

# 2026 Guide to Run for Local Elected Office

## **Providence Board of Canvassers**

25 Dorrance Street, Room 102

Providence RI 02903

(401) 680-5525 | [elections@providenceri.gov](mailto:elections@providenceri.gov)



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This candidate guide is intended to provide information to potential candidates interested in running for local public office in 2026 in the City of Providence. The information in this guide is intended solely for informational purposes and does not constitute any legal interpretation of the law.

## 2026 Important Dates and Deadlines

Date	Event
June 22, 23 and 24	File the Declaration of Candidacy form with the Providence Board of Canvassers. The form cannot be filed earlier. The deadline is June 24th at 4:00 p.m.
June 30	Nomination papers are ready to be picked up by candidates or their designee from the Providence Board of Canvassers. *Designees should present written authorization from the candidate.
July 10	Deadline to return completed and notarized nomination papers to the Providence Board of Canvassers by 4:00 p.m.
July 13	Deadline to file withdrawals of candidacy for local office with the Providence Board of Canvassers by 4:00 p.m.
TBD	Lottery to be held for Ballot Placement for Independent Candidates for Local Office at the Providence Board of Canvassers.
August 19	Deadline to apply for a Mail in Ballot for the Primary. Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. at the Providence Board of Canvassers.
August 20	Emergency Mail Ballot Period and In-Person Early Voting for the Primary begins at Providence City Hall. During normal business hours.
September 8	Emergency Mail Ballot and In-Person Early Voting for the Primary ends at 4:00 p.m.
<b>September 9</b>	<b>Primary Day - Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.</b>
October 13	Deadline to apply for a Mail in Ballot for the Election. Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. at the Providence Board of Canvassers.

**The Providence Board of Canvassers office is located in City Hall, 25 Dorrance Street, Suite 102 | Providence, RI 02903**

## 2026 Important Dates and Deadlines

Date	Event
October 14	Emergency Mail Ballot Period and In-Person Early Voting for the Election begins during normal business hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m at City Hall.
November 2	Emergency Mail Ballot and In-Person Early Voting for the Election ends at 4:00 p.m.
<b>November 3</b>	<b>Election Day - Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.</b>

## **Who is Eligible to be a Candidate?**

To file a Declaration of Candidacy for a local office, you must meet the following criteria:

- Be a registered and eligible voter from the City of Providence
- Reside within the ward for which you are declaring
- Be registered to vote from your residence at least 30 days prior to filing the Declaration of Candidacy

**\*Example:\*** If a resident wishes to run for City Council in Ward 10, they must be registered to vote at their Ward 10 residence and have been registered for at least 30 days before filing their Declaration of Candidacy.

## **Declaration of Candidacy**

The **Declaration of Candidacy** is a document that a registered and eligible voter completes and signs to initiate the process of becoming a candidate. By signing this document, the voter "declares" their candidacy for the eligible elected office.

### **Do I Need to File a Declaration of Candidacy to Run for Office?**

Yes, all candidates for elected office are required to file a Declaration of Candidacy.

### **Where Can I Obtain a Declaration of Candidacy Form?**

The Declaration of Candidacy form is available at [vote.ri.gov](http://vote.ri.gov) and can also be obtained from the local board of canvassers located at 25 Dorrance Street, Room 102, in Providence City Hall.

### **Where Should I File My Declaration of Candidacy Form?**

The Declaration of Candidacy must be submitted to the Providence board of canvassers on June 22, 23 and 24 at Providence City Hall, 25 Dorrance St, Suite 102. It cannot be filed before the 22nd and must be received by 4:00 p.m. on the 24th.

# Declaration of Candidacy

The undersigned hereby declares that they are eligible under the provisions of [Chapter 17-14](#) of the General Laws of 1956, as amended, to be a party candidate to be voted for at a Primary, or as an unaffiliated candidate to be voted for at the General Election and make the following declarations:

## Candidate Information (As it appears on the voting list - PRINT OR TYPE)

First Name	Middle Name or Initial	Last Name	Suffix
Street Address	City/Town	State	Zip Code
Date of Birth	Place of Birth (City/Town and State)	Email	
Length of Residence in Rhode Island	Length of Residence in City or Town	Phone Number	

## File Declaration As Declaration for Party Candidate

## Declaration for Independent/Unaffiliated Candidate

Democrat     Non-Partisan Local Office    **OR**     Independent     Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Republican

Indicate Organization/Political Principle represented. Cannot be more than 3 words and cannot contain the words "Democrat", "No Labels", or "Republican".

## Title of Office (Check only one office on this form and enter the district number if applicable)

### Federal Offices:

Senator in Congress  
 Representative in Congress District \_\_\_\_\_

### State Offices:

Senator in General Assembly District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Senatorial District Committee District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Representative in General Assembly District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Representative District Committee District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Democratic State Committeeman District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Democratic State Committeewoman District \_\_\_\_\_

### Statewide Offices:

Governor  
 Lt. Governor  
 Secretary of State  
 General Treasurer  
 Attorney General

### Local Offices:

\_\_\_\_\_ Ward/District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title of local office being sought

## Candidate Certification

I hereby certify that I am not now imprisoned upon a felony conviction, nor have I been lawfully adjudicated to be non compos mentis (of unsound mind); and (if a party candidate) I have not been a member of a political party other than the declared party within ninety (90) days of filing date.

If a candidate for state or local office, I hereby certify that I have not within the preceding three (3) years served any sentence, incarcerated or suspended, on probation or parole, for a crime committed after November 5, 1988 upon a plea of nolo contendere or guilty or upon a conviction of a felony or for a misdemeanor for which a sentence of imprisonment for six (6) months or more, whether suspended or to be served was imposed.

By signing and filing this Declaration of Candidacy, it is my express intention to withdraw any and all declarations of candidacy that I previously filed for any state or local public office during this current declaration period. I do so with full knowledge that any previously filed Declaration of Candidacy shall become null and void.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate as it appears on voting list

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Ballot Information (Clearly print your legal name as you would like it to appear on the ballot)

- Nicknames are not acceptable.
- Include any capitalization, punctuation, spaces, and suffix in the spelling of your name.
- You must go on the ballot as your first and last name appears on the voting list.
- You may shorten your middle name on the ballot. For example, if you are registered as Jane Mary Doe, you can appear on the ballot as Jane M. Doe.

Name as it will appear on the ballot: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nomination papers** are the forms on which you will obtain valid signatures, which are signatures of registered voters from the designated area you seek to represent and who are eligible to vote for the office you are seeking. To qualify to appear on the ballot, you are required to get a set number of valid signatures on your nomination papers.

**Who needs nomination papers?**

All candidates for elected office require nomination papers. If you are an endorsed political party candidate for a Ward Committee you do not require nomination papers.

**When and where do I pick up my nomination papers?**

You may pick up your nomination papers from the Providence Board of Canvassers' office located in City Hall, 25 Dorrance St, Suite 102, starting on June 30, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

**How many signatures are required on nomination papers to qualify for local elected office?**

Office	Required Signatures
Mayor	500
City Council	50
Unendorsed Ward Committee	50

As nomination papers are received and signatures are verified and validated, the number of valid signatures for each candidate is entered into a database. This information will be updated during the nomination paper certification process and posted live on **vote.ri.gov**.

**When and where are my nomination papers due?** Nomination papers must be returned by 4:00 p.m. on July 10<sup>th</sup> to the Providence Board of Canvassers, City Hall Suite 102, 25 Dorrance St. **This is also the last day to get signatures.**

# Nomination Papers



State of Rhode Island  
**DEMOCRAT NOMINATION PAPER**  
 Federal Offices

Form #   
 Total # of Validated Signatures   
 10912

**DUE TO THE LOCAL BOARD OF CANVASSERS BY Thursday 01/11/2024, 04:00PM**

TITLE OF OFFICE	DISTRICT #	NAME OF CANDIDATE	RESIDENCE (NUMBER & STREET)

Each of the signers of this paper by so signing their name (as it appears on the voting list) severally certifies that they are a voter in the area from and for which the above-named candidates(s) seek to be elected.

- Only registered and qualified voters from the City/Town listed below should sign this nomination paper.
- If a voter from another City/Town signs this form, the signature will be disqualified.
- This nomination paper must be filed at the City/Town listed below. Another City/Town cannot accept this form.

Signers of this nomination paper are from the City or Town of \_\_\_\_\_.

Print Voter's Name (print legibly)	Voter's Residence (Number & Street)	Voter's Signature	BOC Code*
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
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31.			
32.			

SAMPLE NOT TO BE USED

**\*FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

BOC Disposition Codes: A = Accepted B = Blank line D = Duplicate N = Not registered/found NE = Not eligible S = Signature does not match WD = Wrong District

	PRINT VOTER'S NAME (Print legibly)	VOTER'S RESIDENCE (Number and Street)	VOTER'S SIGNATURE	BOC CODE*
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				

\* FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

SAMPLE NOT TO BE USED

NOMINATION PAPER CERTIFICATIONS		
<p><b>AFFIDAVIT OF SIGNATURES OBTAINED</b></p> <p>I, _____, of the City/Town of _____ under oath, make affidavit and say that</p> <p>Signature _____</p> <p>Residence Address _____</p> <p>City/Town and State _____</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #ccc;">Received Date Stamp for City/Town</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOTARY PUBLIC</b></p> <p>State of Rhode Island County of _____ Subscribed and sworn to before me on _____ day of _____, 20____.</p> <p>Signature of Notary Public _____</p> <p>Printed Name of Notary Public _____</p> <p>Notary Public ID Number _____</p> <p>Date Commission Expires _____</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #ccc;">Notary Public Ink Stamp Only</p>	<p><b>BOARD OF CANVASSERS CERTIFICATION</b></p> <p>The undersigned certify that _____ of the within signatures are names of qualified electors in the City/Town of _____.</p> <p>Board of Canvassers' Signature _____</p> <p>Board of Canvassers' Signature _____</p> <p>Board of Canvassers' Signature _____</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #ccc;">Received Date Stamp for RI DOS</p>

This is the signature of the person that obtained the signatures on each form

BOC Disposition Codes: A = Accepted B = Blank line D = Duplicate N = Not registered/Found NE = Not eligible S = Signature does not match WD = Wrong District

### **If I file a Declaration of Candidacy, can I decide not to run?**

Yes, but you must file a withdrawal of candidacy with the local board of canvassers.

### **When and where do I file a withdrawal of candidacy?**

Your withdrawal of candidacy must be filed with the local board of canvassers by 4:00 p.m. on July 13th.

## Ballot Placement

**Ballot Placement** is the process of determining the order of the qualifying candidates' names on the ballot.

### **Is there a primary for the local elected office I am seeking?**

A primary election is held when more than one candidate from the same political party qualifies as a candidate for that local office.

### **How is my ballot placement determined if I am a candidate in the primary?**

The order in which you will appear on the primary ballot is determined by rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State. Endorsed candidates for the office will be listed first unendorsed will follow alphabetically.

### **How is my ballot placement determined if I am a candidate in the general election?**

The order in which you will appear on the general election ballot is determined by the party placement lottery conducted by the Secretary of State. Independent candidates will be listed after the party candidates in order by lottery conducted by the Providence Board of Canvassers.

Title 17, Chapter 25 of the Rhode Island General Laws entitled “Rhode Island Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act” governs campaign finance. The Campaign Finance Division of the State Board of Elections administers this chapter of the Rhode Island General Laws. The State Board of Elections also promulgates rules and regulations regarding campaign finance.

The Campaign Finance Division provides information relative to campaign finance reporting requirements as well as information on contribution and expenditure limits and restrictions relative to financing a campaign.

For further information regarding campaign finance, contact:

State Board of Elections  
2000 Plainfield Pike | Cranston, RI 02921  
Phone: 401-222-2345 Fax: 401-222-4424  
Email: [campaign.finance@elections.ri.gov](mailto:campaign.finance@elections.ri.gov)  
Website: [elections.ri.gov](http://elections.ri.gov)

## Ethic Commission

All candidates running for state or municipal elected office are REQUIRED to file a financial disclosure statement with the Rhode Island Ethics Commission, covering the prior calendar year. See R.I.G.L. § 36-14-16(c). This disclosure must be filed within thirty (30) days of filing a Notice of Organization (CF-1) or a Declaration of Candidacy, whichever occurs first.

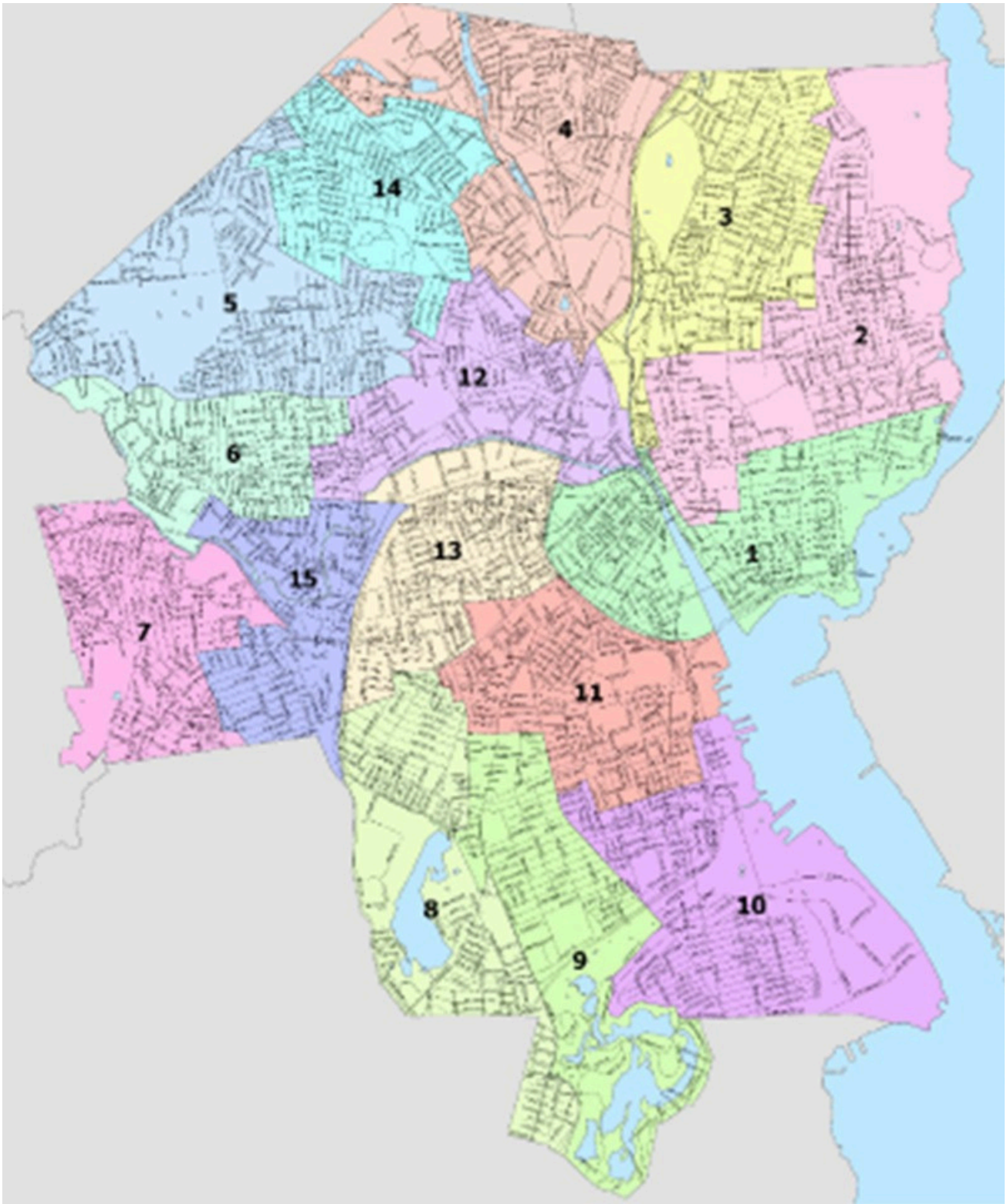
- The Ethics Commission strongly recommends online filing because it is simpler and faster than submitting a hard copy, and they will automatically email you a receipt and copy of your completed online form at [ethics.ri.gov](http://ethics.ri.gov).

To file online for the first time, you must contact the Ethics Commission (401-222-3790) to obtain a PIN# and I.D.

- Hard Copy: If you do not wish to file online, you may obtain a hard copy of the financial disclosure form and file it via regular mail or hand delivery to the Ethics Commission office. To obtain a copy of the form contact the Ethics Commission.

### **Rhode Island Ethics Commission**

40 Fountain Street | Providence, RI 02903  
Email: [ethics.email@ethics.ri.gov](mailto:ethics.email@ethics.ri.gov) | Website: <https://ethics.ri.gov>  
Phone: 401-222-3790



**Ballot Placement**

The order in which candidates' names appear on the primary or general election ballot. Placement is determined by state rules or by a lottery conducted by the Providence Board of Canvassers.

**Board of Canvassers (BoC)**

The local office is responsible for voter registration, local candidate filings, nomination paper certification, ballot placement lotteries for local independent candidates, and election administration for municipal offices.

**Campaign Finance**

The laws, rules, and reporting requirements that regulate campaign contributions and expenditures. These are overseen by the Rhode Island Board of Elections.

**Candidate Eligibility**

The legal requirements a person must meet to run for local office. This includes being a registered voter in Providence and residing in the ward of the office being sought.

**Declaration of Candidacy**

The official form that an individual must file to declare their intention to run for a local office. This document must be submitted during the state-defined filing period.

**Emergency Mail Ballot**

A ballot is available to voters who are unable to vote in person on Election Day due to unforeseen circumstances. This period also aligns with in-person early voting at City Hall.

**Ethics Commission Filing**

Are required annual financial disclosure statement filed with the Rhode Island Ethics Commission within 30 days of becoming a candidate or forming a campaign organization.

**General Election**

The election held to determine the final officeholder for each race. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**In-Person Early Voting**

The period before Election Day, during which voters may cast ballots at City Hall during regular business hours.

**Mail Ballot Application**

The form submitted by a voter to request a mail-in ballot. Applications must be received by the deadlines set for both the primary and general election.

**Nomination Papers**

The official documents used to collect signatures from registered voters who are eligible to vote for the office being sought. A required number of valid signatures must be submitted and verified to qualify for the ballot.

**Primary Election**

An election held when more than one candidate from the same political party qualifies for the same office. Determines which candidate will represent the party on the November ballot.

**Qualified Voter**

A Providence voter registered to vote at their current address who is eligible to sign nomination papers or vote in an election for the relevant ward.

**Signature Certification**

The review and validation of signatures collected on nomination papers by the Board of Canvassers to determine whether a candidate has met the required number of valid signatures.

**Ward**

The geographic district within the City of Providence represented by an elected City Council member. Candidates must reside in the ward of the office they are seeking.

**Ward Committee**

A political party committee operating within a ward. Endorsed ward committee candidates do not require nomination papers.

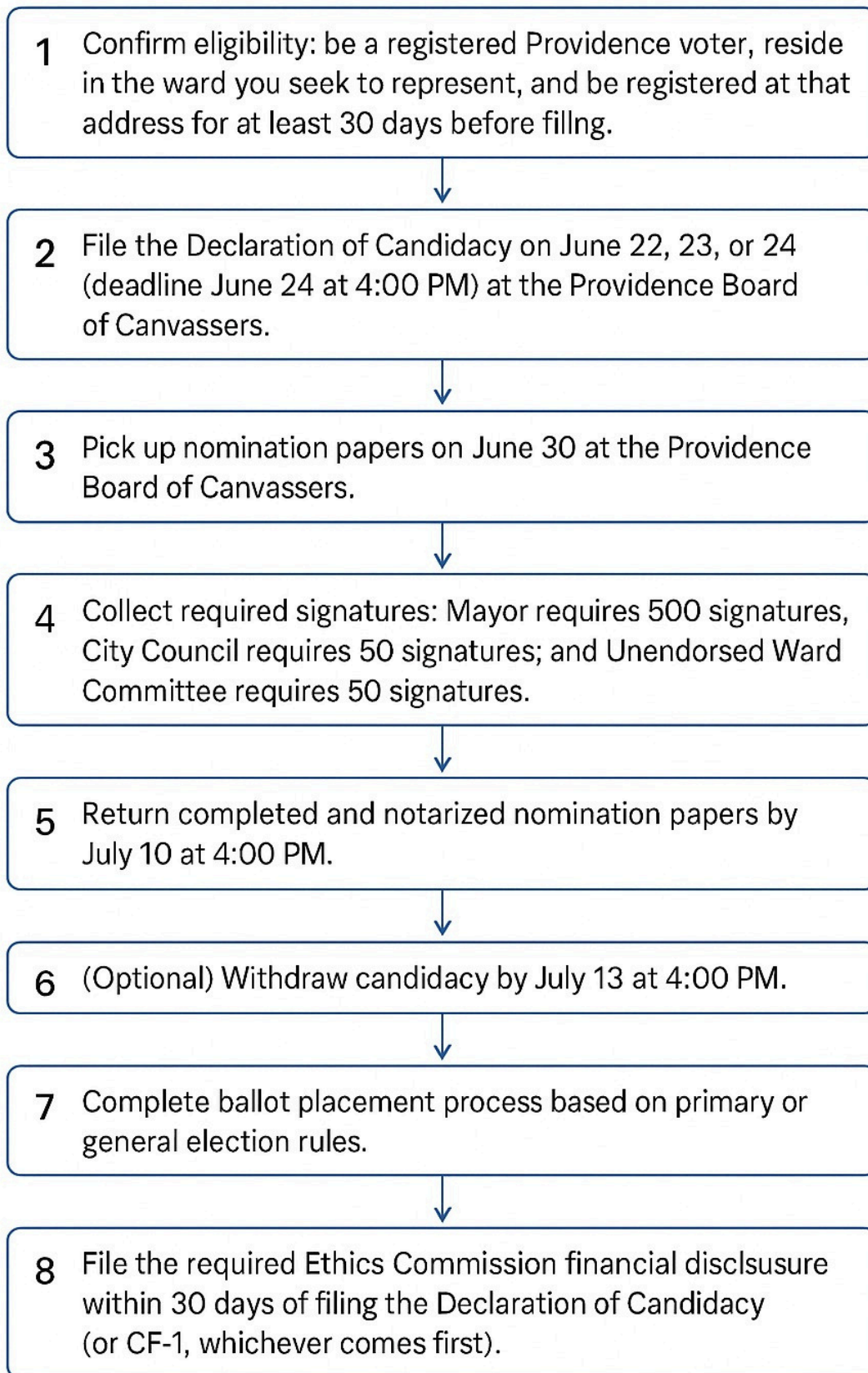
**Withdrawal of Candidacy**

The formal written withdrawal filed with the Board of Canvassers by the deadline if a candidate chooses not to run after filing a Declaration of Candidacy.

## Candidate Qualification Checklist - Providence Local Office (2026)

- Confirm I am a registered Providence voter.
- Confirm I live in the ward of the office I want to run for.
- Confirm I have been registered at that address for at least 30 days before June 22.
- File my Declaration of Candidacy on June 22, 23, or 24.
- Ensure the Declaration is submitted by June 24 at 4:00 PM at the Board of Canvassers.
- Pick up nomination papers on June 30 at the Board of Canvassers.
- Collect required signatures:
  - 500 signatures if running for Mayor
  - 50 signatures if running for City Council
  - 50 signatures if running for Unendorsed Ward Committee
- Have all nomination papers notarized.
- Return nomination papers by July 10 at 4:00 PM.
- (Optional) File withdrawal of candidacy by July 13 at 4:00 PM if needed.
- Ballot placement process takes place for name to appear on the primary or general election ballots.
- File Ethics Commission Financial Disclosure within 30 days of filing the Declaration of Candidacy (or CF-1).
- Review and follow all campaign finance requirements through the RI Board of Elections.

# The Candidate Process



Creating a voting plan is a great way to ensure that you participate in elections with ease and confidence. Here's a step-by-step guide for a voter in Providence:

- 1.Registration Status:** First, confirm that you are registered to vote. You can check your registration status and update your information on the Rhode Island Secretary of State's website ([vote.ri.gov](http://vote.ri.gov))
- 2.Know the Election Date:** Familiarize yourself with the election date and mark it on your calendar. Be sure to check if there are any local, state, or national elections coming up.
- 3.Choose Your Voting Method:** Decide whether you'll vote in person on Election Day, vote early in person, or vote by mail. Rhode Island offers early voting and mail-in voting options.
- 4.Voting Location:** If voting in person, find your designated polling place. This information is available on the Secretary of State's website ([vote.ri.gov](http://vote.ri.gov))
- 5.Research the Ballot:** Review who and what is on the ballot. Research candidates and referendum questions so you are prepared to make informed choices.
- 6.Transportation and Time:** Plan how you'll get to your polling place. Consider public transportation, carpooling, or walking. Allocate enough time in your schedule to accommodate possible lines.
- 7.Gather Required Identification:** Rhode Island requires a valid photo ID to vote. Ensure you have an acceptable form of ID ready.
- 8.Vote!:** On the day you choose to vote, whether with a mail ballot, early in-person or on Election Day, make sure to exercise your right to vote.

Having a plan helps ensure a smooth voting experience and contributes to the democratic process.

# Who to call?

Call the Providence BoC with questions regarding your voter registration and questions regarding running for local office



**Providence Board of Canvassers (BoC)**  
25 Dorrance Street, Suite 102  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 680-5525  
[elections@providenceri.gov](mailto:elections@providenceri.gov)  
[providenceri.gov/board-of-canvassers/](http://providenceri.gov/board-of-canvassers/)

Call the Elections Division for questions about your mail ballot and questions about state referendum questions

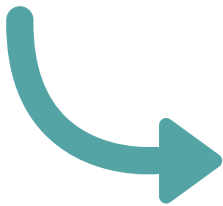


**RI Department of State - Election Division**  
148 West River Street  
Providence, RI 02904  
(401) 222-2340  
[elections@sos.ri.gov](mailto:elections@sos.ri.gov)  
[vote.sos.ri.gov](http://vote.sos.ri.gov)

Call the BOE with questions your returned mail ballot, campaign finance questions, election day operations and election results



**RI Board of Elections (BOE)**  
2000 Plainfield Pike  
Cranston, RI 02920  
(401) 222-2345  
[elections.email@elections.ri.gov](mailto:elections.email@elections.ri.gov)  
[elections.ri.gov](http://elections.ri.gov)



Visit **[vote.ri.gov](http://vote.ri.gov)** for all election information

