2026 FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

WHERE TO FILE

Local School District Board Candidates (for the school districts listed below) file and, if applicable, withdraw their candidacy with the **St. Joseph County Elections Division**:

SCHOOL DISTRICT	Petition Signature Requirements Min/Max
• Burr Oak Community Schools	6/20
• Centreville Public Schools	6/20
• Colon Community Schools	6/20
• Constantine Public Schools	6/20
• Mendon Community Schools	6/20
• Nottawa Community School	6/20
• Sturgis Public Schools	40/100
• Three Rivers Community Schools	40/100
• White Pigeon Community Schools	6/20
• Glen Oaks Community College	40/100

The St. Joseph County Elections Division office is located in the St. Joseph County Courthouse, 2nd floor, 125 W. Main St., Centreville, MI 49032.

WHERE TO FILE *Continued*

All Local School District Board Candidates for St. Joseph County file and, if applicable, withdraw their candidacy with the St. Joseph County Clerk, Elections Division.

WHAT TO FILE

» Affidavit of Identity and Receipt of Filing

All candidates must submit an Affidavit of Identity when filing for office. Under Public Act 394 of 1984, a candidate who fails to file an Affidavit of Identity as required cannot be placed on the ballot. PA 217 of 1999 requires any candidate filing an Affidavit of Identity to state on the form that at the date the affidavit was executed, "all statements, reports, late filing fees, and fines required of the candidate or any candidate committee organized to support the candidate's election under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act have been filed or paid". Therefore, a candidate may not have any outstanding notices of Failure to File or late fees with any filing official in the State.

» Nominating Petitions or Filing Fee:

- School districts with 10,000 or more in population according to the most recent Federal census require a minimum of 40 signatures: maximum of 100 signatures from qualified and registered electors of the school district OR a $100.00 nonrefundable filing fee.

- Candidates **must** use School District Nominating Petitions if filing nominating petition signatures in lieu of the $100.00 nonrefundable filing fee. ***The petitions are not available in digital format.*

- In lieu of filing a nominating petition, candidates may submit a nonrefundable filing fee of $100.00, payable by cash, money order, or credit/debit card. You can pay online at https://pay.govpros.us/MI/StJoseph/Elections

WHEN TO FILE

Candidates must file no later than **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026** [MCL 168.303].

CANDIDATES WHO WISH TO WITHDRAW

Candidates must withdraw, in writing, with their filing official by Friday, July 24, 2026 by 4:00 p.m. [MCL 168.303].

FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

A candidate who wishes to seek election to the office of Local School District Board Member with write-in votes must file a Declaration of Intent with the appropriate filing official no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 23, 2026 [MCL 168.737a].

QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify as a candidate, an individual must be a citizen of the United States and a qualified and registered elector of the school district the candidate seeks to represent by the filing deadline. A candidate must also be in compliance with the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (*All statements, reports, late filing fees, and fines due from any Candidate Committee organized to support an election to office under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, PA 388 of 1976, have been filed or paid).*

CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACT

A candidate who seeks a school board position in a school district with a pupil enrollment count of 2,401 or more is subject to the filing requirements of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. Please be sure to either file an Original Statement of Organization to establish a Campaign Finance Committee within 20 calendar days to the County Clerk's office or file an amended Statement of Organization to update any information so it is current.

A candidate who seeks a school board position in a school district with a pupil enrollment count of 2,400 or less is not subject to the filing requirements of the Act as long as he or she does not spend or receive more than $1,000.00 for the election.

If you have questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact:

St. Joseph County Elections Division
125 W. Main Street,
2nd floor
Centreville, MI 49032
269-467-5594 elections@stjosephcountymi.gov