

Yuma County

Election Services

CANDIDATE HANDBOOK

2026 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS



ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This document is published by the Yuma County Election Services Division and is created for candidates interested in running for public office in Yuma County. For a non-county office please refer to the respective filing officer. Revisions may be made periodically and without notice. The latest version of this handbook can be found on our website: <https://www.yumacountyaz.gov/government/election-services>.

CONTACT US

Yuma County Election Services
197 S. Main Street, Suite 103
Yuma, AZ 85364

Phone Number: (928) 373-1014

Email: elections@yumacountyaz.gov

Website: <https://www.yumacountyaz.gov/government/election-services-3919>

DISCLAIMER

Yuma County Election Services prepared this informational handbook to provide candidates with information concerning Yuma County Elections. Although we will attempt to assist candidates as best we can, this handbook is provided with the understanding that Election Services cannot provide legal advice or accounting services.

All persons pursuing candidacy should not rely solely on this handbook and are encouraged to refer to the provisions of the Arizona Constitution and Arizona Revised Statutes that may apply. Please note that this information may change during Legislative Sessions. **It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure he/she is following the most updated laws and procedures.**

All documents must be filed with Yuma County Election Services, except that Nomination Papers and Nomination Petitions in School District Governing Board Elections must be filed with the Yuma County School Superintendent.

If you need assistance, please contact:

For all other Candidates and Campaign Finance Filings

Yuma County Election Services
197 South Main Street, Suite 103
Yuma, AZ 85364
(928) 373-1014
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For School Board Candidate Filings

Yuma County School Superintendent
197 South Main Street, Suite 202
Yuma, AZ 85364
(928) 373-1006
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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General Information

Election Date	Voter Registration Closes	Early Voting Begins
Primary Election – July 21, 2026	Primary Election – June 22, 2026	Primary Election – June 24, 2026
General Election - November 3, 2026	General Election - October 5, 2026	General Election - October 7, 2026

Offices to be Elected in 2026

Primary and General Election

<u>Federal and State Offices</u>	<u>Cities and Towns</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S Senator • U.S Representative in Congress • Governor • State Senator • State Representative • Secretary of State • Attorney General • State Treasurer • Superintendent of Public Instruction • State Mine Inspector • Corporation Commissioner <p style="text-align: center;"><u>County Offices</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk of the Superior Court • Justice of the Peace #1 • Justice of the Peace #2 • Justice of the Peace #3 • Constable #1 • Constable #2 • Constable #3 • Judge of Superior Court Div. 2 • Judge of Superior Court Div. 3 • Judge of Superior Court Div. 5 • *Precinct Committeeman (Primary Only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of San Luis • City of Somerton • City of Yuma • Town of Wellton <p style="text-align: center;"><u>*General Election Only - Special Districts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital District • Martinez Lake Fire District • Martinez Lake Road Improvement and Maintenance District • Pest Abatement District • School Districts • Arizona Western College District <p style="text-align: center;">*Per A.R.S § 15-424, A.R.S § 16-410, A.R.S § 16-822, and A.R.S § 48-5503, certain candidate elections may be canceled if there are equal to or fewer candidates seeking office, including write-in candidates, than the number to elect for a given race.</p>

Where to Call

Candidate filings, campaign finance, related elections information for county offices:

Yuma County Election Services

197 S. Main Street, Suite 103

Yuma, AZ 85364

(928) 373-1014

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Email: elections@yumacountyaz.gov

Website: <https://www.yumacountyaz.gov/government/election-services>

Voter Registration, early voting and voter lists:

Yuma County Recorder - Voter Registration

102 S. Main Street Yuma, AZ 85364

(928) 373-6034

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Email: voterservices@yumacountyaz.gov

Website: <https://www.yumacountyaz.gov/government/voter-election-services>

School district filings:

Yuma County School Superintendent

197 S. Main Street, Suite 202

(928) 373-1006

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Website: <https://yumaesa.org/>

Federal and State candidate requirements and filings:

The Office of the Secretary of State

Election Division

1700 W. Washington Street, 7th Floor

Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 542-4285

Website: <https://azsos.gov/>

For City and Town races, contact the respective jurisdiction for information:

City of San Luis

City Clerk: (928) 341-8520

Website: <https://www.sanluisaz.gov/132/City-Clerks-Office>

City of Somerton

City Clerk: (928) 722-7330

Website: <https://www.somertonaz.gov/departments/clerk/index.php>

City of Yuma

City Clerk: (928) 373-5035

Website: <https://www.yumaz.gov/government/city-clerk-s-office>

Town of Wellton

Town Manager: (928) 785-3348

Website: <https://www.welltonaz.gov/1214/Town-Manager>

Running for Office

Yuma County Election Services is the filing officer for candidates running for County offices, Justice of the Peace, Constables, Clerk of the Superior Court, Judge of Superior Court, Precinct Committeeman, School Districts¹ and Title 48 seats.

As filing officer, our role is to accept filings and publish general information for potential candidates. Our office is not responsible for giving candidates legal or financial advice. It is up to the candidates to seek their own legal counsel and financial advice.

Filing Officers for Each Respective Office Type:

Type of Office	Filing Officer
Federal, State and Legislative ²	Secretary of State (SOS)
County Offices ³	Yuma County Election Services
Special Taxing Districts ⁴	Yuma County Election Services
School District Governing Board ⁵	Yuma County Election Services ⁶
Mayor or City/Town Council ⁷	City/Town Clerk

County Offices Open for 2026 Election:

Partisan	Partisan Seats	Non-Partisan Seats
Primary Election Only	Primary Election Only	General Election Only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk of the Superior Court • Constable • Justice of the Peace • Judge of the Superior Court 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precinct Committeeman 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk of the Superior Court • Constable • Justice of the Peace • Judge of the Superior Court • School Districts⁸ • Special Districts⁹ • City and Towns

¹ Although Yuma County Election Services is the filing officer for school districts, school district candidates must file their Nomination Paper and Nomination Petition with the Yuma County School Superintendent. See A.R.S. §§ 16-928(A)(2), -311(F), 15-422(A).

² A.R.S. § 16-928(A)(1)

³ A.R.S. § 16-928(A)(2)

⁴ A.R.S. § 16-928(A)(2)

⁵ A.R.S. § 16-928(A)(2)

⁶ However, Nomination Papers and Nomination Petitions must be filed with the Yuma County School Superintendent. A.R.S. §§ 16-311(F), 15-422(A).

⁷ A.R.S. § 16-928(A)(3)

⁸ Title 15

⁹ Title 48

Partisan offices are featured in both Primary and General Elections. All Special Taxing District and School District offices are nonpartisan offices and appear in the General Election only. Precinct Committeeman may only appear on the Primary Election ballot. A candidate registered as an Independent or Party Not Designated may seek a partisan office.

Candidate Filing

To start the process of getting on the ballot:

1. All candidates seeking office must be a qualified elector in the district or precinct in which the candidate is seeking office. Candidates can contact Voter Registration to verify their district at (928) 373-6034.
2. Candidates must submit a Statement of Interest, if it is required for the office the candidate is seeking.¹⁰
3. After the candidate submits their Statement of Interest, a candidate can start collecting signatures on their Nomination Petition. Signature requirements for each office are based on the voter registration totals as of January 2 in the year of the election. Candidates can view signature requirements on our website in mid-January 2026.
4. Candidates must file all their required documents during the candidate-filing period to include Nomination Paper, Nomination Petitions, and Financial Disclosure (if applicable).
5. After the candidate-filing period has ended, there is a 10-day candidate challenge period during which court challenges may be filed against any candidate. Candidates who have not been challenged, or are successful after the challenge, will have their name printed on the ballot, listed on the official write-in candidate list, or certified for appointment if that candidate is in an election eligible for cancellation.
6. Primary Election winners for partisan offices will move on to the General Election ballot automatically.

Important Candidate Filing Dates

Primary Election

First day to file:
February 21, 2026

Last day to file:
March 23, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Independent Candidates

First day to file:
February 21, 2026

Last day to file:
March 23, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

General Election

First day to file:
June 6, 2026

Last day to file:
July 6, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

¹⁰ A.R.S. § 16-311(H)

Qualifications to Run for Office

Generally, a person is not eligible to run for an elected county office unless the candidate is, at the time of the election, eighteen (18) years of age or over, a resident of the State of Arizona, an elector of the county or precinct in which the duties of the office are to be exercised and able to read and write in the English language.¹¹ **Certain county offices may have specific qualification requirements. It is the candidate's responsibility to refer to the applicable provision(s) of the Arizona Constitution or Arizona Revised Statutes for any office-specific qualification requirements.**

Additionally, any person desiring to become a candidate at a primary election or any nonpartisan election must, among other things, be a qualified elector of the county, district, or precinct.¹² Candidates may verify their district/precinct by contacting Voter Registration at (928) 373-6034.

If a candidate is running for a partisan office in the Primary Election and wishes to seek the nomination of their political party, the candidate must be a qualified elector of the party for which he/she is seeking nomination.¹³ Additionally, a candidate for partisan office must be continuously registered with the political party of which the person desires to be a candidate beginning no later than the date of the first petition signature on the candidate's petition through the date of the general election at which the person is a candidate.¹⁴ The current recognized political parties in Yuma County are:

- Democrat
- Republican

Candidates may run as an Independent, Party Not Designated, or other non-recognized political party candidate for a partisan office. Candidates running as an Independent, Party Not Designated or other non-recognized political party must still file all necessary forms during the Primary Election filing period, but the candidate's name will only appear on the General Election ballot or official write-in candidate list for the General Election.

Again, it is up to each candidate to review the applicable Arizona Revised Statutes that provide the eligibility requirements of the office for which the candidate is seeking.

¹¹ A.R.S. § 11-402; see also A.R.S. § 16-121 for requirements to be deemed an elector.

¹² A.R.S. § 16-311

¹³ A.R.S. § 16-311(A)

¹⁴ A.R.S. § 16-311(A)

Candidate Filing Information

Candidates must file certain forms to qualify for the ballot. These forms differ based on the office the candidate is seeking. All deadlines to file end at 5:00 p.m. on the final day of the filing period. When a candidate arrives at the Election Services Office to file their forms, Election Services will process candidates on a first-come, first-served basis. Candidates should be prepared to wait into the evening if they do not file their forms until the day the form is due. Candidates can avoid the wait by filing their documents early in the filing period.

Candidate Filing Checklist:

- Statement of Interest
- Nomination Paper
- Nomination Petitions
- Financial Disclosure Statement

Statement of Interest¹⁵

A Statement of Interest is required for all candidates except Precinct Committeemen and candidates for Special Tax Districts. This form must be filed no later than the date of the first petition signature on the candidate's nomination petition.

Candidates can find the Statement of Interest form in our office or on our website:

<https://www.yumacountyaz.gov/government/election-services/running-for-office>

Please complete the entire form and provide the following:

- Candidate Name
- Political Party *if applicable
- Office sought
- Date of election
- Candidate's actual residence address, or a description of the place of residence and a post office address¹⁶
- Mailing address *if different from residence
- Phone number
- Email Address

Candidates are encouraged to provide an email address, as this is how Election Services will contact candidates to provide them with information.

¹⁵ A.R.S. § 16-311(H)

¹⁶ Candidates with a protected address pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-153 may provide a post office box

Nomination Paper¹⁷

The Nomination Paper is the Candidate's declaration of qualification. Upon filing, the Nomination Paper must be the original form with complete information. The form contains space to write the candidate's name as they wish for it to appear on the ballot. By signing the nomination paper, the candidate is declaring under penalty of perjury that the information provided is true and correct, that they are eligible to hold the office, and that they do not have fines of \$1,000 or more (which includes campaign finance fines).

Candidates must file their Nomination Paper at the time they submit their petition signatures.

The Nomination Paper can be found at our office or on our website:

<https://www.yumacountyaz.gov/government/election-services/running-for-office>

Financial Disclosure Statement

All candidates are required to file a Financial Disclosure Statement, except those running for Precinct Committeeman and Special Taxing District. Our office cannot provide guidance for completing the Financial Disclosure Statement.

For more information about Financial Disclosure Statements, candidates can refer to [A.R.S. §§ 16-311\(I\)\(1\), 16-312\(C\), 16-341\(K\)\(1\), 38-543](#).

Candidates can also refer to the Secretary of State's guide, which can be found here:

<https://www.yumacountyaz.gov/government/financial-disclosure-statement>

The Financial Disclosure Statement forms can be found at our office or on our website here:

<https://www.yumacountyaz.gov/government/financial-disclosure-statement>

Nomination Petitions and Collecting Signatures

The Nomination Petition is the form candidates must use to obtain nomination signatures from qualified electors. The specific form of the Nomination Petition is set by statute.¹⁸

Candidates may not alter the wording at the top section of the petition or the circulator statement on the back page. Each Nomination Petition has space for ten (10) signatures. Candidates may not adjust the line spacing for signatures. Candidates may make as many copies of the Nomination Petition needed to meet the signature requirement but the Nomination Petition must be reproduced exactly, front and back.

There are three different types of nomination petitions:

- Partisan Nomination Petition¹⁹
- Non-Partisan Nomination Petition²⁰
- Independent Nomination Petition (Special District)

¹⁷ A.R.S. § 16-311

¹⁸ A.R.S. § 16-315

¹⁹ A.R.S. § 16-314

²⁰ A.R.S. § 16-314

Qualified Signatures

The number of signatures a candidate is required to obtain is determined by statute and based on voter registration totals as reported on January 2 in the year of the election.²¹ Signature requirements will be available on the Election Services website in mid-January 2026.

Candidates are allowed to collect signatures from qualified signers. A qualified signer must be:

- At the time of signing, registered to vote in the district or precinct the candidate is seeking.²²
- Registered with the same political party as the candidate.²³
- Registered as Independent, Party Not Designated, or with a political party not entitled to continued representation on the ballot.²⁴

Qualified electors may only sign one petition for the same office unless more than one candidate is to be elected to such office. In that case, qualified electors, may sign up to the number of nomination petitions equal to the number of candidates to be elected to that office.²⁵

Circulator²⁶

A circulator is the person who witnesses the signatures being written on the nomination petition sheet. Circulators can be the candidate or a person they choose. All petitions must be signed by the circulator and the circulator must provide the circulator's information requested on the back of the nomination petition.

Candidates can find more information regarding circulators in [A.R.S. § 16-315](#) and [A.R.S. § 16-341](#).

²¹ A.R.S. § 16-322

²² A.R.S. § 16-321(B)

²³ A.R.S. § 16-321(F)(1)

²⁴ A.R.S. § 16-321(F)(2) - (3)

²⁵ A.R.S. § 16-321(A)

²⁶ A.R.S. § 16-315

E-Qual²⁷

Arizona permits qualified electors to securely sign a nomination petition for candidates' running for certain offices electronically.²⁷ A person must be registered to vote and provide authenticating information to log-in to the E-Qual system. The voter will see all candidate petitions for which they are eligible to sign if the candidate has created a profile. On the County level, candidates for the following offices are currently eligible to use the E-Qual system:

- County Assessor
- County Attorney
- County Board of Supervisors
- County Recorder
- County School Superintendent
- County Sheriff
- County Treasurer
- Justice of the Peace
- Constable

Candidates running for Superior Court Judge or Clerk of the Superior Court can collect up to 125% more than the minimum number of signatures required through E-Qual.²⁸

Candidates running for county level offices, Justice of the Peace or Constable can collect up to 110% more than the minimum number of signatures required through E-Qual.²⁹

Candidates can login here: <https://apps.azsos.gov/apps/election/eps/Portal/>

Voters can sign into the E-Qual system here: <https://apps.azsos.gov/equal/>

²⁷ A.R.S. §§ 16-316, -317, -318, -319

²⁸ A.R.S. § 16-319(A)

²⁹ A.R.S. § 16-317(A)

Write-In Candidates³⁰

A write-in candidate does not have their name printed on the Primary Election ballot. If a write-in candidate in a Primary Election qualifies to be a party nominee, then that candidate's name will be printed on the General Election ballot for that office.

Write-In Eligibility

[Under A.R.S. § 16-312\(F\)\(1\) - \(4\)](#), a candidate may not file as a write-in if any of the following circumstances apply:

- For the general election, the candidate ran in the immediately preceding primary election and failed to be nominated to the office sought in the current election.
- For the general election, if the candidate filed a nomination petition for the immediately preceding primary election for the office sought and failed to provide sufficient signatures to qualify under [A.R.S. § 16-322](#).
- For the primary election, the candidate filed a nomination petition for that primary election for the office sought and did not provide a sufficient number of valid petition signatures as required by [A.R.S. § 16-322](#), withdrew from the primary election after a challenge was filed, or was removed.
- For the General Election, the candidate filed a nomination petition for nomination other than by primary for the office sought and failed to provide a sufficient number of valid petition signatures as required by [A.R.S. § 16-341](#).

You can find the write in Nomination Paper and the Financial Disclosure Statement at our office or on our website: <https://www.yumacountyaz.gov/government/election-services/running-for-office>

Write-In Forms

All write-in candidates are required to submit:

- Write-in Nomination Paper
- Financial Disclosure Statement (if applicable)
 - Reference [A.R.S. § 16-341](#) for requirements

Nomination petitions are not required to qualify as a write-in candidate.

Write-in candidates must file the same required documents as other candidates, with the exception of nomination petitions, no later than **40 days** prior to the Primary or General Election.³¹

Write-in candidates for **elections subject to cancelation** must file all required documents **106 days** prior to the election.³²

- Community College District
- Hospital District
- School District Governing Board
- Pest Abatement District

³⁰ A.R.S. § 16-312

³¹ A.R.S. § 16-312(B)

³² A.R.S. § 16-312(B)(2)

- Precinct Committeeman
- Primary Election - Precinct Committeeman
- General Election - School District Governing Board, Special Taxing Districts,
 - Title 15 and 48

Write-in candidates running for partisan offices in the Primary Election, Precinct Committeeman, and Special Taxing Districts must receive:

- A number of votes equal to at least the same number of signatures required by [A.R.S. § 16-322](#) to qualify as a candidate on the ballot for the same office.

A qualified list of write-in candidates is posted at the early voting site and every vote center location on Election Day.

Write-In Dates

The deadline to submit all required write-in nomination forms is 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the write-in candidate filing period, as indicated below.

Write-in Candidates for Election Subject to Cancellation

Primary Election filing period:
(Includes Precinct Committeemen)
February 21, 2026 to April 6, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

General Election filing period:
(Includes Special District)
June 8, 2026 to July 20, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Write-in Candidates

Primary Election filing period:
February 21, 2026 to May 22, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

General Election filing period:
June 8, 2026 to September 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Cancellation of Eligible District Elections³³

For certain offices, if the total number of candidates who file nomination petitions to qualify for the ballot and candidates who file a write-in nomination paper to qualify as a write-in candidate is less than or equal to the number of positions to be filled at the election, the Yuma County Board of Supervisors may cancel the election. Candidates who qualify for an office and district election that is cancelled are deemed elected and fully vested with the powers and duties of the office. Office and district elections that are cancelled are not printed on the ballot or included in election results.

³³ A.R.S. § 16-410

Chart Overview of write-in filing period and forms:

Office Sought	When to File?	Statement of Interest	Nomination Paper	Nomination Petition	Financial Disclosure Statement Required.
Precinct Committeemen Write-in	February 21 – April 6	No	Write-in Candidate Form	No Petition	No
Primary Write-in	February 21 – May 22	No	Write-in Candidate Form	No Petition	Yes
Special Taxing District Write-in	June 8 – July 20	No	Write-in Candidate Form	No Petition	No
General Write-in	June 8 – Sept. 4	No	Write-in Candidate Form	No Petition	No

Withdrawals

Candidates may withdraw at any time. If a candidate decides to have his/her name removed from the ballot for any election, the candidate must submit a notarized Statement of Withdrawal to Election Services. If a candidate withdraws after the ballot-printing deadline, the candidate will be listed on the official candidate withdrawal list.³⁴ Candidates can find the Statement of Withdrawal at our office or on our website, here:

<https://www.yumacountyaz.gov/government/election-services/running-for-office>

Campaign Finance³⁵

A Campaign Finance Committee can be opened at any time if the candidate chooses. However, once the candidate or committee receives or expends the threshold amount of \$1,500.00, the candidate is required to file a Statement of Organization within 10 days. For more information, the Secretary of States has published a guide that can be found here <https://www.yumacountyaz.gov/government/election-services/campaign-finance>.

The Campaign Finance Committee reporting forms can be found at our office or on our website:

<https://www.yumacountyaz.gov/government/election-services/campaign-finance>

³⁴ A.R.S. § 16-343(G)

³⁵ A.R.S. Title 16, chapter 6

Campaign Finance Reporting Due Dates

Report Name	Reporting Period	Filing Period
2025 Annual (Cumulative) Report	January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025	January 1, 2026 - January 15, 2026
Quarter 1	January 1, 2026 - March 31, 2026	April 1, 2026 – April 15, 2026
Quarter 2	April 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026	July 1, 2026 – July 15, 2026
August Post-Primary Election	July 1, 2026 - August 4, 2026	August 5, 2026 -August 19, 2026
Quarter 3	August 5, 2026 – September 30, 2026	October 1, 2026 – October 15, 2026
Quarter 4	October 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026	January 1, 2027 – January 15, 2027

If the date for filing any statement falls on a Saturday or Sunday or legal holiday, the filing deadline is the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

Campaign Finance Filing Penalties

A committee that fails to file their campaign finance report will be charged a mandatory late filing penalty of \$10.00 per day for the first 15 days, and \$25.00 per day thereafter.³⁶ The payment must be made to Yuma County Election Services. Cash or check is currently accepted.

Terminating a Committee

If a candidate wishes to terminate their committee, the Campaign Finance Candidate Guide details the steps to terminate their committee.

The Statement of Termination form can be found in our office or on our website:

<https://www.yumacountyaz.gov/government/election-services/campaign-finance>

³⁶ A.R.S. § 16-937(B)

Electioneering at the Vote Centers

“Electioneering occurs when an individual knowingly, intentionally, by verbal expression and in order to induce or compel another person to vote in a particular manner or to refrain from voting expresses support for or opposition to a candidate who appears on the ballot in that election, a ballot question that appears on the ballot in that election or a political party with one or more candidates who appear on the ballot in that election.”³⁷

Electioneering may not take place within 75 feet of the vote center entrance³⁸. The election board members handle violations occurring within 75 feet of the entrance of the voter center and report any issues to Election Services. Please be courteous and respectful of the election board members and laws that govern electioneering.

Public Record Request

A person may request copies or inspect a candidate’s nomination paper, petitions and financial disclosure at a cost of \$.25 per page. The request form can be found here:

<https://www.yumacountyaz.gov/government/election-services/election-services-public-record-request>

³⁷ A.R.S. § 16-515(I)

³⁸ A.R.S. § 16-515(A)