SECRETARY OF STATE
Alvin A Jaeger
State of North Dakota
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Bismarck ND 58505-0500
ELECTIONS DIVISION
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Running for City Office

Mayor   Councilman   Commissioner

☑ Qualifications and Terms of Office

All City Officers: A person shall be eligible to hold an elective city office if that person is a qualified voter of the city and he or she has been a resident of the city for at least 9 months preceding the election. A person shall be eligible to hold an appointive city office if he or she is a citizen of the United States. (NDCC § 40-13-01).

Mayor: The mayor must be a qualified voter within the city (NDCC § 40-08-14).

The 4-year term of office for mayor lasts until a successor is duly elected and qualified.

Councilman: A person is eligible to the office of council member if the person:

- Is a qualified voter and resident within the ward for which the person was elected except in cities where council members are elected at large and not required to be a resident of the ward for which the person is elected pursuant to NDCC § 40-08-04.2, yet they must be a qualified voter within the city

The 4-year term of office for a councilman lasts until a successor is duly elected and qualified.

Commissioners: The 4-year term of office for a commissioner lasts until a successor is duly elected and qualified.

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☑ Running in the Regularly Scheduled City Election

Candidates for city offices may file Petitions/Certificates of Nomination with the City Auditor containing the signatures of qualified electors equal to not less than 10% of the number of qualified voters who voted for that office in the last city election. However, not more than 300 signatures are required.

Nominating petitions may be signed by qualified voters who reside within a ward if elected by wards. Nominating petitions may be signed by qualified voters who reside within the corporate city limits if elected at large. In cities operating under the commission system of government the required petition may be signed by the qualified voters at large residing within the city (NDCC § 40-21-07).

A Complete Filing Must Include:

1. A **Petition/Certificate of Nomination (SFN 2704)** containing the required number of signatures of qualified electors; and

2. A **Statement of Interests (SFN 10172)**.

Circulating and Signing a Petition/Certificate of Nomination

A Petition/Certificate of Nomination may not be circulated or signed prior to **January 1, 2014**.

When and Where to File

Candidates may not file earlier than January 2, 2014, nor later than 4:00 p.m. on the 64th day before, the June 10, 2014 regularly scheduled city election.

The filing deadline with the **city auditor** is **April 7, 2014**. Original filings must be in the physical possession of the city auditor's office by **4:00 p.m.** on the filing deadline.

If a city election is not held in conjunction with a county election, the filing deadline with the **city auditor** is 4:00 p.m. on the 64th day before the scheduled city election.

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☑ Running as a Write-In Candidate in the Regularly Scheduled City Election

A write-in candidate for city office at the June 10, 2014 regularly scheduled city election is not required to file a certificate of write-in candidacy (NDCC Ch. 16.1-12).

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☑ Campaign Finance and Disclosure

Candidates for city office in cities with a population greater than 5,000 are **NOT** subject to the registration requirements found in NDCC § 16.1-08.1-03.2 but **ARE** subject to the campaign finance and disclosure requirements found in NDCC § 16.1-08.1-03.11.

Candidates for city office in cities with a population equal to or less than 5,000 are not subject to either requirement.

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☑ Forms

The state forms (SFNs) listed above are available from the Secretary of State's and city auditors' offices and may also be accessed from the Secretary of State's web site.

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