



Running for office as a Libertarian in Michigan is a powerful way to make a difference in your community and promote liberty at every level of government. Our party focuses on encouraging candidates to run competitive campaigns, especially for local offices, where your efforts are most likely to have the greatest chance for success.

The process of running for office with the Libertarian Party of Michigan (LPMI) is outlined in this document. The document is extensive but some steps may not be mandatory. Also, there may be slight variations depending on the office sought.

Candidates are encouraged to start their run for office by joining the LPMI.

<https://michiganlp.org/contribute/membership/>

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1. Nomination Process

Candidates running for partisan office in Michigan receive a nomination for office at a statewide convention or a county affiliate caucus held after the filing deadline for candidates to appear on Michigan's primary ballot and before the date of the primary.

- See LPMI bylaw VI.1 <https://michiganlp.org/bylaws/>

Non-partisan office filers do not require party nomination and will file paperwork directly with their clerk before a primary election; these offices typically have a signature gathering requirement or filing fee. The partisan convention or caucus replaces the primary election where Democrats and Republicans compete. A nomination at a convention puts a Libertarian candidate directly on the ballot in the general election.

It is important to determine the office sought's jurisdiction. If the office is contained in an affiliated county, that county affiliate of the LPMI will hold a nominating caucus for that office. Any office with jurisdiction crossing county lines will be nominated at a Statewide Nominating Convention. Nominating conventions and caucuses take place between the primary filing deadline of the 15th Tuesday before the August primary date and the day before the August primary date.

- See: (<https://legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-168-686a>)



- See Election Dates:
<https://legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-168-641>)

2. Paperwork

Once a nomination for office is accepted the candidate will need to fill out three forms and turn them in to the appropriate offices within 24hrs. Additionally, once a nomination is accepted the candidate has 10 calendar days to form a Candidate Committee. (A candidate committee is a political committee that is directly established, authorized, or controlled by a candidate running for public office. It is responsible for raising and spending money to support that candidate's election campaign.) After the committee's formation date, the candidate has an additional 10 calendar days to register the committee by filing a Statement of Organization form with their filing official. A person becomes a candidate under the Campaign Finance Act on the date the nomination is accepted. Candidates running for federal office will register their committee with the FEC.

The forms to be completed and turned in are:

- Affidavit of Identity
 - https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/25delrio/ED104_Aff_ID_Fil_Rec_Vendor_83725_7.pdf
- Certificate of Acceptance
 - <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/Elections/Candidate-information/FC-FIL-7-Certificate-of-Acceptance-of-Party-Nomination.pdf>
- Statement of Organization
 - County Level filers:
<https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/05delrio/CANSofOwithEF.pdf?rev=25018f10e0ef453baa767c35f66620a0>
 - State Level filers (No paper form, all online):
<https://midisclose.nictusa.com/>
- Certification of Party Nomination
 - This is not a standardized form. This is a letter signed by either the State Party Chair and Secretary or the local affiliate Chair and Secretary.



- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1u_21D2nV2CKft6UqLV5PF3awd6tl8M832lqS5zxhkas/edit?usp=sharing
- Note: While a candidate is required to file the Statement of Organization for their campaign committee after accepting a nomination, this form can be filed earlier if a candidate is collecting donations and campaigning prior to accepting the nomination.
- Additionally, this site here is a good resource for forms and filing guides <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/ballot-access>

3. Campaign Finance

The Candidate Committee is responsible for tracking all donations and expenditures for the candidate. Setting up a candidate committee involves several legal and administrative steps. The process varies by jurisdiction, but here's a general guide to establishing and managing one.

Your candidate committee will be established at either the County, State, or Federal Level. The Statement of Organization is the form that establishes the Committee at the County and State level. Each county may have a slightly different process for later campaign finance filings, but the [Statement of Organization](#) will be filed with the county clerk. Once the statement is accepted the campaign finance statements will be turned in to that clerk's office on the schedule linked [HERE](#).

Candidates running for office with a Federal level jurisdiction will register with the FEC. An individual running for a seat in the House or Senate or for the office of U.S. President becomes a candidate when he or she raises or spends more than \$5,000 in contributions or expenditures. A complete guide to the registration process with the FEC can be found on their website here:

- <https://www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/registering-candidate/house-senate-president-candidate-registration/>

Additional campaign finance resources:

- State of Michigan
 - <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/disclosure/cfr/filing-dates/candidate-gub-committees>
- Online filing link for state-level filers



- <https://midisclose.nictusa.com/>
- Contribution limits
 - [Local level](#)
 - [State level](#)
 - [Federal level](#)
- State, Gubernatorial and Local Candidate Information:
 - [Candidate / Gubernatorial Committees](#)
 - Ballot Access Requirements per office: [Ballot Access](#)
 - Personal Finance Disclosure: [Personal financial disclosure](#)

It is recommended that the candidate committee establish themselves with the IRS and open a bank account. The Committee representative will apply for an EIN for the committee through the IRS website [HERE](#) or file via mail. The IRS will issue a form SS-4 that establishes the committee. This is usually handled by the campaign treasurer. The bank will require the form SS-4 from the IRS and meeting minutes that state that the person opening the account is authorized to do so by the committee.

4. Campaign Resources



There are many guides available to help candidates run successful campaigns. Here are a handful of resources that LPMI candidates have found helpful to their campaigns:

- There is an extensive campaign workbook put together by the Libertarian Party that candidates can download here
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XYmGxIQwB80JXXC8EyvKlogzEk-YTTqV/edit>
- Sign Up for the Phone banking and canvassing tool Voter Gravity through the Libertarian Party <https://lp.org/voter-gravity-registration/>
- Get a copy of the most recent Qualified voter file for the appropriate district by submitting the form linked here
https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/02lehman/FOIA_FOR_M.pdf?rev=a5b56f6719104f9ebeb784888335a2d



- Consider including the Libertarian Party colors and fonts in your campaign branding from the images below.

Our Colors

 <p> Libertarian Gold CMYK = 0 / 10 / 100 / 12 RGB = 230 / 197 / 0 LAB = 80.67 / 0.444/80.18 HEX = #fed000 PMS = 109c </p>	 <p> Libertarian Gray CMYK = 0 / 0 / 0 / 80 RGB = 86 / 86 / 90 HEX = #56565a PMS=Cool Gray 11c </p> <p><small>*80% is our formal gray, but all grays from the "cool" gray pallet are acceptable.</small></p>	 <p> Libertarian Black CMYK = 0 / 0 / 0 / 100 RGB = 35 / 31 / 32 HEX = #000000 PMS=Black </p>
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Our Fonts

<p> Lora Regular <i>Lora Italic</i> Lora Bold <i>Lora Bold Italic</i> </p>	<p> Roboto Thin <i>Roboto Thin Italic</i> Roboto Light <i>Roboto Light Italic</i> Roboto Regular <i>Roboto Regular Italic</i> Roboto Medium <i>Roboto Medium Italic</i> Roboto Bold <i>Roboto Bold Italic</i> Roboto Black <i>Roboto Black Italic</i> </p>	<p> Roboto Regular, Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum. </p>
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Libertarian Party of Michigan

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