurisdictional Boundaries" box
3. Click on the carrot (v) next to that box to drop down the district menu
4. Check the "Metro Council Districts" box
5. Find your residence address using the search box in the upper left corner of the screen

After you file your candidacy (described in the next section), the Elections Division will review your legal qualifications to be listed on the ballot. We are typically able to verify your residence history and voter registration status from your voter registration record. If that record is insufficient to verify your qualifications, you will be asked to provide other official documentation. This may be necessary if you delayed or did not update your voter registration after a move.

FILING YOUR CANDIDACY TO BE NAMED ON THE BALLOT

You must submit your candidate filing to Multnomah County Elections to be listed on the May Primary ballot. We must **receive your complete filing by 5:00 P.M on the filing deadline** to accept it.

- **Elected incumbent candidates'** filing deadline is March 3, 2026.
- **Non-incumbent or appointed incumbent candidates'** filing deadline is March 10, 2026.

You are an elected incumbent subject to the earlier deadline if you are filing for the Metro position you currently hold and to which you were elected at the most recent election for that office.

You are not an elected incumbent if you are filing for a different Metro office, were appointed to your current Metro position since the most recent election for that office, or do not currently hold a Metro office.

A complete candidate filing consists of:

- A Candidate Filing form
- Either** a filing fee **or** a candidate nominating petition ([SEL 121](#)) with 500 valid signatures
 - Council President, Auditor fee: \$100
 - Councilor fee: \$25

The Elections Division will upload candidate filings to the [May 19, 2026 Primary Election website](#), typically within 1-2 business days of receipt, so the list of candidates filed for each office is publicly available.

Tips for Successfully Completing Your Candidate Filing Form

Your Candidate Filing form must include the *district name, position*, and, if you are filing for Metro Councilor, *the district number* for which you are filing.

Example:

Filing for Office of: Metro Councilor

District, Position, or County: District 4

The name you choose to list on the ballot can differ from your legal name; for example, if you are known as “Liz” instead of “Elizabeth”. However, under ORS 254.145, the Elections Division cannot include a title or designation (e.g. Dr.) on the ballot with your name.

You must provide information in each of the required sections on the filing form: Occupation, Occupational Background, Educational Background, and Prior Governmental Experience. If you do not have experience in one of these areas, it is acceptable to print “none” or “n/a”. You may not leave a section blank.

Filing Methods

Filing Electronically

You can file electronically through the [Multnomah County Elections Filing Portal](#).

You can pay your filing fee online with a credit/debit card; American Express is not accepted.

Filing In Person or by Mail

You can deliver a printed [SEL 101 Candidate Filing form](#) in person or via mail to:

Multnomah County Elections
1040 SE Morrison Street
Portland OR 97214

If you are filing in person, you can pay your filing fee with credit/debit card, check, or cash.

If you are filing by mail, you can pay your fee with a check payable to Multnomah County Elections.

Filing By Signature Petition

Instead of paying a filing fee, you can file with a nomination signature petition ([SEL 121 form](#)). Signature petition sheets must be approved by the Elections Division prior to circulation. Signatures are not valid if collected before written approval is granted.

To successfully file by signature petition, you need to gather **500 valid signatures** from voters eligible to vote for the position. If you are filing for Metro Council President or Auditor, any registered voter within Metro may sign. If you are filing for Metro Councilor, only voters registered within your councilor district may do so.

The Elections Division recommends you gather and submit more than the minimum required number of signatures on your petition as there are a number of reasons why a well-intentioned supporter's signature may not be valid.

For more information about legal requirements for circulators and signature petitions, you should review the State Elections Division's "[County, City, and District Candidate Manual](#)" (pages 26-30).

Before submitting completed petition sheets to the Elections Division, you will need to ensure that each signature sheet certification is signed and dated by its circulator. You must submit the original signature sheets to the Elections Division; electronic copies of the signature sheets will not be accepted.

Original signature sheets must be received by the Elections Division in person or by mail, by 5:00 PM on your candidate filing deadline day. The Elections Division will review the signatures on the petition to determine whether it contains a sufficient number of valid signatures. If you want confirmation before your filing deadline that you have collected enough valid signatures, we recommend submitting your signature sheets at least 7 days before your deadline.

Amending Your Candidate Filing

If you need to make updates or corrections to your filing form, you can do so up until your candidate filing deadline. No additional fee is charged for amended forms.

Withdrawing Your Candidacy

If you choose to withdraw your candidacy and do not want your name to be listed on the ballot, you must complete the [SEL 150 Candidate Filing - Withdrawal](#) form and submit it by **5:00 PM on March 13, 2026**.

Nothing prohibits you from announcing that you are withdrawing from a contest or taking other steps to end your campaign after the candidate withdrawal deadline, but if an SEL 150 is not filed by the withdrawal deadline, your name will still be listed on the ballot.

Exempting Your Residence Address from Public Posting

Your candidate filing form and most information in your voter registration record are public records, which means that any member of the public can request and review them. It is the Elections Division's policy to publicly post candidates' filing forms on its website, with the signature redacted.

Candidates and public officeholders in Oregon have the right to file an [SEL 180 Residence Address Exemption Request](#). Residence address exemption prevents elections officials from publishing your residence address in your publicly posted candidate filing or in voter lists. If you choose to file an exemption request, you will need to provide a mailing address that is publicly disclosable, which will be available on your filing form and in voter lists. It is also where you will receive your ballot for as long as you qualify for the exemption. The exemption automatically expires when you are either not elected to office or cease to be an officeholder.

Under the SEL 180 exemption, your residence address may be disclosed if the Elections Division receives a written public records request.

If you have additional safety concerns about the disclosure of your residence address, you may file an [SEL 550 Application to Exempt Residence Address from Disclosure as a Public Record](#). This exemption is available to any voter whose personal safety, or the safety of a family member with whom they reside, is endangered if their residence address remains available to the public. To receive approval for this exemption, the form does require that you provide information about how your safety is at risk. You also must either mail or deliver the form in person to the Elections Division, along with a completed voter registration form.

Under the SEL 550 exemption, your residence address will be redacted on your candidate filing form, in voter lists, and other Elections Division materials available for public inspection. It may only be disclosed in compliance with a court order, at the request of a law enforcement agency, or with your consent. You will need to provide a mailing address that is publicly disclosable, which will be available on your candidate filing form and in voter lists, and where your ballot will be sent as long as you're eligible for the exemption.

Both the SEL 180 and the SEL 550 only exempt your residence address from elections-related records. Neither will cause your residence address to be exempt in other government records that may be available for public inspection (property or business records, for example).

FILING YOUR COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET STATEMENT

The Elections Division produces a Voters' Pamphlet that it mails to every household in the County several weeks before each election.

Inclusion in the Voters' Pamphlet is optional for candidates. If you are a filed candidate and want to publish a statement in the Voters' Pamphlet, you must submit a separate filing to the Elections Division, distinct from your candidate declaration filing. **All elements of the Voters' Pamphlet filing must be received by 5:00 PM on March 12, 2026 or it will not be accepted.**

Each County produces its own Voters' Pamphlet, so you must submit a separate Voters' Pamphlet filing and fee to each county in which you want to publish your statement. Metro offices have voters in the following counties:

- **Council President, Auditor:** Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington
- **Councilor District 1:** Clackamas, Multnomah
- **Councilor District 2:** Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington
- **Councilor District 4:** Washington

Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas counties have the same filing requirements and fee for our Voters' Pamphlets, so if you are filing with more than one of our counties, you have the option to submit separate copies of the same filing materials to each office.

A complete Voters' Pamphlet Candidate Statement filing consists of:

- Joint County Voters' Pamphlet Candidate Statement form ([JCVP-01](#)) + statement text
- \$100 Filing fee
- Joint County Voters' Pamphlet Statement of Endorsement form(s) ([JCVP-02A](#) and/or [JCVP-02B](#)) (when applicable)
- Candidate photo (optional)

To ensure you submit an acceptable filing, thoroughly review the complete instructions on the Joint County Voters' Pamphlet (JCVP) forms before filing your Voters' Pamphlet materials. The sample Candidate Statement on page 12 of this manual includes additional tips for submitting a filing that meets requirements.

We recommend submitting your Voters' Pamphlet filing early so staff have the chance to review your materials and notify you about any issues prior to the filing deadline, while there may still be time to remedy them.

Filing Methods

Filing Electronically

You can file electronically through the [Multnomah County Elections Filing Portal](#).

- Carefully read the [JCVP-01 instructions](#) before preparing your filing
- You may only submit the filing online if you are the Candidate or Candidate's Agent
- Prepare your candidate statement text before filing; you will be able to copy and paste text into the online form
- If you are submitting more than 10 Endorsement forms with your filing (required when you include the name of an endorser/supporter in your statement), [prepare them in a Zip file](#) before submitting

You can pay your filing fee online with a credit/debit card (American Express is not accepted).

Filing In Person or by Mail

You can deliver your Voters' Pamphlet Candidate Statement ([JCVP-01](#)) in person or via mail:

Multnomah County Elections
1040 SE Morrison Street
Portland OR 97214

In person, you can pay your filing fee with credit/debit card, check, or cash.

By mail, you can pay your fee with a check.

Want a faster review of your statement and higher-quality photo resolution in the pamphlet?

Send us electronic copies!

If you file in person or by mail, you will receive a confirmation email with a link that allows you to upload electronic copies of your photo and statement text. Please send the statement text in an editable format (.doc, .docx, .txt file, not .pdf).

Endorsement Forms

If you include the name of a person or organization who supports or endorses you in your Candidate Statement, you must either include and cite a quote from a publicly available source (such as a newspaper) or submit with your filing a Statement of Endorsement form ([JCVP-02A](#) or [JCVP-02B](#)) signed by the person or representative of the organization who is named. A separate JCVP-02 form must be submitted from each supporter or endorser named.

- The JCVP-02A form gives you (the candidate) permission to publish the endorser's name and information about them in your statement as you choose.
- The JCVP-02B form only allows you to publish the endorser's name or information **exactly** as they write it in the "Text for Publication" box on the form.

Be prepared to educate your endorsers about how to complete the forms, and review completed endorsements for any errors or missing information before filing them with your Candidate Statement.

- **The signature on an endorsement form must be reflective of the person's "wet" signature; typed fonts or digital certificates are not accepted on these forms.**

Amending Your Voters' Pamphlet Statement

You can submit updates or corrections to your filing up until the deadline at 5:00 PM on March 12th. No changes are permitted after the filing deadline. There are no additional fees for amending your filing.

Any changes to your statement or photo must be accompanied by a signed JCVP-01 form. New endorsement forms do not need an amended filing form if the endorsement was already listed in your filed statement.

Continue to the next page to view a sample of the Candidate Statement format and read tips for completion.

Sample of Voters' Pamphlet Candidate Statement Submission with Tips for Completion

Candidate Photo

For reference only;
do not format
photo into your
statement
submission

Candidate Name

Occupation: Program & Communications Coordinator, Multnomah County Elections

Occupational Background: Elections Administration; Teacher

Educational Background: Pacific University, B.A. in Political Science;
North Salem High School

Prior Governmental Experience: None

In this optional section, share more about your biography, experience, values, goals, and/or supporters. This section combined with the words **you** type in response to the required headings above cannot be more than 325 word/numbers. Headings aren't part of the word count.

Count words in your statement by hand. Your word processor might auto count words differently than they are counted for the Voters' Pamphlet statement. A common issue is the undercounting of hyphenated words (e.g. middle-class), which the county elections offices count as two words unless they are part of a proper name (e.g. Zeta-Jones) or there is an accepted dictionary spelling of it as a single word without a hyphen (e.g. re-election = reelection)

You can make specific points using:

- Bullets
- But not graphics, tables, or charts

You can use **bolded** and underlined text. *Italics* can only be used to cite a quote from a publicly published source. For example: "This candidate is the best!"- *The Oregonian*, Sept. 5, 2024.

Unless citing a publicly published source, the name of any individual or organization included in your statement to support or endorse you must be accompanied by a JCVP-02A or JCVP-02B Endorsement form. You should include the endorsements in your statement using your preferred format, but the Elections Division may reformat a list of endorsers into two columns in order to fit on the printed page. Endorsements are included in the 325-word count.

Endorsed by:

Maria Garcia, City Councilor	Excellent Workers United
Darnell Banks, former governor	Downtown Business Corp

A website URL included in your statement counts as one word. The URL is in a printed format, so a shorter link is easier for the reader to remember and access.

(This information is furnished by Candidate or Candidate Committee) is included at the bottom of each printed statement. It is inserted by Multnomah County Elections based on information provided on the JCVP-01 form and is not included in the 325-word count.

Public Inspection

Under state statute, all Voters' Pamphlet materials are available for public inspection four business days after the filing deadline. It is the Elections Division's practice to publicly post the filed statements at this time on the Military & Overseas Online Voters' Guide webpage.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMPLIANCE

As a candidate, ***you are responsible for ensuring that your campaign is compliant with State campaign finance regulations.*** The Oregon Elections Division under the Secretary of State (SOS) oversees and enforces State campaign finance regulations. Multnomah County's local campaign finance regulations *do not* apply to Metro candidates.

The [Campaign Finance Transparency and Education](#) and [Campaign Finance and Disclosures](#) resources are designed to educate you about your obligations under State regulations. If you are not able to access these resources online, call the Oregon Elections Division at 503-986-1518.

If you have received or plan to receive any kind of contribution, spend or plan to spend any money on your campaign, or have an existing candidate committee filed with the Oregon Elections Division, ***you may have reporting obligations even if you have yet to submit your Candidate Filing form (SEL 101) to Multnomah County Elections.***

Unless you meet the criteria for exemption, you must file a Statement of Organization with the Oregon Elections Division by whichever occurs first:

- Within three business days of first receiving a contribution or making an expenditure
- The deadline for filing your declaration of candidacy (SEL 101)

You are exempt from this requirement if you meet ***all*** of the following criteria:

- You serve as your own treasurer
- You do not have an existing candidate committee
- You do not expect to spend or receive more than \$1,500 during the entire calendar year (including in-kind contributions and personal funds)

You should review the Oregon Elections Division's campaign finance resources immediately to learn more about what your obligations are and what steps you need to take to maintain compliance. This includes what to do if you initially qualify for exemption from filing your Statement of Organization, but end up receiving or spending more than \$1,500 in the calendar year.

HOW TO ORDER A VOTER LIST FOR YOUR DISTRICT

Any person may order a voter list for an electoral district, which provides information about registered voters. The most commonly ordered voter lists are:

- **Voter Registration** - Includes the names, addresses, and party registrations of currently registered voters within a district, listed in computer generated order; can include history of whether voters cast ballots in previous elections

- **Walking List** - Includes the names, addresses, and party registrations of currently registered voters within a district, listed in precinct walking order
- **Voted/Not Voted List** - Includes the names, addresses, and party registrations of voters within a district and whether or not their ballot has been received in an active election
- **Ballot Challenge List** - Includes the names and addresses of voters whose ballots have been challenged in the active election because they were returned in unsigned ballot envelopes or the signature does not match the voter registration record (list only available the 15th day after an election)

Voter data lists do not include reliable phone number data; providing a phone number during voter registration is optional.

To order data, you will need to submit an order request and pay data order fees. There is a \$25.00 setup fee per type of list, plus an additional fee of \$0.025 per 100 voter records included in the data set (there is a \$5.00 minimum on per-voter order fees).

Example: A voter list that contains records for 100,000 voters would cost:
 $\$25.00 + 100,000 / 100 \times \$0.025 = \$50.00$ total.

The Multnomah County Elections Division can only provide data about registered voters in Multnomah County. If you are seeking data for all voters in an electoral district that spans multiple counties, that data is most efficiently ordered through the Oregon Secretary of State (SOS). The SOS has the same fee structure for data orders.

The Ballot Challenge List is the exception. It is provided free of charge, but must be requested from the county.

If you would like to order data for a district that spans multiple counties, complete the SOS's [Request for Voter List](#). You can call 503-986-1518 with questions.

If you would like to order Multnomah County voter data, submit your order through the County's [Public Records Center](#). Choose "Submit a Records Request" and then select "Other Department" to get to the Elections Division's request form. You can call 503-988-8613 with questions.

ELECTION RESULTS & CERTIFICATION

The first election results report will be released at 8:00 PM on May 19th, and can be viewed on the [Secretary of State's website](#). These reports are called "unofficial results" because they only include ballots that have been counted at the time of the report. New reports are released periodically as we continue to count ballots. A release schedule will be posted on our website.

The County Elections Division will certify official election results by June 15, 2026. After Metro determines from the results who has been elected and affirms that they are qualified to serve in office, the Elections Division sends Certificates of Election for the newly elected officeholders to Metro. Metro manages the swearing in of its elected officeholders.