

**MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 116 of 1954**

**PREPARATION AND FILING OF NOMINATING PETITIONS; FEES**

**168.542 Nominating petitions; provisions governing.**

Sec. 542. The printing of the name of any person as a candidate for nomination by any political party for any office except a city or village under the particular party heading upon the official ballots for any primary election held in this state shall be obtained by following the provisions as set forth in the chapters of this act relative to the respective offices.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955.

**Popular name:** Election Code

**168.543, 168.544 Repealed. 1965, Act 312, Eff. Jan. 1, 1966.**

**Compiler's note:** The repealed sections prescribed requirements for primary election nominating petitions.

**Popular name:** Election Code

**168.544a Nonpartisan nominating petitions; size, form, contents.**

Sec. 544a. The form, size and contents of all nonpartisan nominating petitions shall be the same as is provided in section 544c for partisan nominating petitions, except that under the heading "nominating petition" shall be printed in 12-point type the word "nonpartisan". The petition shall contain no reference to any political party.

**History:** Add. 1960, Act 23, Eff. Aug. 17, 1960;—Am. 1965, Act 312, Eff. Jan. 1, 1966.

**Popular name:** Election Code

**168.544b Candidates for judicial office; affidavit of qualifications to be filed with nominating petitions.**

Sec. 544b. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person shall not qualify as a candidate for any judicial office of this state unless the person files an affidavit with his or her nominating petitions on a form prescribed by the secretary of state stating that he or she possesses the constitutional qualifications set forth in section 19 of article VI of the state constitution.

(2) In cases where candidates for judicial office are nominated at political party conventions, the chairperson and secretary of the party shall file the affidavit with the secretary of state not more than 1 business day after the conclusion of the convention.

**History:** Add. 1963, 2nd Ex. Sess., Act 57, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 1963;—Am. 1999, Act 216, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 1999.

**Popular name:** Election Code

**168.544c Nominating petition; type size; form; contents; circulation and signing; validity of elector's signature; agreement of circulator to accept jurisdiction; service with legal process; violations; misdemeanor; felony; sanctions; refusal of individual to comply with subpoena; applicability of section to all sections.**

Sec. 544c. (1) A nominating petition must be 8-1/2 inches by 14 inches in size. On a nominating petition, the words "nominating petition" must be printed in 24-point boldface type. "We, the undersigned," et cetera must be printed in 8-point type. "Warning" and language in the warning must be printed in 12-point boldface type. The balance of the petition must be printed in 8-point type. The name, address, and party affiliation of the candidate and the office for which petitions are signed must be printed in type not larger than 24-point. The petition must be in the following form:

**NOMINATING PETITION  
(PARTISAN)**

We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters  
of the city or township of ..... , in the county

(strike 1)

of ..... and state of Michigan, nominate,

..... ,

(Name of Candidate)

..... ,

(Street Address or Rural Route) (City or Township)

as a candidate of the ..... party for the office of ..... ,

.....,

(District, if any)

to be voted for at the primary election to be held on the ..... day of ..... , 20 .....

**WARNING**

A person who knowingly signs more petitions for the same office than there are persons to be elected to the office, signs a petition more than once, or signs a name other than his or her own is violating the provisions of the Michigan election law.

Printed Name and Signature	Street Address or Rural Route	Zip Code	Mo.	Date of Signing Day	Year
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					

numbered lines as above

**CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR**

The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen; that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence; that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once; and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a registered elector of the city or township listed in the heading of the petition, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

Circulator—Do not sign or date certificate until after circulating petition.

If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross or check mark on the line provided, otherwise each signature on this petition sheet is invalid and the signatures will not be counted by a filing official. By making a cross or check mark on the line provided, the undersigned circulator asserts that he or she is not a resident of Michigan and agrees to accept the jurisdiction of this state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that concerns a petition sheet executed by the circulator and agrees that legal process served on the secretary of state or a designated agent of the secretary of state has the same effect as if personally served on the circulator.

(Printed Name and Signature of Circulator) (Date)

(Complete Residence Address (Street and Number or Rural Route)) Do not enter a post office box

(City or Township, State, Zip Code)

(County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan)

Warning—A circulator knowingly making a false statement in the above certificate, a person not a circulator who signs as a circulator, or a person who signs a name other than his or her own as circulator is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) The petition must be in a form providing a space for the circulator and each elector who signs the petition to print his or her name. The secretary of state shall prescribe the location of the space for the printed name. The failure of the circulator or an elector who signs the petition to print his or her name, to print his or her name in the location prescribed by the secretary of state, or to enter a zip code or his or her correct zip code does not affect the validity of the signature of the circulator or the elector who signs the petition. A printed name located in the space prescribed for printed names does not constitute the signature of the circulator or elector. If an elector does not include his or her signature, his or her street address or rural route, or the date of signing on the petition as required under subsection (1), the elector's signature is invalid and must not be counted by a filing official.

(3) If the circulator of a petition under section 482, a qualifying petition for an office named in section 590b(4), or a petition to form a new political party under section 685 is not a resident of this state, the

circulator shall indicate where provided on the certificate of circulator that he or she agrees to accept the jurisdiction of this state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing initiated under section 476, 552, 590f(2), or 685 that concerns a petition sheet executed by the circulator and agrees that legal process served on the secretary of state or a designated agent of the secretary of state has the same effect as if personally served on the circulator.

(4) If the secretary of state or a designated agent of the secretary of state is served with legal process as described in subsection (3), the secretary of state shall promptly notify the circulator by personal service or certified mail at the circulator's residential address as indicated in the certificate of circulator.

(5) The circulator of a petition shall sign and date the certificate of circulator before the petition is filed. A circulator shall not obtain electors' signatures after the circulator has signed and dated the certificate of circulator. A filing official shall not count electors' signatures that were obtained after the date the circulator signed the certificate or that are contained in a petition that the circulator did not sign and date.

(6) Except as provided in section 544d, a petition sheet must not be circulated in more than 1 city or township and each signer of a petition sheet must be a registered elector of the city or township indicated in the heading of the petition sheet. The invalidity of 1 or more signatures on a petition does not affect the validity of the remainder of the signatures on the petition.

(7) An individual shall not sign more nominating petitions for the same office than there are persons to be elected to the office. An individual who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(8) An individual shall not do any of the following:

- (a) Sign a petition with a name other than his or her own.
- (b) Make a false statement in a certificate on a petition.
- (c) If not a circulator, sign a petition as a circulator.
- (d) Sign a name as circulator other than his or her own.

(9) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (10), an individual who violates subsection (8) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or imprisonment for not more than 93 days, or both.

(10) An individual shall not sign a petition with multiple names. An individual who violates this subsection is guilty of a felony.

(11) If after a canvass and a hearing on a petition under section 476 or 552 the board of state canvassers determines that an individual has knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with subsection (8) or (10), the board of state canvassers may impose 1 or more of the following sanctions:

(a) Disqualify obviously fraudulent signatures on a petition form on which the violation of subsection (8) or (10) occurred, without checking the signatures against local registration records.

(b) Disqualify from the ballot a candidate who committed, aided or abetted, or knowingly allowed the violation of subsection (8) or (10) on a petition to nominate that candidate.

(12) If an individual violates subsection (8) or (10) and the affected petition sheet is filed, each of the following who knew of the violation of subsection (8) or (10) before the filing of the affected petition sheet and who failed to report the violation to the secretary of state, the filing official, if different, the attorney general, a law enforcement officer, or the county prosecuting attorney is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both:

- (a) The circulator of the petition, if different than the individual who violated subsection (8) or (10).
- (b) If the petition is a nominating petition, the candidate whose nomination is sought.
- (c) If the petition is a petition for a ballot question or recall, the organization or other person sponsoring the petition drive.

(13) If after a canvass and a hearing on a petition under section 476 or 552 the board of state canvassers determines that an individual has violated subsection (12), the board of state canvassers may impose 1 or more of the following sanctions:

(a) Impose on the organization or other person sponsoring the petition drive an administrative fine of not more than \$5,000.00.

(b) Charge the organization or other person sponsoring the petition drive for the costs of canvassing a petition form on which a violation of subsection (8) or (10) occurred.

(c) Disqualify an organization or other person described in subdivision (a) from collecting signatures on a petition for a period of not more than 4 years.

(d) Disqualify obviously fraudulent signatures on a petition form on which a violation of subsection (8) or (10) occurred without checking the signatures against local registration records.

(e) Disqualify from the ballot a candidate who committed, aided or abetted, or knowingly allowed a violation of subsection (8) or (10) on a petition to nominate that candidate.

(14) If an individual refuses to comply with a subpoena of the board of state canvassers in an investigation

of an alleged violation of subsection (8), (10), or (12), the board may hold the canvass of the petitions in abeyance until the individual complies.

(15) A person who aids or abets another in an act that is prohibited by this section is guilty of that act.

(16) The provisions of this section except as otherwise expressly provided apply to all petitions circulated under authority of the election law.

**History:** Add. 1965, Act 312, Eff. Jan. 1, 1966;—Am. 1972, Act 22, Imd. Eff. Feb. 19, 1972;—Am. 1982, Act 408, Eff. Mar. 30, 1983;—Am. 1989, Act 142, Imd. Eff. June 29, 1989;—Am. 1990, Act 329, Imd. Eff. Dec. 21, 1990;—Am. 1993, Act 137, Eff. Jan. 1, 1994;—Am. 1999, Act 219, Eff. Mar. 10, 2000;—Am. 2002, Act 431, Imd. Eff. June 6, 2002;—Am. 2014, Act 94, Imd. Eff. Apr. 3, 2014;—Am. 2014, Act 418, Imd. Eff. Dec. 30, 2014;—Am. 2018, Act 650, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 2018.

**Popular name:** Election Code

#### **168.544d Nominating petitions for offices and purposes; circulation; form; identification of city or township; certificate of circulator; other form not prohibited.**

Sec. 544d. Nominating petitions for the offices under this act and petitions for a local proposal may be circulated on a countywide form. Petitions circulated countywide must be on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, which form must be substantially as provided in sections 482, 544a, or 544c, whichever is applicable. The secretary of state may provide for a petition form larger than 8-1/2 inches by 13 inches and shall provide for identification of the city or township in which the person signing the petition is registered. The certificate of the circulator may be on the reverse side of the petition. This section does not prohibit the circulation of petitions on another form prescribed by this act.

**History:** Add. 1975, Act 327, Imd. Eff. Jan. 12, 1976;—Am. 1988, Act 114, Imd. Eff. May 2, 1988;—Am. 1988, Act 116, Imd. Eff. May 2, 1988;—Am. 1999, Act 218, Eff. Mar. 10, 2000;—Am. 2018, Act 608, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 2018.

**Compiler's note:** Section 2 of Act 116 of 1988 provides:

“If any portion of this amendatory act or the application of this amendatory act to any person or circumstances shall be found to be invalid by a court, the invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions or applications of this amendatory act which can be given effect without the invalid portion or application, if the remaining portions are not determined by the court to be inoperable, and to this end this amendatory act is declared to be severable.”

**Popular name:** Election Code

#### **168.544e Canvassing petitions; number designations for months.**

Sec. 544e. When canvassing petitions filed pursuant to this act, the official canvassing the petitions shall accept number designations for the months of the year in lieu of the names of the months.

**History:** Add. 1975, Act 327, Imd. Eff. Jan. 12, 1976.

**Popular name:** Election Code

#### **168.544f Number of signatures required.**

Sec. 544f. The number of signatures of qualified and registered electors necessary for nominating petitions under this act, based upon the population of the district involved according to the most recent federal census, is as follows:

Population	Partisan Petition	Non Partisan Petition	Qualifying Petition			
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
0 - 9,999	3	10	6	20	9	30
10,000 - 24,999	20	50	40	100	60	150
25,000 - 49,999	50	100	100	200	150	300
50,000 - 74,999	100	200	200	400	300	600
75,000 - 99,999	200	400	400	800	600	1,200
100,000 - 199,999	300	500	600	1,000	900	1,500
200,000 - 499,999	500	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,500	3,000

500,000 - 999,999	1,000	2,000	2,000	4,000	3,000	6,000
1,000,000 - 1,999,999	2,000	4,000	4,000	8,000	6,000	12,000
2,000,000 - 4,999,999	4,000	8,000	6,200	12,000	12,000	24,000
Over 5 million (statewide)	15,000	30,000	30,000	60,000	30,000	60,000

**History:** Add. 1999, Act 218, Eff. Mar. 10, 2000.

**Popular name:** Election Code

#### **168.545 Nominating petitions; combination of two offices.**

Sec. 545. In those instances in which the duties of 2 offices are combined, all nominating petitions shall include and name the 2 offices.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955.

**Popular name:** Election Code

#### **168.546 Nominating petitions; supply by county and city clerks; printing by candidate.**

Sec. 546. The various county clerks and city clerks shall prepare and keep on hand blank forms of nominating petitions for use of the electors and candidates in said city or county. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit any candidate from having his own nominating petitions printed, but they must comply substantially with the above form.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955.

**Popular name:** Election Code

#### **168.547 Repealed. 1965, Act 312, Eff. Jan. 1, 1966.**

**Compiler's note:** The repealed section made it unlawful for voter to sign more than one nominating petition for the same office.

**Popular name:** Election Code

#### **168.547a Nominating petitions; signatures by voters, number, counting.**

Sec. 547a. If a qualified and registered voter signs nominating petitions for a greater number of candidates for public office than the number of persons to be elected thereto, his signatures, if they bear the same date, shall not be counted upon any petition, and if they bear different dates shall be counted in the order of their priority of date for only so many candidates as there are persons to be elected.

**History:** Add. 1959, Act 44, Eff. Mar. 19, 1960.

**Popular name:** Election Code

#### **168.548 Nominating petitions; maximum number of signatures.**

Sec. 548. It shall be unlawful for any candidate to wilfully and intentionally procure more names upon nominating petitions than the maximum number prescribed in this act.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955.

**Popular name:** Election Code

#### **168.549 Nominating petitions; excess signatures, counting.**

Sec. 549. If any nominating petitions contain more than the necessary percentage of names, the excess over 1% shall neither be considered nor counted.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955.

**Popular name:** Election Code

#### **168.550 Candidates for nomination; qualification upon compliance with act.**

Sec. 550. No candidate shall have his name printed upon any official primary election ballot of any political party in any voting precinct in this state unless he shall have filed nominating petitions according to the provisions of this act, and all other requirements of this act have been complied within his behalf, except

in those counties qualifying candidates upon the payment of fees.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955.

**Popular name:** Election Code

**168.551 Nominating petitions or filing fees; filing period.**

Sec. 551. Until December 31, 2013, the secretary of state and the various county, township, and city clerks shall receive nominating petitions or filing fees filed under this act up to 4 p.m., eastern standard time, of the twelfth Tuesday before the August primary. Beginning January 1, 2014, the secretary of state and the various county, township, and city clerks shall receive nominating petitions or filing fees filed under this act up to 4 p.m., eastern standard time, of the fifteenth Tuesday before the August primary. The provisions of this section do not apply to a city that does not nominate its officers under the provisions of this act.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955;—Am. 1955, Act 271, Imd. Eff. June 30, 1955;—Am. 1963, 2nd Ex. Sess., Act 57, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 1963;—Am. 1990, Act 7, Imd. Eff. Feb. 12, 1990;—Am. 2012, Act 276, Eff. Aug. 16, 2012.

**Popular name:** Election Code

**168.551a Repealed. 1956, Act 37, Imd. Eff. Mar. 28, 1956.**

**Compiler's note:** The repealed section provided for contents and filing of nominating petitions at any nonpartisan judicial primary.

**Popular name:** Election Code

**168.552 Nominating petitions; certification by county or city clerk; sworn complaint; investigation to determine validity of signatures and genuineness of petition; examination of petitions; declaration of sufficiency or insufficiency of petitions; review; filing of nominating petitions with secretary of state; notification; canvass of petitions; hearing; subpoenas; oaths; adjournment; completion of canvass; availability to public; declaration; request for notice of approval or rejection of petition; judicial review; use of qualified voter file; certification to boards of election commissioners.**

Sec. 552. (1) The county or city clerk, after the last day specified in this act for receiving and filing nominating petitions, shall immediately certify to the proper board or boards of election commissioners in the city, county, district, or state the name and post office address of each party candidate whose petitions meet the requirements of this act, together with the name of the political party and the office for which he or she is a candidate.

(2) If the county clerk receives a sworn complaint, in writing, questioning the registration or genuineness of the signature of the circulator or of a person signing a petition filed with the county clerk for an office, the county clerk shall commence an investigation. The county clerk shall cause the petition that he or she considers necessary to be forwarded to the proper city clerk or township clerk to compare the signatures appearing on the petition with the signatures appearing on the registration record as required by subsection (13). The county clerk may conduct the signature comparisons as required by subsection (13) using the digitized signatures in the qualified voter file, in lieu of requesting the local clerk to conduct the signature comparison. If the request has been made by the county clerk, the city clerk or township clerk shall complete the investigation and report his or her findings to the county clerk within 7 days after the request. The investigation shall include the validity of the signatures and the genuineness of a petition as is specified in the sworn complaint and may include any other doubtful signatures or petitions filed on behalf of the candidate against whose petitions the sworn complaint is directed, as the county clerk considers necessary. The county clerk is not required to act on a complaint respecting the validity and genuineness of signatures on a petition unless the complaint sets forth the specific signatures claimed to be invalid and the specific petition for which the complaint questions the validity and genuineness of the signature or registration of the circulator, and unless the complaint is received by the county clerk within 7 days after the deadline for the filing of the nominating petitions.

(3) In addition to the duty specified in subsection (2) for the examination of petitions, the county clerk, on his or her own initiative, on receipt of the nominating petitions, may examine the petitions, and if after examination the county clerk is in doubt as to the validity of the registration or genuineness of the signature of the circulator or persons signing or purported to have signed the petitions, the county clerk shall commence an investigation. Subject to subsection (13), the county clerk shall cause the petitions in question to be forwarded to the proper city clerk or township clerk to compare the signatures appearing on the petitions with the signatures appearing on the registration records. The county clerk may conduct the signature comparisons as required by subsection (13) using the digitized signatures in the qualified voter file, in lieu of requesting the local clerk to conduct the signature comparison.

(4) The clerk of a political subdivision shall cooperate fully with the county clerk in a request made to the clerk by the county clerk in determining the validity of doubtful signatures by checking the signatures against registration records in an expeditious and proper manner.

(5) At least 2 business days before the county clerk makes a final determination on challenges to and sufficiency of a petition, the county clerk shall make public its staff report concerning disposition of challenges filed against the petition. Beginning with the receipt of any document from local election officials under subsection (2) or (3), the county clerk shall make that document available to petitioners and challengers on a daily basis.

(6) Upon the completion of the investigation or examination, the county clerk shall immediately make an official declaration of the sufficiency or insufficiency of nominating petitions for which a sworn complaint has been received or of the sufficiency or insufficiency of nominating petitions that the county clerk has examined or investigated on his or her own initiative. A person feeling aggrieved by a determination made by the county clerk may have the determination reviewed by the secretary of state by filing a written request with the secretary of state within 3 days after the official declaration of the county clerk, unless the third day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, in which case the request may be filed not later than 4 p.m. on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. Alternatively, the aggrieved person may have the determination of the county clerk reviewed by filing a mandamus, certiorari, or other appropriate remedy in the circuit court. A person who filed a nominating petition and feels aggrieved by the determination of the secretary of state may then have that determination reviewed by mandamus, certiorari, or other appropriate remedy in the circuit court.

(7) A city clerk with whom nominating petitions are filed may examine the petitions and investigate the validity and genuineness of signatures appearing on the petitions. Subject to subsection (13), the city clerk may check the signatures against registration records. The city clerk shall make a determination as to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the petitions upon the completion of the examination or investigation, and shall make an official declaration of the findings. A person feeling aggrieved by the determination has the same rights of review as in case of a determination by the county clerk.

(8) Upon the filing of nominating petitions with the secretary of state, the secretary of state shall notify the board of state canvassers within 5 days after the last day for filing the petitions. The notification shall be by first-class mail. Upon the receipt of the nominating petitions, the board of state canvassers shall canvass the petitions to ascertain if the petitions have been signed by the requisite number of qualified and registered electors. Subject to subsection (13), for the purpose of determining the validity of the signatures, the board of state canvassers may cause a doubtful signature to be checked against the qualified voter file or the registration records by the clerk of a political subdivision in which the petitions were circulated. If the board of state canvassers receives a sworn complaint, in writing, questioning the registration of or the genuineness of the signature of the circulator or of a person signing a nominating petition filed with the secretary of state, the board of state canvassers shall commence an investigation. Subject to subsection (13), the board of state canvassers shall verify the registration or the genuineness of a signature as required by subsection (13). If the board is unable to verify the genuineness of a signature on a petition, the board shall cause the petition to be forwarded to the proper city clerk or township clerk to compare the signatures on the petition with the signatures on the registration record, or in some other manner determine whether the signatures on the petition are valid and genuine. The board of state canvassers is not required to act on a complaint respecting the validity and genuineness of signatures on a petition unless the complaint sets forth the specific signatures claimed to be invalid and the specific petition for which the complaint questions the validity and genuineness of the signature or the registration of the circulator, and unless the complaint is received by the board of state canvassers within 7 days after the deadline for filing the nominating petitions. After receiving a request from the board of state canvassers under this subsection, the clerk of a political subdivision shall cooperate fully in determining the validity of doubtful signatures by rechecking the signatures against registration records in an expeditious and proper manner. The board of state canvassers may extend the 7-day challenge period if it finds that the challenger did not receive a copy of each petition sheet that the challenger requested from the secretary of state. The extension of the challenge deadline under this subsection does not extend another deadline under this section.

(9) The board of state canvassers may hold a hearing upon a complaint filed or for a purpose considered necessary by the board of state canvassers to conduct an investigation of the petitions. In conducting a hearing, the board of state canvassers may issue subpoenas and administer oaths. The board of state canvassers may also adjourn periodically awaiting receipt of returns from investigations that are being made or for other necessary purposes, but shall complete the canvass not less than 9 weeks before the primary election at which candidates are to be nominated. Before making a final determination, the board of state canvassers may consider any deficiency found on the face of the petition that does not require verification

against data maintained in the qualified voter file or in the voter registration files maintained by a city or township clerk.

(10) At least 2 business days before the board of state canvassers meets to make a final determination on challenges to and sufficiency of a petition, the board shall make public its staff report concerning disposition of challenges filed against the petition. Beginning with the receipt of any document from local election officials under subsection (8), the board of state canvassers shall make that document available to candidates and challengers on a daily basis.

(11) An official declaration of the sufficiency or insufficiency of a nominating petition shall be made by the board of state canvassers not less than 60 days before the primary election at which candidates are to be nominated. At the time of filing a nominating petition with the secretary of state, the person filing the petition may request a notice of the approval or rejection of the petition. If a request is made at the time of filing the petition, the secretary of state, immediately upon the determination of approval or rejection, shall transmit by registered mail to the person making the request an official notice of the sufficiency or insufficiency of the petitions.

(12) A person who filed a nominating petition with the secretary of state and who feels aggrieved by a determination made by the board of state canvassers may have the determination reviewed by mandamus, certiorari, or other appropriate process in the supreme court.

(13) The qualified voter file may be used to determine the validity of petition signatures by verifying the registration of signers. If the qualified voter file indicates that, on the date the elector signed the petition, the elector was not registered to vote, there is a rebuttable presumption that the signature is invalid. If the qualified voter file indicates that, on the date the elector signed the petition, the elector was not registered to vote in the city or township designated on the petition, there is a rebuttable presumption that the signature is invalid. The qualified voter file shall be used to determine the genuineness of a signature on a petition. Signature comparisons shall be made with the digitized signatures in the qualified voter file. The county clerk or the board of state canvassers shall conduct the signature comparison using digitized signatures contained in the qualified voter file for their respective investigations. If the qualified voter file does not contain a digitized signature of an elector, the city or the township clerk shall compare the petition signature to the signature contained on the master card.

(14) Not less than 60 days before the primary election at which candidates are to be nominated, the secretary of state shall certify to the proper boards of election commissioners in the various counties in the state, the name and post office address of each partisan or nonpartisan candidate whose petitions have been filed with the secretary of state and meet the requirements of this act, together with the name of the political party, if any, and the office for which he or she is a candidate.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955;—Am. 1956, Act 125, Imd. Eff. Apr. 13, 1956;—Am. 1958, Act 25, Imd. Eff. Apr. 3, 1958;—Am. 1963, Act 193, Eff. Sept. 6, 1963;—Am. 1978, Act 338, Imd. Eff. July 11, 1978;—Am. 1990, Act 7, Imd. Eff. Feb. 12, 1990;—Am. 1999, Act 220, Eff. Mar. 10, 2000;—Am. 2003, Act 188, Imd. Eff. Oct. 31, 2003;—Am. 2005, Act 71, Eff. Jan. 1, 2007.

**Compiler's note:** Enacting section 4 of Act 71 of 2005 provides:

"Enacting section 4. If any portion of this amendatory act or the application of this amendatory act to any person or circumstances is found invalid by a court, the invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions or applications of this amendatory act that can be given effect without the invalid portion or application, if the remaining portions are not determined by the court to be inoperable, and to this end this amendatory act is declared to be severable."

**Popular name:** Election Code

### **168.552a Validity of petition or signature.**

Sec. 552a. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act to the contrary, a petition or a signature is not invalid solely because the designation of city or township has not been made on the petition form if a city and an adjoining township have the same name.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act to the contrary, if a person who signs a petition uses his or her mailing address on the petition and that mailing address incorporates the political jurisdiction in which the person is registered to vote, that signature shall be counted if the signature is otherwise determined to be genuine and valid under this act.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 28, 1996.

**Popular name:** Election Code

### **168.553 Nominating petitions; insufficiency, notice to candidate.**

Sec. 553. In case it is determined that the nominating petitions of any candidate do not comply with the requirements of this act, or if for any other cause such candidate is not entitled to have his name printed upon the official primary ballots, it shall be the duty of the secretary of state or county or city clerk to immediately notify such candidate of such fact, together with a statement of the reasons why his name was not certified to  
Rendered Thursday, April 11, 2024

the respective boards of election commissioners.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955.

**Popular name:** Election Code

**168.554 List of candidates; posting.**

Sec. 554. The secretary of state or county or city clerk shall forthwith prepare and publicly expose in his office a list of the candidates who have filed nominating petitions or filing fees in his office, as near as may be, as they will appear upon the official primary election ballots.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955;—Am. 1955, Act 271, Imd. Eff. June 30, 1955.

**Popular name:** Election Code

**168.554a Repealed. 1971, Act 5, Eff. Mar. 30, 1972.**

**Compiler's note:** The repealed section pertained to time for filing candidate's filing fee.

**Popular name:** Election Code

**168.555 Nominating petitions and filing fees; public record, contents; public inspection.**

Sec. 555. The various officers named herein shall keep a public record of the nominating petitions and filing fees filed in a book for that purpose, which record shall indicate the names of the candidates, the offices sought, and the dates when such nominating petitions or filing fees were filed. All such nominating petitions shall be open to public inspection and subject to examination after being filed in the office of the secretary of state, county clerk or city clerk, in accordance with such reasonable rules and regulations as may be prescribed by such officers.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955;—Am. 1955, Act 271, Imd. Eff. June 30, 1955.

**Popular name:** Election Code

**168.556 Nominating petitions; final disposition, record.**

Sec. 556. All nominating petitions filed under the provisions of this act shall be preserved by the secretary of state, county, city, village or township clerk, as the case may be, until the first day of January following the primary election for which the same were filed. At the expiration of that period, the secretary of state, county, city, village or township clerk may destroy all nominating petitions, the return of which has not been requested. In the record of nominating petitions, the various officers keeping such record shall cause entries to be made, stating the final disposition of each candidate's petition.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955.

**Popular name:** Election Code

**168.557 Repealed. 2002, Act 163, Imd. Eff. Apr. 9, 2002.**

**Compiler's note:** The repealed section pertained to requirements for nominating petitions.

**Popular name:** Election Code

**168.558 Filing nominating petition, qualifying petition, filing fee, or affidavit of candidacy; affidavit of identity; requirement to indicate name change; exception; statement; noncompliance; selection of office to which candidacy restricted; failure to make selection; perjury separate violation.**

Sec. 558. (1) When filing a nominating petition, qualifying petition, filing fee, or affidavit of candidacy for a federal, county, state, city, township, village, metropolitan district, or school district office in any election, a candidate shall file with the officer with whom the petitions, fee, or affidavit is filed 2 copies of an affidavit of identity. A candidate nominated for a federal, state, county, city, township, or village office at a political party convention or caucus shall file an affidavit of identity within 1 business day after being nominated with the secretary of state. The affidavit of identity filing requirement does not apply to a candidate nominated for the office of President of the United States or Vice President of the United States.

(2) An affidavit of identity must contain the candidate's name and residential address; a statement that the candidate is a citizen of the United States; the title of the office sought including the jurisdiction, district, circuit, or ward; the candidate's political party or a statement indicating no party affiliation if the candidate is running without political party affiliation; the term of office; the date of the election in which the candidate wishes to appear on the ballot; a statement that the candidate meets the constitutional and statutory qualifications for the office sought; other information that may be required to satisfy the officer as to the identity of the candidate; and the manner in which the candidate wishes to have his or her name appear on the ballot. If a candidate is using a name that is not a name that he or she was given at birth, the candidate shall

include on the affidavit of identity the candidate's full former name. If the affidavit of identity is for a candidate for precinct delegate, the candidate shall include his or her precinct number on the affidavit of identity. If the affidavit of identity is for a judicial candidate, the candidate shall include on the affidavit of identity whether the office sought is an incumbent position, a nonincumbent position, or a new judgeship.

(3) The requirement to indicate a name change on the affidavit of identity does not apply if the name in question is 1 of the following:

- (a) A name that was formally changed at least 10 years before filing as a candidate.
- (b) A name that was changed in a certificate of naturalization issued by a federal district court at the time the individual became a naturalized citizen at least 10 years before filing as a candidate.
- (c) A name that was changed because of marriage.
- (d) A name that was changed because of divorce, but only if to a legal name by which the individual was previously known.
- (e) A name that constitutes a common law name as provided in section 560b.

(4) An affidavit of identity must include a signed and notarized statement that as of the date of the affidavit, all statements, reports, late filing fees, and fines required of the candidate or any candidate committee organized to support the candidate's election under the Michigan campaign finance act, 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 to 169.282, have been filed or paid; and a statement that the candidate acknowledges that making a false statement in the affidavit is perjury, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both. If a candidate files the affidavit of identity with an officer other than the county clerk or secretary of state, the officer shall immediately forward to the county clerk 1 copy of the affidavit of identity by first-class mail, facsimile, or electronic transmission. The county clerk shall immediately forward 1 copy of the affidavit of identity for state and federal candidates to the secretary of state by first-class mail, facsimile, or electronic transmission. An officer shall not certify to the board of election commissioners the name of a candidate who fails to comply with this section, or the name of a candidate who executes an affidavit of identity that contains a false statement with regard to any information or statement required under this section.

(5) If petitions or filing fees are filed by or on behalf of a candidate for more than 1 office, either federal, state, county, city, village, township, metropolitan district, or school district, the terms of which run concurrently or overlap, the candidate so filing, or on behalf of whom petitions or fees were so filed, shall select the 1 office to which his or her candidacy is restricted within 3 days after the last day for the filing of petitions or filing fees unless the petitions or filing fees are filed for 2 offices that are combined or for offices that are not incompatible. Failure to make the selection disqualifies a candidate with respect to each office for which petitions or fees were so filed and the name of the candidate must not be printed upon the ballot for those offices. A vote cast for that candidate at the ensuing primary or general election must not be counted and is void.

(6) A violation of this section for perjury is distinct and separate from any violation of the Michigan campaign finance act, 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 to 169.282.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955;—Am. 1955, Act 271, Imd. Eff. June 30, 1955;—Am. 1956, Act 190, Imd. Eff. Apr. 26, 1956;—Am. 1964, Act 190, Imd. Eff. May 20, 1964;—Am. 1984, Act 394, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 1984;—Am. 1992, Act 264, Eff. Jan. 1, 1993;—Am. 1996, Act 583, Eff. Mar. 31, 1997;—Am. 1997, Act 137, Imd. Eff. Nov. 17, 1997;—Am. 1999, Act 217, Eff. Mar. 10, 2000;—Am. 2002, Act 163, Imd. Eff. Apr. 9, 2002;—Am. 2012, Act 128, Imd. Eff. May 14, 2012;—Am. 2012, Act 586, Imd. Eff. Jan. 7, 2013;—Am. 2014, Act 94, Imd. Eff. Apr. 3, 2014;—Am. 2018, Act 650, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 2018;—Am. 2021, Act 158, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 2021.

**Popular name:** Election Code