

NOMINATING PETITION FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTION

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATE: The heading of this petition and the declaration of candidacy must be fully completed before the petition is circulated for signatures.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED qualified voters of the municipality of _____ in the state of South Dakota, nominate _____ whose residence address is _____, _____, South Dakota, _____ and whose mailing address is _____, _____, South Dakota, _____ as a candidate for a _____-year term for the office of _____ at the Municipal Election to be held on the _____ day of _____, _____.

DECLARATION OF CANDIDATE

I, _____ (print name here exactly as you want it on the election ballot) under oath, declare that I reside and am registered to vote in the municipality of _____ and that I am eligible to seek the office for which I am a candidate. If nominated and elected, I will qualify and serve in that office. If I am an alderman candidate, I declare that I reside and am registered to vote in Ward _____.

(Signed) _____

Sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, _____.

(Seal)

Signature of Officer Administering Oath

My Commission Expires _____

Title of Officer Administering Oath

INSTRUCTIONS TO SIGNERS:

1. Signers of this petition must individually sign their names in the form in which they are registered to vote or as they usually sign their names.
2. Before the petition is filed, each signer or the circulator must add the voter registration address of the signer and the date of signing. If the signer is a resident of a second or third class municipality, a post office box may be used for the voter registration address.
3. Before the petition is filed, each signer or the circulator must print the name of the signer in the space provided and add the county of voter registration.
4. Abbreviations of common usage may be used. Ditto marks may not be used.
5. Failure to provide all information requested may invalidate the signature.

NAME	VOTER REGISTRATION ADDRESS	DATE/COUNTY
SIGN 1 _____ PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER _____ CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING _____ COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 2 _____ PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER _____ CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING _____ COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 3 _____ PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER _____ CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING _____ COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 4 _____ PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER _____ CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING _____ COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 5 _____ PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER _____ CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING _____ COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 6 _____ PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER _____ CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING _____ COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 7 _____ PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER _____ CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING _____ COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 8 _____ PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER _____ CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING _____ COUNTY OF REGISTRATION

NAME	VOTER REGISTRATION ADDRESS	DATE/COUNTY
SIGN 9 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 10 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 11 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 12 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 13 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 14 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 15 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 16 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 17 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 18 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 19 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 20 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION

VERIFICATION BY PERSON CIRCULATING PETITION

INSTRUCTIONS TO CIRCULATOR: This section **must** be completed following circulation and before filing.

Print Name of the Circulator

Residence Address

City

State

I, under oath, state that I circulated the above nominating petition, that each signer personally signed this petition in my presence, that either the signer or I added the printed name, the voter registration address of the signer, the date of signing, and the county of voter registration, that I attest the legality of the signatures and that each person signing this petition is a qualified voter of the municipality of _____.

Sworn to before me this ____ day of _____, _____.
(Seal)

My Commission Expires _____

Signature of Circulator

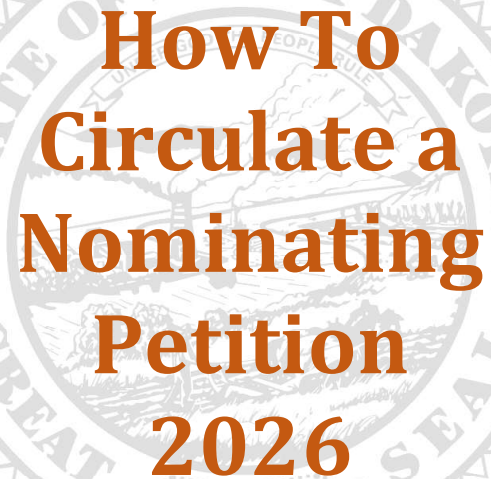
Signature of Officer Administering Oath

Title of Officer Administering Oath

Signer Requirements

- Must be a registered voter, active or inactive, in the state of South Dakota in the jurisdiction for which the petition is circulated ([SDCL 9-13-9](#)).
- Must be a registered voter in the same Ward if signing a Ward petition.
- Must include the signer's legibly printed name.
- Signers must sign their names as they are registered to vote or as they usually sign their names.
- Signature line must show the month and day it was signed.
- May use numbers to designate the month and day.
- Abbreviations commonly used are acceptable.
- Must include the county of the signer's voter registration.
- Each signature line must show the signer's complete voter registration address. This can be street and house number or rural route and box number (if a resident of a second or third-class municipality, which are those with less than 5,000 population) in addition to the city or town. Zip codes are optional.
- A signer in a first-class municipality may **NOT** use a PO Box. This would include the following first-class municipalities:
Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Box Elder, Brandon, Brookings, Harrisburg, Huron, Madison, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Sturgis, Tea, Vermillion, Watertown and Yankton.
- If the signer does not have a voter registration address or post office box number, a description of the location at which they are registered to vote must be provided.
- A signer may only sign as many petitions for a particular office as there are positions to be filled.
 - Exception for 3rd Class Municipalities: [SDCL 9-13-9](#) says a petition signer is not restricted in the number of petitions they sign.

MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE

The seal of the State of South Dakota is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with a landscape scene including a river, a bridge, and a sun. The shield is surrounded by a wreath. The words "STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA" are written in a circle around the top, and "GREAT SEAL" around the bottom. The year "1889" is at the bottom center.

How To Circulate a Nominating Petition 2026

South Dakota Secretary of State

State Capitol, 500 E. Capitol Avenue, Suite 204
Pierre, SD 57501 • (605) 773-3537
www.sdsos.gov

Last Updated: December 10, 2025

Candidate Information

- As a **Candidate**, it is **your responsibility** to make sure you are a registered voter in the jurisdiction you are seeking election to. [SDCL 9-14-2](#) states you must reside in the municipality at least three months prior to the election or appointment.
- Petitions are submitted to the municipal finance officer.
- It is prudent to **submit any petition to the finance officer** with ample time prior to the deadline to allow you to collect additional signatures if there are not sufficient valid signatures presented on your initial petition. [SDCL 9-13-9](#) explains the number of valid signatures needed.
- Signatures of registered voters must be obtained between the date of the candidate's signed declaration of candidacy and the date of the circulator's verification. **A candidate may not notarize his/her own petition but may circulate and sign his/her own petition.** ([SDCL 12-6-8](#)).
- The **declaration of candidacy**, at the top of the petition form, **must be completed prior to circulation** for signatures ([SDCL 9-13-7](#)). The declaration cannot be signed prior to the first date of circulation. The candidate's name will appear on the ballot in the exact form indicated in the declaration of candidacy. Titles are not printed on the ballot ([SDCL 12-16-1](#)) ([ARSD 5:02:08:00](#)).
- For a **June 2, 2026** election, petitions may not be circulated before **February 2, 2026**. Petitions must be submitted no later than **March 24, 2026** at 5:00 p.m. local time.
- For a **November 3, 2026** election, petitions may not be circulated or filed before **July 3, 2026** and must be submitted no later than **August 25, 2026** at 5:00 p.m. local time.
- Petitions which are mailed by **REGISTERED MAIL** prior to 5:00 p.m. local time on the last day to file will be considered **timely filed**. **Certified mail or any other type of mail service**, received after the deadline, will **NOT** be considered timely filed.

WARNING: State law requires that each petition sheet be self-contained. This means that the petition heading, instructions to signers, signature lines and circulator's verification must all be printed on each sheet prior to circulation. The sheet may be printed on front and back. You CANNOT tape, staple or glue the front and back sides together. You CANNOT include sheets with signature lines only. If you have any questions about how to correctly prepare a petition sheet, please contact the person in charge of that election.

Circulator Requirements

- Must be at least eighteen years of age and a resident of the state of South Dakota. Does not need to be a registered voter.
- Must personally witness each signature on the petition being circulated. The petition's verification must be completed following circulation and must include the circulator's printed name, residence address, city, state, complete date and be signed under oath before a South Dakota notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths.
- Must make a reasonable inquiry of each signer to determine that each signer is a qualified voter of the state and county indicated on the signature line.

Use our Voter Information Portal (V.I.P) to check a voter's registration <https://vip.sdsos.gov/viplogin.aspx>

- Must state under oath that no statute regarding petition circulation was knowingly violated.
- Cannot be a registered sex offender if the petition is circulated in any place frequented by the public or door-to-door on private property. Exceptions include if the registered sex offender is in the employ of, and under immediate supervision of, another person and where the circumstances preclude any contact with children, and if a registered sex offender is circulating a nominating petition on his/her own behalf for election to any federal, state, or local office.
- The date, address, county of registration, and printed name may be added by the circulator prior to the petition being filed.
- Ditto marks may not be used.
- The **NOTARY PUBLIC** **may not** be a **Signer** and the **Notary** of the **Circulator's Verification** ([SDCL 18-1-12.2](#)).
- The **NOTARY PUBLIC** **may be** the **Notary** on the **Declaration of Candidacy**, a **Signer** and the **Circulator**.
- The **NOTARY PUBLIC** **may not** be the **Notary** on the **Circulator's Verification** and the **Circulator**.