

## 2016 Candidate Filing Fee Schedule

**\*\*\*The information presented on this page is tentative and subject to change.\*\*\***

The information on this page will be updated as we receive and review information about the upcoming election year. The information is provided to offer prospective candidates a glimpse of upcoming races and deadlines.

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### **Important Note on Ethics Forms – Concerns candidate filing for all offices**

Candidates are required to file a Statement of Economic Interests and a Campaign Disclosure online with the State Ethics Commission at <http://ethics.sc.gov>. Failure to file these documents may result in a candidate fine but will not disqualify a candidate from the election. Contact the State Ethics Commission for more information.

Citizens no longer need to provide a paper printout of their Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) at the time of filing to become a candidate. Candidates are still required to file an SEI online during the candidate filing period with the [State Ethics Commission](#); however, candidates are no longer required to present a copy of the SEI at the time of filing. The filing of the SEI has no bearing on a candidate's ballot access. If a candidate fails to properly file an SEI (or campaign disclosure), the candidate may be fined by the State Ethics Commission but may not be denied ballot access. This change applies to all candidates in all elections.

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### **Partisan Candidate Filing**

Filing Period: Between Noon, March 16th, 2016 and Noon, March 30th, 2016

**Please note the following from the SC State Election Commission: 12:00 p.m. on March 30th is too late. The law says a candidate must file "between" noon on March 16th and noon, March 30th. Once the clock strikes noon, the filing period is over. It is not valid to have a date and time of March 30, 12:00 p.m. on the filing form. The latest acceptable date and time to have filed is March 30, 11:59 a.m.**

All candidates seeking a political party's nomination to run in the November 8, 2016 General Election must file during the filing period that opens at Noon, March 16th, 2016 and closes at Noon, March 30, 2016. **One important change is that partisan candidate filing is now conducted by the State Election Commission (SEC) and County Boards of Voter Registration & Elections, not the political party chairs.** If only one qualified candidate files for a particular office for a particular party's nomination, that candidate becomes the party's nominee. When more than one qualified candidate files for a particular office with a particular party, the nominee is chosen by primary or convention. All candidates must meet the minimum qualifications established by law. A review of these qualifications can be found [HERE](#).

The American, Constitution, Green, Independence, Labor, Libertarian, United Citizens, and Working Families parties nominate candidates by convention. Conventions are conducted by the parties. Candidates seeking the nomination of a party that nominates by convention **do not** pay a filing fee at time of filing with the appropriate state or County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections.

The Democratic and Republican parties nominate by primary elections that are conducted by the State and County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections. The 2016 Republican and Democratic Primaries shall be held June 14, 2016 with a runoff election (if necessary) on June 28, 2016. Candidates seeking the nomination of a party that nominates by primary (Democratic and Republican) must pay a filing fee at time of filing with the appropriate State or County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections. Filing fees

are calculated by the SEC. Filing fees are one percent of the annual base salary multiplied by the term of office. Filing fee MUST be paid by check, cashier's check, or money order payable to the applicable State Political Party and given to the appropriate State/County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections at time of filing. **Cash will not be accepted.**

**Documents Required for Partisan Candidate Filing:**

- **Three copies** of a completed and signed [Statement of Intention of Candidacy/Party Pledge form](#) (SICPP). The SICPP must be signed in presence of election official or notarized.
- Filing fee check (made payable to appropriate state political party). We cannot accept cash or credit cards.
- Filing Fee Receipt issued by the SEC/CEC. Candidate must sign the receipt.

Filing by an Agent: It is not necessary for a candidate to be physically present at the time of filing. An agent can deliver the SICPP, which has been properly completed and signed by the candidate and notarized, and the filing fee check on behalf of the candidate. However, it is necessary for all candidates to sign the Filing Fee Receipt issued by the SEC/CEC. If a candidate is not present at the time of filing, the filing fee receipt may be electronically transmitted to the candidate, signed by the candidate, and returned to the appropriate filing authority (State Election Commission or County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections) by the close of the filing period.

Citizens seeking a political party's nomination to run as candidates for the following partisan offices will file 3-copies of their Statement of Intention of Candidacy/Party Pledge form (SICPP) and filing fee check (made payable to the political party) with the **SC State Election Commission** (1122 Lady Street, Suite 500, Columbia, SC 29201) during the candidate filing period:

County	Office	Salary	Filing Fee
State	U.S Senate 2	\$174,000.00	\$10,440.00
State	U.S. House of Representatives	\$174,000.00	\$3,480.00

Williamsburg County citizens seeking a political party's nomination to run as candidates for the following partisan offices will file 3-copies of their Statement of Intention of Candidacy/Party Pledge form (SICPP) and filing fee check (made payable to the political party) with the **Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Williamsburg County** (5 Courthouse Square, Kingstree, SC 29556) during the candidate filing period. The Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Williamsburg County is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

County	Office	Salary	Filing Fee
Williamsburg	State Senate	\$10,400.00	\$416.00
Williamsburg	State House of Representatives	\$10,400.00	\$208.00
Williamsburg	Sheriff	\$67,600.00	\$2,704.00
Williamsburg	Probate Judge	\$58,745.00	\$2,349.80
Williamsburg	Clerk of Court	\$52,694.00	\$2,107.76
Williamsburg	Coroner	\$35,595.00	\$1,423.80
Williamsburg	County Council Districts	\$14,507.00	\$580.28

Go to **SC VOTES.org** for more information: <http://www.scvotes.org/files/2016%20Filing%20Fees.pdf>

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## Petition Candidate Filing (nonpartisan)

Deadline – Noon, July 15, 2016

Citizens may file by petition to become candidates for almost every office on this year's ballot. There are no filing fees for petition candidates, but the petitioner must meet (or will meet by time of the General Election) all [qualifications for the office](#). Petition Candidates are not linked to any "Straight Party" ticket nor is any party affiliation displayed on the ballot for these candidates.

The deadline for petition candidates to file their complete petitions and any additional paperwork required for the November 8, 2016 General Election is Noon, July 15, 2016. There are no exceptions for emergencies, bad traffic, bad weather, etc. The receiving authority for the petition will issue a receipt. Once a petition is submitted, the petitioner cannot come back to add additional signature pages. The Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Williamsburg County have until 12:00 PM (Noon) on August 15, 2016 to validate all signatures on the petitions submitted. Persons who have submitted petitions are not a candidate until their petitions have been validated.

If a petition candidate is filing for a county office, the candidate files with the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Williamsburg County (5 Courthouse Square, Kingstree, SC 29556). This includes the following Williamsburg County offices: Probate Judge, Clerk of Court, Coroner, County Council Districts 3, 4 & 5, Sheriff, State Senate District 32 and State House of Representatives Districts 101 & 103.

If a petition candidate is filing for a federal, state, or multi-county office, the candidate files with the SC State Election Commission (1122 Lady Street, Suite 500, Columbia, SC 29201). This includes the following offices: U.S. House of Representatives District 6 and U.S. Senators.

To be nominated by petition, a citizen must file a nominating petition containing the valid signatures of not less than 5% of the active, registered voters in the geographical area the office represents and meet all qualifications of the office. The 5% is based on the total number of registered voters in the geographical area 120 days prior to the election. No petition requires more than 10,000 signatures.

The Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Williamsburg County recommends getting at least 25-35% more signatures than the minimum required, as there may be a large number of people who may sign your petition but not be registered or otherwise eligible. However, this does not guarantee the petition is good. Candidates should collect as many signatures as possible.

Petitions for some local offices may have specific requirements set by state law that are different from the 5% requirement...as is the case with the Williamsburg County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners. Citizens wishing to be candidates for this office must submit to the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Williamsburg County a nominating petition with the signatures of 100 qualified electors (registered voters) of the district or 1%, whichever is less.

All petitions must:

- Be printed on good quality original bond paper sized 8.5" x 14" (legal size...not letter).

- Contain the name of the petition candidate, the office for which he is running for, and the specific election date in which he is offering to run as a candidate must appear on EVERY page of the petition.
- Use the petition template provided by the SC State Election Commission (download it below)
- Contain only signatures from one county per petition page
- Have each signature numbered consecutively.
- Have each page numbered consecutively.
- Have each page numbered consecutively.

[You may download a petition here](#)

For more information on nominating petitions, see sections [7-11-70](#), [7-11-80](#), [7-11-85](#), and [7-13-351](#) of the S.C. Code of Laws, available online at [www.scstatehouse.net](http://www.scstatehouse.net).