

PRECINCT DELEGATE AFFIDAVIT OF IDENTITY

Beginning, January 1, 2014, a candidate who seeks a precinct delegate position must file an Affidavit of Identity with his or her county clerk no later than 4:00 p.m. on the thirteenth Tuesday prior to the August primary. (MCL 168.624)

A. CHANGE OF NAME

Michigan election law, MCL 168.558, stipulates that a candidate who is “not using a name, whether a given name, a surname, or otherwise, that is not a name that he or she was given at birth” must indicate his or her full former name on the Affidavit of Identity. The requirement to indicate a name change on the Affidavit of Identity does *not* apply if:

- The candidate’s name was formally changed 10 or more years ago.
- The candidate’s name was changed in a Certificate of Naturalization issued by a federal district court 10 or more years ago.
- The candidate’s name was changed because of marriage.
- The candidate’s name was changed through divorce to a “legal name by which the individual was previously known.”

Michigan election law provides that a candidate required to indicate a name change on the Affidavit of Identity must be listed on the ballot “with his or her current name and former name as prescribed by the Secretary of State.” (MCL 168.560b)

B. APPEARANCE OF NAME ON BALLOT

Michigan election law provides the following stipulations regarding the manner in which a candidate can have his or her name printed on the ballot:

- A candidate “may specify that both his or her given name and middle name, or only a middle name, shall appear on the ballot.”
- A candidate “may specify that either an initial or a recognized diminutive for the candidate’s given name or middle name, or for both, shall appear on the ballot.”
- A candidate may *not* use a “nickname that is not a recognized diminutive of the candidate’s given name or middle name” on the ballot.
- A married person may *not* use his or her spouse’s given name, middle name or a diminutive of his or her spouse’s given name or middle name on the ballot.
- A candidate may specify a name that constitutes a common law name in accordance with Michigan Department of State Guidelines.

C. MAILING ADDRESS

A candidate who wishes to receive communications from his or her filing official at an address other than his or her residential address should enter a “mailing address” where indicated. (Note: A candidate may list a P.O. Box for his or her “mailing address”; a candidate may *not* list a P.O. Box for his or her residential address.)

D. WITHDRAWAL OF FILING

A precinct delegate candidate who wishes to withdraw his or her filing must submit a written withdrawal statement to the filing official no later than 4:00 p.m. on the third day after the filing deadline.

For more information regarding filing for office visit the Michigan Department of State – Bureau of Elections website at www.michigan.gov/elections and click on Information for Candidates or use the QR code to the right.

