

# Candidate Packet

2026



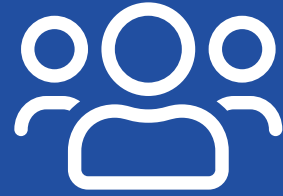
**CHANDLER**  
a r i z o n a  
Community of Innovation

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# Letter from the City Clerk

Thank you for your interest in becoming a candidate in the 2026 City of Chandler Election. This information packet is an important first step in the election process and has been prepared to provide you with information and candidate requirements for the 2026 City Council Election.

While every effort is made to provide a comprehensive overview of the election process for the City of Chandler, this candidate information packet and the noted resources are provided with the understanding that City Clerk staff cannot render legal or financial advice. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that all legal requirements have been met.

The City of Chandler appreciates your interest in the election process. Contact the City Clerk's Office for assistance during the nomination period or throughout the election process at 480-782-2182; or email [dana.delong@chandleraz.gov](mailto:dana.delong@chandleraz.gov).

Sincerely,

*Dana DeLong*  
City Clerk  
City of Chandler  
480-782-2182  
[dana.delong@chandleraz.gov](mailto:dana.delong@chandleraz.gov)

Please note that the Chandler City Clerk serves as the filing officer for all local election forms. All forms must be filed with the Chandler City Clerk's Office within the deadlines noted in the statutes. Candidates are encouraged to refer to the Arizona State Constitution, the Arizona Revised Statutes, the Chandler City Charter, and Chandler City Code for legal requirements pertaining to candidates for elective office.



# City Council Information

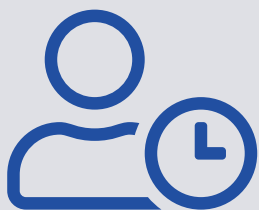


## City Council



- Chandler has a 7-member Council comprised of the Mayor and six Councilmembers elected from the city at large
- Per the City Charter, nothing on the ballot reflects a political party affiliation
- Current Annual Salary
  - Mayor \$58,468.80
  - Vice Mayor and Councilmembers \$34,236.80

## Term Limits



- Limitation of terms. No person shall be eligible to be elected to the office of councilmember for more than two (2) consecutive terms, or to the office of mayor for more than two (2) consecutive terms or to more than a consecutive combination of same. A person elected to two (2) consecutive terms as a councilmember or two (2) consecutive terms as mayor or a combination of same as above set forth shall not be eligible to hold either office again until four (4) years have elapsed. (Chandler City Charter Article II, Section 2.01 (e))

## Candidate Qualifications



- Must be a qualified elector of Chandler which is a person legally qualified to vote in the City of Chandler Elections and resides within Chandler city limits
- Must be a resident of the city or an annexed area for a least two years immediately preceding the election
- Hold no other elected public office or City employment during the elected term

# Primary and General Elections



## Primary Election August 4, 2026

At the primary election the candidates receiving the highest number of the majority of votes cast equal to the number of seats to be filled are declared elected to the office.

No further election is held unless no candidate receives a majority of votes cast or an insufficient number of candidates receive a majority of votes cast.



## General Election November 3, 2026

If there is any office where no candidate was elected in the primary, a second or general election is held.

The candidates not elected at the primary election equal in number to twice the number of seats to be filled, or less, and who receive the highest number of votes for the seats, at the primary election, shall be the only candidates at the general election.

## How to Calculate the Majority of Votes Cast

- Step 1: Add the total number of votes cast for all candidates for an office.
- Step 2: Divide the sum in Step 1 by the number of seats to be filled at the election.
- Step 3: Divide the result of the calculation in Step 2 by two and round the number to the highest whole number. This number is the Majority of Votes Cast.

# Steps to Run for Office



The following is a brief overview of the process to run for the office of councilmember or mayor.

## 1. FILE A STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Prior to collecting petition signatures on the candidate's nomination petition form, a candidate must first declare their interest in running for an office by filing a Statement of Interest with the City Clerk.

## 2. SUBMIT STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION

File within 10 days of receiving contributions or making expenditures of at least \$500, in any combination, in connection with candidacy.

## 3. CIRCULATE NOMINATION PETITION

Circulate petition and obtain signatures from eligible electors. Best practices are available in the Petition Circulation Training Guide on the Secretary of State's website. Nomination petitions must contain at least 1,000, but not more than 5,111 signatures. Nomination filing period begins March 7, 2026.

## 4. SUBMIT NOMINATION PETITION

Submit circulated petition sheets to the City Clerk's Office by the April 6, 2026, 5:00 p.m. deadline.

## 5. SUBMIT NOMINATION PAPER/DECLARATION OF QUALIFICATION FORM

In conjunction with submitting a nomination petition, candidates must submit a nomination paper/declaration of qualification form.

## 6. SUBMIT FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT FOR LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICERS

In conjunction with submitting a nomination petition and nomination paper/declaration of qualification form, candidates must submit a financial disclosure statement.

*Note: Nomination petition, nomination paper declaration of qualification form, and financial disclosure form must all be submitted at the same time. Only one supplemental petition filing is allowed after the initial filing and before the filing period deadline.*



# Becoming an Official Candidate

**Official Filing Period**  
**March 7, 2026 through**  
**April 6, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.**

To become an official candidate, file the following with the City Clerk during the nomination petition filing period.



Nomination Petitions containing at least 1,000 but not more than 5,111 signatures



Financial Disclosure Statement



Nomination Paper Declaration of Qualification Form

# Circulating Nomination Petition

Petition forms are available from the City Clerk's Office and available on the city's website; petition requirements are found in A.R.S. § 16-314, 16-315, and 16-321.

**A Statement of Interest form must be filed with the City Clerk's Office prior to collecting any signatures.**

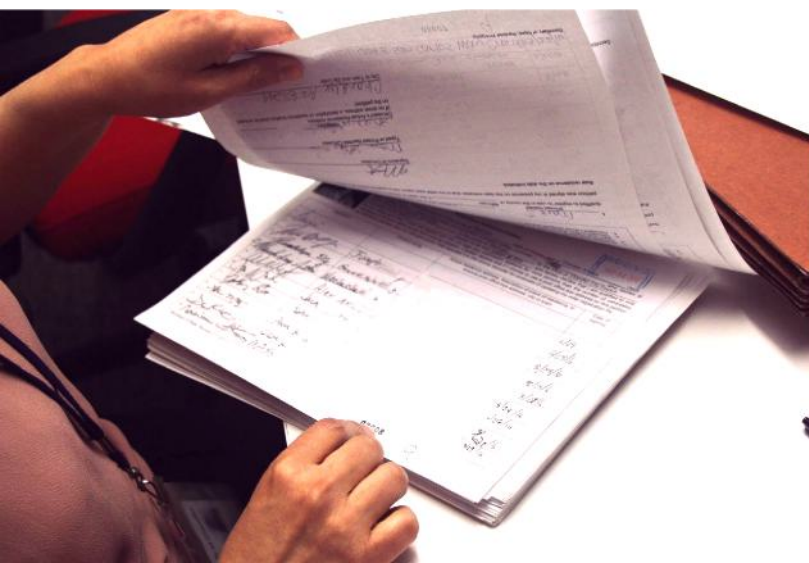
## **Petition Circulators**

Each circulator must complete and sign the back of each signature sheet. A circulator is not required to be a resident of this state but otherwise must be qualified to register to vote in this state, and if not a resident of this state shall register as a circulator with the Secretary of State. A candidate may circulate their own petition. Only one person may circulate a petition sheet, and their name must be typed or printed under the circulator's signature, must also include their residence address.

## **Petition Signers**

A nomination petition is signed by qualified electors and supports the candidacy for nomination of the individual whose name appears at the top of the nomination petition in the certificate portion.

Qualified electors entitled to sign nomination petitions are those who are qualified to vote for the candidate whose nomination petition they are signing and must reside in the electoral district in which the candidate is running. A signature may be withdrawn by the person who signed a nomination petition not later than 5:00 p.m. on the date the petition is filed with the City Clerk.



## **Penalty for Petition Forgery**

All petitions that have been submitted by a candidate who is found guilty of petition forgery shall be disqualified, and the candidate is not eligible to seek election to a public office for at least five years.



# E-Qual Nomination Petitions



E-Qual, the Arizona online petition portal, allows candidates to create and manage their online nomination petitions for elections. Candidates may collect 100% of their required nomination petition signatures through the E-Qual system. E-Qual enables eligible voters to electronically sign these petitions. Voters will confirm their registered voting address in order to be able to sign petitions.

Interested candidates may contact the City Clerk for information on how to set up an E-Qual account and create online nomination petitions.

## E-Qual Submission of Petition Signatures

Submitting your E-Qual signatures electronically:

- In the E-Qual system follow the process to “Submit the Petition to Filing Officer.”
- When the City Clerk receives the email that you have submitted your petition, the City Clerk's Office staff will print the petition pages and set them aside until you finalize your submission by appearing in person in the City Clerk's Office and submitting your nomination paper, financial disclosure statement, and any paper petitions.

If you prefer not to submit your E-Qual signatures electronically, you may print the signature pages and submit them with the rest of your required paperwork.

- In the E-Qual system follow the process to “Print Petition and Signatures.”
- Bring the petition pages in when you file all the required nomination documents.



### Important Note

No E-Qual signatures will be processed without the candidate making an appointment with the City Clerk and filing all the required nomination documents.

# Practical Tips for Nomination Petitions



## Signatures

- No more than 10 signatures per page
- Signatures in the margin will not be accepted
- Okay to have the signature and printed name reversed



## Date

- Include month, day, and year
- Watch for signers who accidentally put phone numbers, zip code or date of birth in the date field
- Ditto marks will be accepted in the date column; be sure the line being repeated is correct



## Addresses

- Be sure addresses are complete
- P.O. Boxes are acceptable
- Ditto marks are accepted in the address column; be sure the line being repeated is correct



## Heading and Circulator Page

- Do not make corrections to the heading after the petition is circulated
- Ensure each circulator has completed and signed the back of each signature sheet
- Only one circulator per petition sheet





# Challenging Nomination Petitions

**Nomination Petition Challenge Period  
April 7, 2026 through April 16, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.**

It is the duty of the courts and not the City Clerk to determine the legal sufficiency of nomination petitions. The City Clerk has neither the right nor the duty to determine whether signers of the nominating petitions are qualified electors.

In event that a challenge is filed, it will be the person who submitted the petition, and not the city, that will be required to defend the legal sufficiency of the petition. The City Clerk is the designated agent for the person filing a nomination petition and will immediately notify the person of any challenge action.

In addition to petition signature challenges, a candidate may also be challenged on grounds related to qualifications of office.

Court action challenging a candidate's nomination must be no later than 5:00 pm of the tenth day, excluding Saturday, Sunday, and legal holidays, after the last day of the nomination petition filing deadline.

**All challenges are required to specify the petition number, line number, and basis for dispute for each signature in question.**

Superior Court will hear the action and render a decision within ten days after the filing of the challenge.

An appeal of the Superior Court decision must be filed within five days to the Arizona Supreme Court.



# Write-in Candidates



## **Primary Election Write-in Candidate Filing Deadline June 5, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.**

File the Nomination Paper including Declaration of Qualification and Financial Disclosure Statement with the City Clerk.

A person cannot be a write-in candidate at a primary election if the person filed a nomination petition for the current primary election for the office sought and failed to provide a sufficient number of valid petition signatures, withdrew from the primary election after a challenge was filed or, was removed from or otherwise determined by court order to be ineligible for the primary election ballot.



## **General Election Write-in Candidate Filing Deadline September 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.**

File the Nomination Paper including Declaration of Qualification and Financial Disclosure Statement with the City Clerk.

A person cannot be a write-in candidate at a general election if the person ran in the immediately preceding primary election for that office and failed to be nominated or filed a nomination petition without enough valid signatures to be placed on the ballot for that year's primary election.



# Campaign Finance Requirements

## Statement of Organization

Candidates who receive contributions or make expenditures, in any combination, of \$500 or more in connection with their candidacy must register as a candidate committee and account for all monies or things of value received and explained by filing a Statement of Organization with the City Clerk (filing officer) (A.R.S. § 16-908(B)).

A candidate may have only one committee in existence for the same office during the same election cycle. Committees are required to file an amended statement of organization within ten days after any change in committee information (A.R.S. § 19-906).

## Campaign Finance Laws and Compliance

A candidate for Mayor or Council must comply with all state campaign finance laws (A.R.S. Title 16, Chapter 6). City staff will not interpret campaign finance law for candidates.

Campaign finance laws are specific and detailed. They establish when a candidate is required to form a committee, how a candidate's committee must be constituted, contribution limits, and when campaign finance reports are required and their content. The importance of strict compliance with campaign finance laws cannot be overstated. Timely, accurate compliance with campaign laws is essential to avoid monetary penalties, possible criminal violations, and other negative consequences. Failure to comply with campaign finance laws may be the subject of enforcement actions, as well as civil and criminal penalties.

To ensure compliance with all state campaign finance laws, candidates are strongly encouraged to seek the assistance of their attorney and/or other professionals with knowledge of election laws from the beginning of their involvement in the campaign process. Staff will provide candidates with information needed to complete the required forms.

# Campaign Finance Filing Dates

There are a number of campaign finance reports that must be filed with the City Clerk throughout the election period. It is the responsibility of the candidate and/or the candidate's committee to ensure all deadlines are met. Electronic filing via email is permissible (A.R.S. § 16-927).

Campaign finance reports must be received by the City Clerk by the following dates:

Filing Deadline	Type of Report	Reporting Period
January 15, 2026	Quarterly	January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025
April 15, 2026	Quarterly	January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026
July 20, 2026	Quarterly	April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026
July 25, 2026	Pre-Primary	July 1, 2026 – July 18, 2026
October 15, 2026	Quarterly Post Primary	July 19, 2026 – September 30, 2026
October 24, 2026	Pre-General	October 1, 2026 – October 17, 2026
January 15, 2027	Quarterly Post General	October 18, 2026 – December 31, 2026





# Campaign Contribution Limits and Failure to File

Campaign contribution limits can be found on the Secretary of State's Campaign Contribution Limits for [2025-2026 Election Cycle Chart](#).

Current limits are:

- \$6,750 per election cycle from an individual or a political action committee (PAC) without Mega PAC status.
- \$13,500 per election cycle from a PAC with Mega PAC status.

The current election cycle is January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026.

## Failure to File

A committee failing to file any of the required campaign finance reports is subject to a penalty of \$10 for each day that the filing is late during the first 15 days after the filing deadline, and \$25 for each subsequent day that the filing is late.

Penalties accrue until the late report is filed. If the committee fails to file a report within 30 days after the filing deadline, the filing officer may, after providing written notice by email to the committee within five days after the filing deadline, refer the matter to the City Attorney.

## Producing Records

Upon request from the filing officer (City Clerk) or the enforcement officer (City Attorney), a committee that has filed a statement of organization shall produce any of the records required to be kept pursuant to [A.R.S. §16-907](#) to the filing officer or enforcement officer.

A person that qualifies as a committee as prescribed by [A.R.S. §16-905](#) shall report all contributions, expenditures, and disbursements that occurred before qualifying as a committee and shall maintain and produce records as prescribed by [A.R.S. §16-907](#).

# Termination of Candidate Committee



A committee may terminate only when the committee treasurer files a termination statement certifying under penalty of perjury that:

- The committee will no longer receive any contributions or make any disbursements
- The committee has either no outstanding debts or obligations
- The committee has no outstanding debts or obligations (or both) that are all more than five years old, and that the committee's creditors have agreed to discharge the debts and obligations and have agreed to the termination of the committee
- All surplus monies have been disposed of and that the committee has no cash on hand
- All contributions and expenditures have been reported, including any disposal of surplus monies

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

## Methods of Disposing of Monies

### A.R.S. §16-933

- Donate surplus monies to a nonprofit organization that has tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code.
- Contribute surplus monies pursuant to A.R.S. §16-911 through §16-918.
- Return surplus monies to the contributor.
- Contribute surplus monies to a candidate committee for another candidate under the following conditions:
  - The candidate committee makes the contribution after the time period for filing a nomination paper pursuant to section A.R.S. §16-311, subsection A
  - The candidate associated with the candidate committee that makes the contribution did not file a nomination paper to run for election in the current election cycle
  - For a candidate committee for legislative office, the candidate committee makes the contribution when the legislature is not in regular legislative session
  - The candidate committee makes the contribution within the limits prescribed for individuals in section A.R.S. §16-912

**Surplus monies shall not be used for or converted to personal use.**



2. And, whether the expenditure was authorized by any candidate, followed by the identity of the authorizing candidate, if any.

**Paid for by Smith for House.  
Authorized by Smith for House.**

If a disclosure contains any acronym or nickname that is not commonly known, the disclosure shall also spell out the acronym or provide the full name.

A large collection of political campaign yard signs for various U.S. presidential candidates is displayed outdoors on a lawn in front of a house. The signs are of various shapes and sizes, featuring names and slogans. Notable signs include Theodore Roosevelt (with a moose logo), Grover Cleveland (Proud to Serve), Tilden Hendricks in '76!, Seymour Blair (AGAIN in '68), Henry Clay (John Sergeant), Martin Van Buren (Vote Democrat), Wendell Wilkie (Charles McNary), John Quincy Adams (ELECT), Andrew Jackson (Nathan Sanford), Barry Goldwater (In your heart you know he's right), Richard Nixon (New Course), Dwight D. Eisenhower (I AM EISENHOWER), and many others. The signs are planted in the grass, and a sidewalk is visible in the foreground.



# Promotional Materials Disclosures



## Radio Broadcast

The disclosure is clearly spoken at the beginning or end of the advertisement.



## Written Material

The disclosure is clearly readable.



## Sign or Billboard

The disclosure has a height that is at least 4% of the vertical height of the sign or billboard.



## TV or Video

The disclosure is written and spoken at the beginning or end of the advertisement. If the written disclosure is displayed for more than 1/6 of the broadcast duration or 4 seconds, a spoken disclosure is not required.

The written disclosure statement must have a height that is at least 4% of the vertical picture.

# Promotional Materials Disclosure Exemptions



Social media messages, text messages, or messages sent by a short message service.



Advertisements placed as a paid link on a website, if the message is not more than 200 characters in length and the link directs the user to another website that complies with the disclosure requirements.



A published book or a documentary film or video.



Bumper stickers, pins, buttons, pens and similar small items on which the required statements cannot be conveniently printed.



A solicitation of contributions by a separate segregated fund.



Advertisements that are placed as a graphic or picture link, if the disclosures cannot be conveniently printed due to the size of the graphic or picture and the link directs the user to another website that complies with the disclosure requirements.



A communication by a tax-exempt organization solely to its members.

# Sign Information for Candidates

The City of Chandler's sign regulations are designed to balance the need to protect the public safety and welfare, the need for a well-maintained and attractive community, the need for adequate identification for land uses, and preservation of expression protected under the First Amendment.

## Before May 25, 2026

Chandler City Code Chapter 39 regulations will be enforced for all types of temporary signs posted on any dates that fall outside of May 25, 2026 through Nov. 18, 2026, which is the enforcement exempt election season.

Code Enforcement will contact candidates with signs that are in violation of the Chandler City Sign Code and provide the candidate 24 hours to remove the sign. Subsequent violations will result in the removal of signs by Code Enforcement.

## After May 25, 2026

A.R.S. §16-1019 designates the sign period as 71 days before an election and ending 15 days after the election, except that for a sign for a candidate in a primary election who advances to the general election, the period ends 15 days after the general election.

No enforcement action will be taken on signs in the rights-of-way or signs on commercial properties placed with the permission of the property owner.

**May 25, 2026 - 71 days before the 2026 Primary Election**  
**August 19, 2026 - 15 days after the 2026 Primary Election**  
**November 18, 2026 - 15 days after the 2026 General Election**

Campaign signs are included in a category of "Temporary Signs." All temporary signs, including signs supporting or opposing a candidate for office or urging action on a ballot issue, are required to contain the name and telephone number or website address of the candidate or campaign committee contact person (A.R.S. §16-1019).



# Forms and Additional Information

Links to the Election forms are located at [chandleraz.gov/elections](http://chandleraz.gov/elections).

## Nomination Forms

- Candidate Statement of Interest
- Nomination Paper / Declaration of Qualification
- Nomination Petition (signatures)
- Nomination Paper for Write-in Candidate
- Financial Disclosure Statement Form
- Financial Disclosure Handbook

## Campaign Finance Forms

- Campaign Finance Report Form
- Campaign Contribution Limits
- Arizona Secretary of State Campaign Finance Candidate Guide

## Political Action Committees Forms

- Statement of Organization (Political Action Committee)
- Political Action Committee Termination Statement
- Arizona Revised Statutes Title 16

## Maricopa County

- Phone: Maricopa County Elections, 602-506-1511 or 602-506-2348 (TDD)
- Online: [elections.maricopa.gov/voter-registration/register-to-vote.html](http://elections.maricopa.gov/voter-registration/register-to-vote.html) or [servicearizona.com](http://servicearizona.com)
- Mail: Maricopa County Recorder, 111 3rd Ave, STE 102, Phoenix, AZ 85003-2294

**For a Voter Data Request Form,  
please contact the City Clerk.**





# Candidate Checklist

## 1. Candidate Statement of Interest

File before collecting any nomination petition signatures.

## 2. Statement of Organization for Political Committee

File within 10 days of receiving contributions or making expenditures of at least \$500, in any combination, in connection with your candidacy.

## 3. Nomination Petition Filing Period

Monday, March 7, 2026 through  
Monday, April 6, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

## 4. Official Nomination Filing Requirement

Schedule an appointment with the City Clerk.

The following items are required to be filed during the nomination petition filing period.

1. Nomination Paper/Declaration of Qualification Form
2. Financial Disclosure Statement for Local Public Officers
3. Nomination Petitions - Containing not less than 1,000 valid signatures or more than 5,111 signatures

A receipt will be issued noting the number of signatures received. All documents are public record. Only one supplemental filing is allowed after the initial filing and before the filing period deadline.

## Primary Election

Last Day to Register to Vote  
Monday, July 6, 2026

Early Voting Begins  
Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Last Day to Request a Mailed Ballot  
Friday, July 24, 2026

Last Day to Vote Early in Person  
Friday, July 31, 2026

Last Day to Return Ballots  
Tuesday, August 4, 2026, by 7:00 p.m.

**Primary Election**  
**Tuesday, August 4, 2026**

## General Election

Last Day to Register to Vote  
Monday, October 5, 2026

Early Voting Begins Wednesday,  
October 7, 2026

Last Day to Request a Mailed Ballot  
Friday, October 23, 2026

Last Day to Vote Early in Person  
Friday, October 30, 2026

Last Day to Return Ballots  
Tuesday, November 3, 2026, by  
7:00 p.m.

**General Election**  
**Tuesday, November 3, 2026**

# Notes



# Candidate Packet 2026

