

# Unaffiliated Candidates

If you prefer not to participate in the political party process, you can be an unaffiliated candidate. As an unaffiliated candidate, you are entitled to all the rights and subject to all the penalties of political party candidates. You will have your name printed on the ballot, but your name will be accompanied with a short explanation that you are not affiliated with a political party. Follow the 4 steps below to become an unaffiliated candidate:

1. Determine your signature requirement & obtain petition templates.
2. Gather signatures.
3. Submit signatures for verification.
4. Submit the verified signatures and declare candidacy between 8:00 a.m. on June 8, 2023 and 5:00 p.m. on June 14, 2023.

## Step 1: Determine your signature requirement & obtain petition template

UCA 20A-9-502

How many signatures do I need to gather?

The number of signatures you need to gather depends on the office you are seeking. Candidates for U.S. House and legislative candidates must gather signatures from at least 300 or 5% of registered voters within the district, whichever is less.

A good rule of thumb is to collect more signatures than what is required because not every signature you collect will be valid.

Who can sign my petition?

All signers must meet the following requirements in order for their signature to be considered valid:

- Registered to vote in Utah (or will be registered before the signature is verified by the filing officer).
- Live in the district or area of the office you are seeking.
- Did not sign a petition for another candidate running for the same office.

Where can I obtain petition templates?

You may also obtain the templates from your election official. Refer to the next page to determine how to compile your petition packets.

Who is my election official?

County Clerk in Resident County	Office of Lieutenant Governor
Utah State House of Representatives	President
Utah State Senate	U.S. House of Representatives
County Commission/Council	Governor
County Clerk/Executive	Lieutenant Governor
County Sheriff	Utah Attorney General
County Attorney	Utah State Board of Education
County Assessor	Judges
County Recorder	
Local Board of Education	

# Step 2: Gather signatures

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You may begin gathering signatures as soon as you have obtained your petition template.

Follow the steps below to do so:

Printing, binding, & arranging petition packets (cont.)



You are responsible for printing and binding your petition. It must be bound across the top in at least 3 places using either staples or spiral binding. The packet must be bound before it is circulated, and it cannot be taken apart or rear-ranged once it is bound. Your packet will be rejected if you do so.



The petition must include 2 sheets and arranged in the order below.  
\*Please note that your template differs from that of an unaffiliated candidate petition.

## Signature Sheet

1

This is where voters will sign your petition. Voters provide their name, signature, address, and the date. They have the option of providing their age or birthdate.

Each petition packet may have up to 50 signature sheets.

2

## Verification Sheet

The person circulating the petition packet must complete this sheet. The circulator must count the number of signatures in the packet and sign. A packet must be circulated by only one person, and the circulator cannot sign a signature packet they circulate.

Each petition packet needs 1 verification sheet

Who can circulate petitions?

Any resident of Utah who is over 18 years of age may circulate a petition. They do not need to be registered to vote; however, the filing officer can better verify the circulator's age if they are registered to vote. If a circulator does not meet these requirements, the signatures they gathered are not valid.

Responsibilities of petition circulators

Circulators must complete and sign the verification sheet of every petition packet they use to gather signatures. Circulators cannot sign the signature sheets of any petitions they circulate - they must sign a petition packet of another circulator if they wish to sign the petition.

Each petition packet must be used by only one circulator. If you have multiple circulators, they will each need one packet.

Petition circulators should receive permission from the appropriate entity or owner if they want to gather signatures in private and public areas.

Volunteer signature gatherers

You can also use volunteers to gather signatures. Volunteers and their time do not qualify as campaign contributions. However, if volunteers are paid by a third party (e.g., a political action committee or corporation), this would be considered an in-kind contribution from the third party.

Registering petition signers to vote

If an individual wishes to sign your petition but is not registered to vote or affiliated with your party, you may provide them with a registration form. Please ensure that the completed registration form is submitted to the appropriate county clerk before you submit the individual's petition signature.



County clerks cannot guarantee that a registration form will be processed prior to the petition signature.

## Step 3: Submit signatures for verification

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Once you gather the required number of signatures, you must get the signatures verified by the county clerk.



This must be done before you declare candidacy (step 4).

Where do I submit petition signatures for verification?

Signatures must be verified by a county clerk - even if you are a federal or multi-county candidate. If you obtain signatures within multiple counties, you must submit a voter's signatures to the voter's county clerk. It is advised that you circulate each petition or petition packet within one county so you can easily determine which signatures go to a particular county clerk.

When do I submit signatures for verification?



The petition signatures must be verified before you declare candidacy between 8:00 a.m. on June 8, 2023 and 5:00 p.m. on June 14, 2023.

It is highly advised that you coordinate with the appropriate county clerks to ensure that you have enough time to verify the signatures.

Can I supplement my petition signatures?

Yes. If you continue to gather signatures after submitting a packet to a county clerk for verification, you may elect to submit additional signatures. The procedure for doing this is exactly the same as described in steps 2-3. Again, please coordinate with the respective county clerk to ensure there is enough time to verify supplemental signatures.

## Step 4: Submit the verified signatures & declare candidacy

UCA 20A-9-201, UCA 20A-9-206

After your petition signatures are verified, you must submit the verified signatures and declare candidacy with the Lieutenant Governor's Office.

How do I know if and when my signatures are verified?

When do I submit verified signatures & declare candidacy?

Where do I submit verified signatures & declare candidacy?

How do I submit verified signatures & declare candidacy?

What fee do I need to pay?



You must submit verified signatures with your filing officer and declare candidacy between 8:00 a.m. on June 8, 2023 and 5:00 p.m. on June 14, 2023. Late submissions cannot be accepted.

Federal candidates submit signatures and file in-person with the Lieutenant Governor's Office.

You must submit the following items and forms listed below to declare candidacy. Your forms, with the exception of the petition, will be posted on [elections.utah.gov](https://elections.utah.gov).



Verified petition and certificate of nomination. The certificate of nomination requires your name exactly as you would like it printed on the ballot as well as your contact information.



Declaration of Candidacy Form. This form requires your name and contact information. You may also provide your campaign's email address, website, and Twitter handle.



Pledge of Fair Campaign Practices (optional). This is a pledge to conduct your campaign according to the statements outlined in the pledge.

You must pay a filing fee when you declare candidacy. The table to the right lists the filing fee for each office.

If you are unable to pay due to financial hardship, you may file an affidavit of impecuniosity. The filing officer may ask you to provide evidence of your inability to pay and then determine whether the fee will be waived.

Office	Filing Fee
U.S. President	\$500.00
U.S. Vice President	\$1,267.50
U.S. House of Representatives	\$213.13
State Senator	\$111.43
State House of Representatives	\$80.71
State Board of Education	

What if I can't declare  
candidacy in person?

If you are located outside of Utah during the entire declaration of candidacy period, you can designate another individual to file your declaration paperwork on your behalf. Your signature must be notarized on the declaration of candidacy - your designated agent cannot sign for you.

In order to file on your behalf, the designated agent must file your paperwork in-person with your filing officer during the declaration period. The designated agent must also use an electronic device that allows you and the filing officer to hear and see each other (e.g., Skype, Facetime) when you declare candidacy.