

CANDIDATE HANDBOOK

2016

GILA COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT
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NOTES

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INTRODUCTION

Are you considering running for office or starting a political committee? If so, this handbook is for you!

While Arizona Revised Statutes should be consulted for legal issues or questions, this handbook contains important information that may be helpful to those individuals running for office in Gila County. Topics include organizing your campaign committee, filing nomination papers and nominating petitions, as well as filing campaign finance and financial statements. Take the time to read through this handbook before proceeding. And, **be sure to consult your attorney for legal advice or your accountant for financial advice.**

Feel free to contact the Gila County Department of Elections if you have questions or if you have suggestions for ways in which we can improve this handbook. Good luck!

GILA COUNTY CONTACTS

Elections Office 5515 S Apache Ave, Suite 900, Globe, AZ 85501

General Information (928) 402-8709 or (928) 402-8708

Voting Equipment (928) 402-8750

Apache Language Voter (928) 402-8628

Outreach

Toll Free: 1-800-425-5095, ext 8708, 8709, 8750

FAX: (928) 402-4319

TDD: 711

Eric A. Mariscal Director Email: emariscal@gilacountyaz.gov

Alfonso Alvarez Elections Specialist Email: aalvarez@gilacountyaz.gov

Cate Gore Elections Assistant Email: cgore@gilacountyaz.gov

Josephine Goode Apache Language Voter Outreach Email: jgoode@gilacountyaz.gov

Recorder's Office 1400 E Ash St, Globe, AZ 85501

Voter Registration (928) 402-8734

Toll Free: 1-800-291-4452

FAX: (928) 425-9270

Sadie Bingham (928) 405-8735 Email: sbingham@gilacountyaz.gov

Kaycee Stratton (928) 402-8734 Email: kstratton@gilacountyaz.gov

2016 IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

PRIMARY ELECTION	
First Date Partisan Candidates Can File Partisan Nominating Petitions including Precinct Committeemen (120 Days before election)	Mon, May 2, 2016
Last Date Partisan Candidates Can File Partisan Nominating Petitions including Precinct Committeemen (90 Days)	Wed, June 1, 2016
Last Day Partisan Write-in Precinct Committeemen Candidates Can File (76 Days)	Wed, June 15, 2016
Last Day Partisan Write In Candidates Can File (40 Days)	Thurs, July 21, 2016
Voter Registration Closes (29 Days)	Mon, Aug 1, 2016
Early Voting Begins (27 Days)	Wed, Aug 3, 2016
Sample Ballots Mailed (11 Days)	Fri, Aug 19, 2016
Primary Election	Tue, Aug 30, 2016
Last Day to File Termination Statement for \$500 Threshold Candidates Who are Not Moving on to the General Election (90 Days after election)	Thurs, Nov 17, 2016
GENERAL ELECTION	
First Date Candidates Can File "Nomination Other Than by Primary" or Independent (120 Days)	Mon, May 2, 2016
Last Date Candidates Can File "Nomination Other Than by Primary" (90 Days)	Wed, June 1, 2016
First Date Non-Partisan (Special Districts, Schools, Community College) Candidates Can File (120 Days)	Mon, July 11, 2016
Last Date Non-Partisan (Special Districts, Schools, Community College) Candidates Can File (90 Days)	Wed, Aug 10, 2016
Last Day <u>Write-in</u> Non-Partisan (Special Districts, Schools, Community College) Candidates Can File (76 Days)	Wed, Aug 24, 2016
Last Day all other <u>Write-in</u> Candidates Can File (40 Days)	Thurs, Sep 29, 2016
Voter Registration Closes (29 Days)	Mon Oct 10, 2016
Early Voting Begins (27 Days)	Wed, Oct 12, 2016
General Election	Tues, Nov 8, 2016
Last Day to file Termination Statement for \$500 Threshold Candidates (90 Days after election)	Mon, Feb 6, 2017

OFFICES APPEARING ON THE 2016 ELECTION BALLOT

Primary Election Ballot:

Office	Term
Superior Court Judge Division 1	2017 thru 2020
Board of Supervisors District 1,2 & 3	2017 thru 2020
County Attorney	2017 thru 2020
County Assessor	2017 thru 2020
County Treasurer	2017 thru 2020
County School Superintendant	2017 thru 2020
County Recorder	2017 thru 2020
County Sheriff	2017 thru 2020
City, Town, Mayor and Council	2017 thru 2020

General Election Ballot:

All Offices Listed Above (Except Precinct Committeeman)
All of the following as necessary:
School District Governing Boards
Community College Governing Board
Special Taxing District Governing Boards
Fire Districts
Sanitary Districts
Water Districts
Wastewater Districts
Propositions, if any
Local Ballot Measures, Runoff elections if any

QUALIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

[Ariz. Const. Art. VII, § 15 and ARS §16-121(A)]

Every person elected or appointed to any elective office of trust or profit under the authority of the state, or any of its political divisions or any municipalities shall be a qualified elector of the political division or municipality in which the person seeks election at the time of filing nomination papers. A qualified elector is a person who is:

- Properly registered to vote
- Will be at least 18 years of age on or before the date of the election

QUALIFICATIONS FOR COUNTY OFFICERS

General Qualifications [ARS §11-402]

A person shall not be eligible for a county office, whether elective or appointive, nor shall a certificate of election or commission be issued to any person, unless the person is, at the time of the election or appointment:

- 18 years of age or over
- A resident of the state
- Able to read and write the English language
- Will be a qualified elector of the district which he or she proposes to represent at the time of the candidate filing.

The Board of Supervisors shall be the sole judge of these qualifications, subject to review by certiorari in the superior court.

County Attorney [ARS §11-531]. A person is eligible for this office who:

- Is an attorney at law, licensed and in good standing in this state
- Meets the general qualifications for county office

School Superintendent [ARS §15-301]. A person is eligible for this office who:

- Holds a regular certificate to teach in the schools of this state
- Meets the general qualifications for county office

Superior Court Judge [Ariz. Const. Art. VI, §22]. A person is eligible for this office who is:

- At least 30 years of age
- Of good moral character
- Admitted to the practice of law in Arizona for at least five years
- A resident of the state for five years prior to taking office
- An elector of the county in which the duties of the office are to be exercised
- Able to read and write the English language
- Meets the general qualifications for county office

2016 NOMINATION PETITION SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Nomination petitions shall be signed by a number of qualified electors who are qualified to vote for the candidate whose nomination petition they are signing as follows:

If for a candidate for a county office or superior court judge, equal to at least one per cent (1%) but not more than ten per cent (10%) of the total number of qualified signers in the county, or district. ARS § 16-322(A)(4)

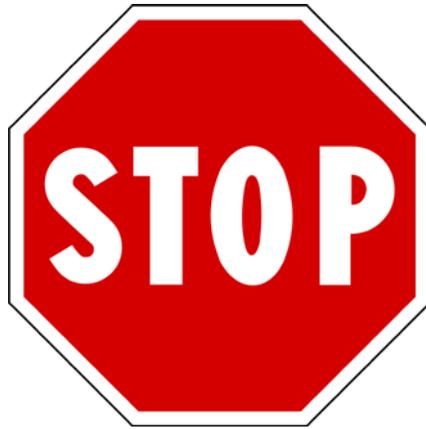
If for a community college district, by at least one-quarter of one percent (1/4%) but not more than ten per cent (10%) of the total voter registration in the district. ARS §16-322(A)(5)(a)

If for county precinct committeeman, by at least two percent but not more than ten per cent (10%) or ten signatures, whichever is less, of the party voter registration in the precinct. ARS §16-322(A)(6)

If for the governing body of a special district as described in Title 48, by a number of qualified electors equal to at least one-half of one percent of the vote in the special district but not more than two hundred fifty and not fewer than five signatures. ("The vote" is the number of votes cast in the last election.) ARS §16-322(A)(12)

The following are unofficial signature requirements based on the October 1st 2015 voter registration numbers. The Official signature petition requirements will be available March 1st 2016

Office	Democratic	Republican	Other (than by Primary)
Board of Supervisors District 1	55-543	89-884	No less than 101
Board of Supervisors District 2	59-582	52-519	No less than 74
Board of Supervisors District 3	67-666	56-552	No less than 86
County-Wide	179 – 1,790	196 – 1,953	No less than 260
Precinct Committeeman	See Precinct Committeeman Packet		
Special District	See Special District Packet		



BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH ANY ACTIVITIES!

The Political Committee Statement of Organization or \$500 Threshold Exemption Statement must be filed BEFORE making any expenditures, accepting any contributions, distributing campaign literature or circulating petitions!

Why? Because it is unlawful for a candidate to start campaign activities before filing a Statement of Organization or a \$500 Threshold Exemption Statement with the County Elections Department.

State law requires that a new Statement of Organization or \$500 Threshold Statement be filed before each election, even if the current committee from a previous candidacy is still open (ARS 16-903). Also, any change of committee information, such as new officers, must be reported to the filing officer within five business days. These changes are reported by filing an amended Statement of Organization.

Each candidate committee must file this form with the Gila County Department of Elections located at:

5515 S Apache Ave, Suite 900
Globe AZ 85501

Any petition signatures collected prior to filing of the Statement of Organization or \$500 Threshold Exemption Statement will be rejected.

CAMPAIGN POLITICAL COMMITTEE

\$500 Threshold Exemption Statement

- A candidate who intends to accept no more than \$500 in contributions and intends to make no more than \$500 in expenditures may file a \$500 Threshold Exemption Statement. If the \$500 contribution limit or the \$500 expenditure limit is not exceeded, no subsequent campaign finance filings are required.
- After filing a \$500 Threshold Exemption Statement the candidate may change their campaign finance registration to a candidate political committee by filing a Political Committee Statement of Organization. The committee is then entitled to collect more than \$500 in contributions and make more than \$500 in expenditures.
- If after filing a \$500 Threshold Exemption Statement the candidate receives more than \$500 in contributions or makes more than \$500 in expenditures a Political Committee Statement of Organization must be filed within five (5) days after exceeding either the \$500 contribution limit or the \$500 expenditure limit.
- **IMPORTANT CHANGE** ARS 16-904(F)(3) Candidates filing the \$500 Threshold Exemption Statement are now **required** to file a Termination Statement to terminate their \$500 Threshold committee. This statement must be filed within 90 days after the end of the applicable election cycle (i.e. Primary or General election date) or candidates **will be charged a penalty of \$100.00**.

Political Committee Statement of Organization

- A candidate who intends to accept more than \$500 in contributions and intends to make more than \$500 in expenditures must file a Political Committee Statement of Organization. Campaign finance reports are **required** and must be filed on time.
- The committee name must include the name of the candidate. A committee must have a chairman and a treasurer. The candidate may be the chairman and the treasurer of his/her committee.
- The committee must notify the county elections office of the financial institution(s) where campaign contributions shall be deposited and campaign monies expended. The notification may be done at the time the Political Committee Statement of Organization is filed or within five (5) days after opening the account(s). Before accepting a contribution or making an expenditure the financial institution(s) must be designated.
- The committee shall file an amended Political Committee Statement of Organization reporting any change of the information appearing on the previously filed statement within five (5) business days after the change.
- A political committee may terminate its activities only when the committee chairman and treasurer file a **Termination Statement** stating it will no longer receive any contributions or make any disbursements, that the committee has no outstanding debts or obligations, and that any surplus monies have been properly disbursed. See ARS 16-914.

PARTISAN NOMINATION PAPER

Any person desiring to become a candidate and to have their name printed on the official ballot for any election office at a primary election shall be a qualified elector of either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party and shall complete, sign, and file a Nomination Paper that includes:

- Name of the office sought
- Name of the political party of registration
- Date of the primary election
- Date of the general election
- Number of years as a U.S. citizen
- Number of years as an Arizona citizen
- Number of years in Gila County
- Number of years in the voting precinct
- Actual residence address or description of place of residence
- Post office address, if applicable
- Exact manner name is to appear on the ballot
- Candidate signature must be notarized
- Signed statement relating to campaign financing and reporting

A candidate for public office shall be a qualified elector at the time of filing, shall be qualified to hold the office they seek and shall reside in the county, district or precinct which the person proposes to represent.

NOMINATION OTHER THAN BY PRIMARY ELECTION

A candidate who is a registered member of a party not entitled to representation, or who is registered as an Independent or No Party Preference, may be nominated as a candidate for Gila County public office "other than by the primary election." Candidates wishing to be nominated other than by primary election shall file the required candidate papers and petitions at the same time that primary nomination papers and petitions are required to be filed. Candidates nominated other than by primary election shall not be voted for at the primary election but shall be voted for at the general election.

Petitions for nomination other than by primary election shall be signed by at least 3% of the number of persons who are registered to vote in the county or district for which the candidate is nominated and who are not members of the Democratic or Republican Party.

A petition circulated for a nomination other than by primary election candidate shall be signed only by voters who have not signed the nomination petition of a candidate for the same office voted for at the primary election.

PARTISAN NOMINATION PETITION

Any person desiring to become a candidate at any election and to have their name printed on the official ballot shall file nomination petitions.

A nomination petition is the form used for collecting the required number of signatures from qualified electors and is circulated by or on behalf of the person seeking to become a candidate for a political office.

The nomination petition size is determined by Arizona Revised Statute:

- 8½" long x 11" wide.
- headed by a caption stating the purpose of the petition.
- followed by the body of the petition stating the intent of the petitioners.
- ten (10) lines spaced 1/2" apart consecutively numbered one (1) through ten (10).

The signature portion of the petition shall be divided into columns headed by the titles:

- signature.
- printed name.
- actual residence address or description of place residence, city, town or post office.
- date of signing.

A primary election candidate shall file partisan nomination petitions that contain signatures equaling no less than 2% and no more 10% of the total voter registration of the party of the candidate within the jurisdiction of the office they seek.

PETITION CIRCULATION

Before circulating petitions:

- Review A.R.S. § 16-315. Form of Petitions
- Complete the caption at the top of the front side of the petition.
- Decide if a photo of the candidate is to be included (optional.)
- Ensure any petition used matches the size and format requirements as required in Arizona Revised Statutes. Candidate may choose to have petitions professionally printed.
- Always print the petition form on 8½ X 11 inch paper. The second page (Instructions for Circulator) must be copied on the reverse side of the nomination petition.

The circulator of a petition must:

- Be qualified to register to vote in the State of Arizona.
- Witness each person signing the petition.
- Complete the circulator's statement on the back of the petition. Print or type name, residence address, or if no street address, a description of residence location and sign the back of the petition.

Circulating Tips:

- Voters may sign as many petitions for the same office as there are positions necessary to fill the office at the election. **For Example:** For the Office of Treasurer, only one person shall be elected to fill the office. Therefore, a voter may sign only one nomination petition for a candidate who is running for the office of Treasurer.
- Candidates can sign their own petition.
- All petition columns **MUST** be filled in. The date column is the one most commonly left blank.
- Anyone wishing to sign a petition **MUST SIGN THEIR OWN NAME**. A spouse, family member, friend, power of attorney, guardian, etc. may not sign a nomination petition on behalf of another person.
- The circulator or another person may **NOT** assist the signer by completing the remaining columns on the petition.
- No more than 10 signatures will be counted on a petition. Additional signatures collected in the margins will not be counted.
- Do not leave petitions in any public place where the circulator cannot witness signatures, i.e. restaurants
- Candidates are strongly encouraged to obtain actual physical residence addresses or descriptions of place of residence relative to a city, town or post office building. P. O. Boxes are not invalid per se, but may be challenged in court.
- Suggestion---Collect more signatures than the minimum number required.

Who May Sign a Democratic Petition?

- Democrats registered in the jurisdiction of the office that the candidate seeks.
- Members of the unrecognized parties, independents or nonpartisans registered in the jurisdiction of the office that the candidate seeks.

Who May Sign a Republican Petition?

- Republicans registered in the jurisdiction of the office that the candidate seeks.
- Members of the unrecognized parties, independents or nonpartisans registered in the jurisdiction of the office that the candidate seeks.

What Parties are recognized for Gila County Elected Office?

- Democratic Party
- Republican Party
- Except for the office of Precinct Committeeman. Candidates for county precinct committeeman shall be elected by members of the political parties recognized at the state level.

Filing Petitions

- A petition may be filed with less than ten (10) signatures.
- At the time of filing, the petitions must be accompanied by the candidates Nomination Paper and Financial Disclosure Statement.
- A person may withdraw their signature from a petition by any of the following:
 1. Verify the withdrawal by signing a simple statement of intent to withdraw their signature at the county elections office.
 2. Mail a signed, notarized statement of intent to withdraw their signature to the Gila County Elections Office.
 3. The withdrawal must be received in the Gila County Elections Office not later than 5:00 p.m. on the date the petition containing the person's signature is actually filed.
- Web-based Supervisory and Precinct maps are available on the Gila County Elections webpage @ www.gilacountyaz.gov.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Candidates for Gila County and Superior Court offices must file a Financial Disclosure Statement at the same time as the Nomination Paper and Nomination Petitions are filed.

- The statement must cover the twelve (12) months prior to the date of filing.
- The statement must be signed by the candidate and the signature must be notarized. Election staff is available to provide notary services. The candidate must be prepared to provide picture identification.
- The Gila County Elections office will refuse to accept the filing of the nomination paper and nomination petitions from candidates who fail to include a Financial Disclosure Statement or who have not previously filed a Statement of Organization or a \$500 Threshold Exception Statement.

What is a Financial Disclosure Statement?

The Financial Disclosure Statement form and instructions detail items that the candidate should disclose and need not disclose. In general, a Financial Disclosure Statement is a personal disclosure of:

- Your and your spouse' name and the names of minor children of whom you have legal custody.
- Sources of personal compensation paid to you, your spouse, or any member of your household more than \$1,000 in salary, wages, commissions, tips or other forms of compensation during the period covered by the report.
- Anything of value that any other person, outside your household, received for your use or benefit of you or any member of your household.
- Professional, Occupational and Business Licenses.
- Personal Creditors / Personal Debt over \$1,000.
- Personal Debtors over \$1,000.
- A single gift or accumulation of gifts with a value over \$500.
- Offices of Fiduciary Relationships in Businesses, Nonprofit Organization or Trusts.
- Owner or Financial Interest in Trusts, or Investment Funds.
- Bonds.
- Real Property Ownership.
- Business Names.
- Controlled Business Information.
- Dependent Business Information.
- Real Property Owned by Business.
- Business' Creditors.
- Business' Debtors.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS

General Information

- Campaign Finance Report Due Dates and Campaign Contribution Limits are shown on the pages following this Campaign Finance Reports narrative.
- Each candidate campaign committee that has filed a Political Committee Statement of Organization shall file campaign finance reports setting forth the committee's receipts and disbursements.
- A candidate who filed only the \$500 Threshold Exemption Statement is not required to file campaign finance reports.
- Reports must be received in the Gila County Elections Office by 5:00 pm on the due date.
- For reports sent by certified mail with a U.S. mail postmark, the date of the postmark constitutes the date of filing.
- A regular mail postmark is not recognized as the date of filing. For reports sent via regular mail the date of filing is the date the report is received by the Elections Department.
- For reports sent by a commercial delivery service that provides a standardized delivery confirmation process, the date of delivery constitutes the date of filing.
- A candidate is liable for a late penalty of \$10 for each business day reports are late, up to a maximum of \$450.
- A delinquent notice of failure to file shall be sent to the committee by certified mail within fifteen (15) days after the filing deadline.
- A candidate that has failed to file within fifteen (15) days after receiving a Failure to File Notice is liable for a civil penalty of \$25 for each subsequent day that the filing is late.
- It is a defense if good cause is shown by the candidate or treasurer that an illness or absence from this state at the time the report was due or the written notice of failure to file was delivered if the illness or absence reasonably prevented the candidate or treasurer from filing the report or receiving the written notice.
- County candidate campaign finance reports may not be filed electronically with the Gila County Elections Office. However, the campaign finance forms are available on the Secretary of State website or the Gila County website. They may be completed on-line, printed out, signed, and submitted to the Gila County Elections Office.

Period No Activity Statement

In lieu of filing a Campaign Finance Report a candidate's campaign committee that received no contributions and made no expenditures within a reporting period may file a No Activity Statement.

Annual No Activity Statement

In lieu of filing a Campaign Finance Report a candidate's campaign committee that remains active after an election due to outstanding debts may file an Annual No Activity Statement no later than January 31 which states that the committee does not intend to receive any contributions or make any expenditures during the year. If the committee does receive a contribution or makes an expenditure during that year, the committee shall report the activity by filing a Campaign Finance Report.

Committee Termination Statement

A candidate campaign committee may be terminated by filing a Termination Statement.

The statement must certify that the committee will no longer receive any contributions or make any disbursements, that the committee has no outstanding debts or obligations and that any surplus monies have been disposed of. A campaign finance report must be filed before or at the time of filing the Termination Statement, stating the manner of disposition of the surplus monies, the name and address of each recipient of surplus monies and the date and amount of each disposition of surplus monies.

After the filing of the Termination Statement, a political committee is not required to file any subsequent campaign finance reports and shall have no further receipts or disbursements without filing a new statement of organization.

NOTE: For a committee that does not exceed its \$500 threshold, the committee **MUST** terminate at the end of the election cycle for which it was formed, shall file a termination statement as prescribed by §16-914 and shall dispose of any surplus monies as otherwise provided by law. This statement must be filed within 90 days after the end of the applicable election cycle (i.e. Primary or General election date) or candidates **will be charged a penalty of \$100.00.** ARS §16-904(F)(2) and (3)

2016 CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT DUE DATES

Name of Report	Time Period Covered	Report Due Between
January 31 Report	Nov 25, 2014 thru Dec 31, 2015	Jan 1 and Feb 1, 2016
June 30 Report	Jan 1, 2016 thru May 31, 2016	June 1 and June 30, 2016
Pre-Primary Report	June 1, 2016 thru Aug 18, 2016	Aug 19 and Aug 26, 2016
Post Primary Report	Aug 19, 2016 thru Sept 19, 2016	Sept 20 and Sept 29, 2016
Pre-General Report	Sept 20, 2016 thru Oct 27, 2016	Oct 28 and Nov 4, 2016
Post-General Report	Oct 28, 2016 thru Nov 28, 2016	Nov 29 and Dec 8, 2016

2016 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

Effective July 3, 2015. These limits are subject to change by law and are current as of June 1, 2015.

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS	Local Candidate per election CANDIDATE OR AUTHORIZED CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE
Individual may give:	\$6250
Partnership may give:	\$6,250
Corporation, LLC or union may give:	Prohibited
"PAC" may give:	\$6,250
Multicandidate "PAC" may give:	\$12,500
Political Party / Party Organization may give:	Unlimited, but party nominee may accept no more than \$10,000

WRITE-IN CANDIDATE

A person who desires to run as a write-in candidate is not required to collect signatures on a candidate Nomination Petition. However, any person desiring to become a write-in candidate for an elective office shall file a Write-In Nomination Paper.

Write-in candidates for county office must file a Write-In Nomination Paper in the Gila County Elections Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the fortieth (40) day prior to the election. (A.R.S. §16-312(B)).

Write-in candidates for precinct committeeman, school districts, or special districts must file a Write-In Nomination Paper in the Gila County Elections Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the seventy-sixth (76) day before the election. (A.R.S. § 16-312(B)(2)).

The Write-In Nomination Paper must be notarized. Election staff is available to provide notary services. The candidate must be prepared to provide picture identification.

Write-in candidate names will not be printed on the ballot. A list of write-in candidates and the offices they seek will be posted in a conspicuous location inside the polling place.

A vote for a write-in candidate is cast only when the voter writes the candidate's name on the ballot at the appropriate line for the office and fills in the oval on the ballot.

Any person who does not file a timely Write-In Nomination Paper shall not be counted in the tally of ballots. A.R.S. §16.312(C).

Write-In Candidate Filing Requirements:

1. On or before the filing deadline the candidate must file a \$500 Threshold Exemption Statement or a Political Committee Statement of Organization.
 2. At the time of filing the Write-In Nomination Paper, the candidate must file a Financial Disclosure Statement.
 3. All filings must be submitted to the Gila County Elections Office.
- Filings will be accepted by mail. If received by the filing deadline date. In case of delivery delays **Mail Early as the postmark date will not be used to determine an on-time filing.**
 - Filings will be accepted in person.
 - Filings will not be accepted by fax or email.

NOTE: A write-in candidate that loses a Primary election cannot be a write-in candidate for the same office in the General Election. They can, however, be a write-in candidate for a different office in the General Election.

PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN

At the primary election, the members of a political party in each precinct shall choose one, or more, of their members as a county precinct committeeman. The members shall choose one additional precinct committeeman for each 125 voters or major fraction thereof registered in the party and in the precinct as reported by the County Recorder on March 1st of the year in which the general election is held. The whole number of precinct committeemen of a political party shall constitute the county committee of the party.

Any member of a recognized political party who is a registered voter in the precinct is eligible to seek the office of precinct committeeman of his/her party.

Candidates for precinct committeeman must meet the same filing requirements as candidates for county office, with the exception of filing a candidate committee registration form as registering a candidate committee is not required for precinct committeeman candidates.

Precinct committeemen may be elected for any party qualified on a State level, i.e. Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian.

Candidate packets for Precinct Committeeman will be available through the County Party Chair or the Gila County Department of Elections beginning January of, 2016.

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Special Districts include Fire, Water, Domestic Water, Sewer, and Wastewater districts. Board members for special districts run for office in even numbered years. Candidates for special district governing board member office must meet the same filing requirements as candidates for county office including the filing of the \$500 threshold Organization Statement before the collection of signatures or making campaign expenditures.

Candidate packets for Special District Board Members will be available through the District Chairman of the Board or designated Board administrator beginning April 1, 2016.

SCHOOL BOARD AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

The County School Superintendent is responsible for school board and community college board member elections. Contact Linda O'Dell or Sue Williams for further information at (928)402-8784 or (928) 402-8783.

CANDIDATE FILING CHECK-LIST

Partisan Nomination and Nomination Other than by Primary Election

- 1. A **Political Committee Statement of Organization** or a **\$500 Threshold Exemption Statement** must be filed **BEFORE** accepting contributions, making expenditures, distributing campaign literature or circulating petitions
- 2. The candidate filing period for all other required documents (listed below) begins **May 2, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. and ends June 1, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.** Candidates (or their representatives) must present **ALL** of the following documents at one time. Candidates will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Partial filings **WILL NOT BE** accepted!
- A. **Nomination Paper, Affidavit of Qualification and Campaign Finance Laws Statement** (All three of these are on the same one-page form)
 - Make sure to answer every question and fill in every blank.
 - Write the candidate's name exactly how he or she wants it to be printed on the ballot. The candidate's last name must appear first. Nicknames are permissible as long as they do not suggest a title.
 - The candidate must sign the form and have his/her signature notarized.*
- B. **Financial Disclosure Statement**
 - For the 12-month period preceding the filing (This is a different time period from the public officer filing in January).
 - Check the second box "I am a Candidate..."
 - The candidate must sign the form and have the signature notarized.*
- C. **Nomination Petitions**
 - The candidate must file at least the minimum number of signatures required for the office sought and no more than the maximum number. The Elections Office cannot accept the nomination papers if the minimum number of signatures have not been obtained. Signatures in excess of the maximum will not be counted.
 - Check to see that the circulator portion on the back of each petition is complete:
 - Did the circulator print his or her name, residence address, city or town, and county on the back of each petition?
 - Did the circulator sign the back of each petition?
 - Check to see that the signature portion of each petition is complete:
 - Is there a date for each signature?
 - Is there an actual residence address including city or town, or a description of the residence location, for each signature?
 - Check to see that there are no more than 10 signatures on each petition.
 - Incomplete signature lines or signatures in excess of 10 on a petition page cannot be accepted.
 -

**The Gila County Division of Election's staff will notarize forms free of charge, if the signer is present and if the signer presents valid photo identification. The candidate must be prepared to present valid photo identification.*

CANDIDATE FILING CHECK-LIST

Write-In Candidate (Except for Precinct Committeeman)

- ❑ 1. A **Political Committee Statement of Organization** or a **\$500 Threshold Exemption Statement** must be filed **BEFORE** accepting contributions, making expenditures, or distributing campaign literature.
- ❑ 2. The candidate filing period for all other required documents (listed below) **ends 40 days prior to the election**. Candidates (or their representatives) must present **ALL** of these documents at one time. Candidates will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Partial filings **WILL NOT BE** accepted!
- ❑ A. **Write-In Candidate Nomination Paper, Affidavit of Qualification and Campaign Finance Laws Statement.** (All three of these are on the same one-page form)
 - Make sure to answer every question and fill in every blank.
 - Write the candidate's name exactly how he or she wants voters to write it on the ballot. The candidate's last name must appear first. Nicknames are permissible as long as they do not suggest a title.
 - The candidate must sign the form and have the signature notarized.*
- ❑ B. **Financial Disclosure Statement**
 - Covers 12-month period preceding the filing (This is a different time period from the public officer filing in January).
 - Check the second box "I am a Candidate..."
 - The candidate must sign the form and have his/her signature notarized.*

*The Gila County Division of Election's staff will notarize forms free of charge, if the signer is present and if the signer presents valid photo identification. The candidate must be prepared to present valid photo identification.

2016 GILA COUNTY ELECTIONS

In 2016 there will be two County-wide elections. Brief descriptions of those elections follow:

PRIMARY ELECTION

On the tenth Tuesday prior to a general election or special election at which candidates for public office are to be elected, a primary election shall be held.

The purpose of the primary election is to nominate candidates to run for office in the general election. The candidates receiving the most votes for the office they seek shall receive their party nomination and shall have their name printed on the general election ballot. The recognized parties for Gila County office are the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. The Democratic, Green, Libertarian and Republican parties have achieved permanent status in state elections.

Who May Vote in a Primary Election? All qualified electors who are registered on or before the 29th day prior to the election.

What is the Arizona Open Primary? The Arizona Open Primary allows an elector who is registered as an Independent, or no party preference, or who is a member of a political party that is not entitled to representation at the primary election, to vote a ballot of either the Democratic, Libertarian or Republican party. If additional parties qualify for representation at the state level, those ballots will also be available.

Registered members of the Democratic, Green, Libertarian and Republican must vote their party ballot.

An elector registered in one of the parties not entitled to representation in the primary election must declare the party ballot they wish to vote before receiving a ballot.

Party Nomination Requirements

At a primary election, each political party entitled to representation in the primary election and intending to make nominations for the ensuing general election, shall nominate its candidates for all elective senatorial, congressional, state, judicial, county and precinct offices to be filled at such election, except for presidential electors.

Democratic and Republican candidates for Gila County office are nominated by primary election. All political parties entitled to representation at the state level may elect precinct committeemen.

Nomination Other Than by Primary Election

A candidate who is a registered member of a party not entitled to representation, or is registered as an Independent or No Party Preference, may be nominated as a candidate for county public office "other than by the primary election".

Failure to Nominate a Candidate in a Primary Election

If no candidate is nominated in the primary election for a particular office, then no candidate for that office for that party may appear on the general election ballot, except for presidential electors.

GENERAL ELECTION

On the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of every even-numbered year, a general election shall be held for the election of representatives in congress, members of the legislature, and state, county and precinct officers whose terms expire at the end of the year in which the election is being held or in the following year.

Contents of the General Election Ballot:

- Candidates nominated by primary election.
- Candidates nominated other than by primary election.
- Nonpartisan candidates (school districts and special taxing districts).
- Ballot Measures (statewide propositions and local questions).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where are candidate materials available? County packets that include nomination papers, petitions, signature requirements, filing instructions, campaign finance and financial disclosure forms and instructions are available on the Gila County website. Hard copies are available at the Gila County Elections Office however; candidates are encouraged to print packets at home.

Who is a registered voter? A resident of the State of Arizona who has completed and submitted a voter registration to a county recorder, is a citizen of the United States, will be 18 years old or more on or before the date of the regular general election, who will have been a resident of the state 29 days preceding the next election, is able to write his name or make his mark, unless prevented from doing so by a physical disability, has not been convicted of treason or a felony, unless restored to civil rights, and has not been adjudicated an incapacitated person.

Who is a qualified elector? A person who is a resident within the boundaries of the district/precinct/area for which the election is being conducted and whose voter registration has been received by the Gila County Recorder prior to midnight of the 29th day preceding the date of the election.

Must I be a qualified elector in the jurisdiction that I wish to represent?

Yes. "... A candidate for public office shall be a qualified elector at the time of filing and shall reside in the county, district or precinct which the person proposes to represent." Arizona Revised Statutes §16-311(A)

Must I be a qualified elector of the party that I wish to represent?

Yes. "Any person desiring to become a candidate at a primary election for a political party and to have the person's name printed on the official ballot shall be a qualified elector of such party..." Arizona Revised Statutes §16-311(A).

To be a candidate for Gila County office in the primary election, must I be a registered member of either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

Yes. The political parties that are recognized for Gila County office this year, and, therefore, entitled to representation on the County primary ballot, are the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. "Each county recorder shall determine the political parties qualified for the county ballot...". Arizona Revised Statutes §16-804(D).

Can I run for Gila County office if I am not a qualified elector of the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

Yes. "Any qualified elector who is not a registered member of a political party that is recognized pursuant to this title may be nominated as a candidate for public office other than by primary election..." Arizona Revised Statutes §16-341(A).

Where can I put signs?

You can only put up campaign signage on property where you have permission to do so. Political signs, handouts, etc. are not allowed on County property. The Gila County Courthouse will not be a polling place in the future, and, therefore, you cannot put up signs at the Courthouse on Election Day. Bumper stickers are OK.

Where can I circulate petitions?

Petitions can be circulated to (1) any registered voter who is a member of your political party or to (2) Independents or Party Not Designated registered voters, who live within the confines of the jurisdiction covering the office for which you intend to run.

Where can I get maps?

Board of Supervisor and precinct maps are now available on the Gila County Elections Department web page.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS/COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT MAPS AND PRECINCT
MAPS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB!**

The Gila County Department of Elections and the Public Works GIS Department, are working on a new interactive mapping tool for Gila County citizens. Although the final mapping project is still a work in progress, an initial web-based mapping tool is now available for citizens/candidates use. To access these maps:

- Go to the following Web address: **<http://maps.gilacountyaz.gov>**
- You must use Internet Explorer to access this site. There is no other browser access for this interim mapping program.
- When you access the link, you will see a banner which reads "Gila County GIS Maps". Review the information in the "Please Note" area.
- Click on the "Enter Gila County GIS Website" button in the lower right-hand corner. A Message from Webpage will show up. Read the message and click on OK.
- If you are not automatically directed to a map of Gila County look at the bottom left hand corner of your screen. Read the error message. You may need to press the Ctrl key at the same time you click on the "OK" button.
- On the left of the mapping screen are a number of mapping configurations. In order to access the correct maps for the 2016 election, check "Proposed Supervisor" OR "Proposed CCD" (community college districts) AND the "Proposed Precincts".
- Across the top of the mapping screen you will notice a number of tools which will help you navigate the maps:
 - Click on the double pages to copy
 - Click on the arrow and point it at an area or a road to get a pop-up with the name of the supervisory or college district or the name of a major highway.
 - The magnifying glass with a plus will allow you to draw a square around an area you want to magnify or zoom in.
 - The magnifying glass with a minus will allow you to draw a square around an area you want to diminish or zoom out.
 - The magnifying glass with a circle area will go to the previous zoom.
 - The magnifying glass with a right facing arrow will allow you to type in an area (community) you want to go to.
 - The magnifying glass with the "X" will take you out to the County view map.
 - The next two buttons are inactive.
 - The last button, which is a question mark, is the program help button if you want to read more about the program itself.

Feel free to play with the application and print screens for those maps you want to keep. There are many different ways to "print screens". How you do it will depend upon your computer. One common way is to press the Alt and PrtScn buttons at the same time. This creates a copy of the page. Then open up your Word application and press "Paste". A copy of the screen will appear on the Word page and you can print it out.