

Getting on the Ballot

In Vermont



Secretary of State Jim Condos

First Step: Visit our Website!

www.sec.state.vt.us/elections

The screenshot shows the website for the Vermont Secretary of State, Jim Condos. The header includes the Vermont logo and the text 'VERMONT Secretary of State'. A search bar is located in the top right. The navigation menu includes links for 'CORPORATIONS/BUSINESS SERVICES', 'PROFESSIONAL REGULATION', 'ARCHIVES & RECORDS', 'ELECTIONS' (highlighted), 'MUNICIPAL', and 'SECRETARY'S DESK'. Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube are also present. The breadcrumb trail reads '» Home » Elections » Candidates'. The main content area is titled 'Candidates' and features a 'VOTE' icon. The left sidebar contains a list of navigation options: 'ELECTIONS', 'ABOUT US', 'VOTERS', 'CANDIDATES' (highlighted with a red box and a red arrow), 'PARTIES', 'TOWN CLERKS & ELECTION WORKERS', 'TOWN MEETING & LOCAL ELECTIONS', 'ELECTION LAW', 'ELECTION RESULTS', 'CAMPAIGN FINANCE', 'LOBBYING', and 'FORMS & PUBLICATIONS'. The 'CANDIDATES' section lists 'Local Candidates', 'Local Office Descriptions', and 'Presidential Candidates'. The main content area includes sections for 'Offices to Be Elected in 2018', 'Primary Election- Tuesday, August 14, 2018', 'General Election- Tuesday, November 6, 2018', and 'How to Become a Candidate'. A 'CANDIDATE FAQS' section is on the right, and a 'CANDIDATE FORMS' section at the bottom right contains a dropdown menu and a 'Go' button.

Local Offices

Offices include:

- Selectboard, town clerk, town treasurer, school board, listers, auditors
- **Check with the local town clerk** on what offices are up for election
- Some towns have charters that eliminate or add offices to be elected

- Elections (in most cases) are held on **Town Meeting Day**

- Usually the 1st Tuesday in March

OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN AND SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
MONKTON, VERMONT
MARCH 3, 2015

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- Use BLACK PEN or PENCIL to fill in the circle.
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the circle to the right of the name of that person.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write or print the name in the blank space provided and fill in the circle to the right of the name in blue.
- Do not make any other marks on the "DO NOT WRITE" blocks for an official.
- If you make a mistake, tear or rub out the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. DO NOT ERASE.

MODERATOR, TOWN Fill in circle <input type="radio"/> next to name KENNETH E. WHEELING <input type="radio"/>	RUSSELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES Fill in circle <input type="radio"/> next to name JANIE LOW <input type="radio"/>	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD Fill in circle <input type="radio"/> next to name SARAH ROUSSEY <input type="radio"/>
MODERATOR, SCHOOL Fill in circle <input type="radio"/> next to name KENNETH E. WHEELING <input type="radio"/>	RUSSELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES Fill in circle <input type="radio"/> next to name JANIE LOW <input type="radio"/>	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD Fill in circle <input type="radio"/> next to name SARAH ROUSSEY <input type="radio"/>
TOWN CLERK Fill in circle <input type="radio"/> next to name KENNETH E. WHEELING <input type="radio"/>		

- For most local offices, a **candidate must be a registered voter in the town**
- Some towns vote by **Australian ballot** & some towns **vote from the floor**
 - Voting from the floor is a traditional Town Meeting process



Secretary of State Jim Condos

Local Offices - Australian Ballot Petitions

- Petition and consent forms are **due by the 6th Monday prior to the election** for votes held by Australian ballot
- Petitions must indicate what town, what office, the term length, and when the election will be held
- We have a **sample petition** on our website
 - <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/elections/candidates/local-candidates.aspx>



Local Offices - Australian

Ballot

Petitions (cont.)

- Petitions contain the signatures of registered voters in the town
- Petitions must contain signatures from at least 30 registered voters or 1 percent of the town's checklist, **whichever is less.**
- Towns with charters may have different number requirements
 - Check with the local town clerk to be sure
- The “Consent of Candidate” form is filed by a candidate indicating **how they want their name to appear on a ballot**
- The petition and the consent **must be filed together**



Local Offices - Floor Votes

Town Meeting Day

- For elections held from the floor **candidates do not hand in petitions**
 - They are voted on **by the voters present at town meeting**
- Candidates **must be nominated from the floor**
- A candidate can nominate themselves
- Candidates are **allowed to introduce themselves** at the floor meeting



Local Office

Justice of the Peace (JP)

- JPs are elected in the November General Election by each town
 - There is no primary election for JPs
- JPs serve as;
 - local election officials;
 - on tax boards;
 - and can solemnize marriages
- The number of JPs elected depends on the size of the town
- To get on the ballot:
 - Get nominated by a Town party, or
 - Independent candidates can collect signatures from 30 registered voters or 1 percent of the town's voter checklist, whichever is less
 - Signatures for independent candidates must be delivered to the town clerk by the Friday after the primary election



Statewide and Legislative Candidates

Major Party Elections

- Major Party Primary Elections are in August
- The August Primary determines Major Party candidates for the November General Election
- Candidates who win the primary win the nomination of that party
 - They will then appear on the November general election ballot
- Independent and Minor Party candidates appear only on the November General Election ballot



Statewide and Legislative Offices Eligibility

- **U.S. Senate** – 30 years old, US Citizen for at least 9 years, live in state elected from (US Constitution Article 1, Sect. 3)
- **U.S. Representative** – 25 years old, US Citizen for 7 years, live in state elected from (US Constitution Article 1, Sect. 2)
- **Governor and Lt. Governor** – Resident of the state for at least 4 years “next preceding the day of the election” (VT Constitution Sect. 23)
- **VT Treasurer** – Resident of the state for at least 2 years (VT Constitution Sect. 66)
- **State Senate and State Representative** – Resident of the state for 2 years, the last year of which in the legislative district to be elected from (VT Constitution Sect. 15)



Statewide Offices

**U.S. Senate | U.S. Representative | Governor | Lt. Governor
Treasurer | Secretary of State | Auditor of Accounts
Attorney General**

Number of signatures required to get on the ballot:

- Statewide candidates must collect signatures from at least 500 registered Vermont voters

Other forms required:

- All statewide candidates (except federal candidates) must also hand in a copy of their most recent IRS 1040 tax form and the Financial Disclosure form prepared by the newly formed State Ethics Commission

Where to file:

- Petitions, the consent of candidate form, the IRS Form 1040, and the Financial Disclosure form are all filed with the Secretary of State's Office



Secretary of State Jim Condos

County Offices

4 Year Terms:

Probate Judge | Assistant Judge | State's Attorney | Sheriff

2 Year Terms:

High Bailiff

Number of signatures required to get on the ballot:

- County candidates must collect signatures from at least 100 registered voters of that county

Other forms required:

- County candidates are NOT required to file the Financial Disclosure form

Where to file:

- Petitions and the consent of candidate form are filed with the County Clerk



State Representative

There are 150 State Representatives comprised of 1 seat and 2 seat districts (representing about 4200 people per seat)

Number of signatures required to get on the ballot:

- **State Representative candidates must collect signatures from at least 50 registered voters of the Representative district**

Other forms required:

- **State Representative candidates must also file the Financial Disclosure form prepared by the State Ethics Commission**

Where to file:

- **Petitions, the consent of candidate form, and the Financial Disclosure form are filed with the Representative District Clerk, which in all cases is a town clerk and in multi-town districts it is the clerk of the largest town**



State Senate

There are 30 State Senators, divided generally by county, however most districts have multiple Senators (1, 2, 3 and 6 seat districts representing about 21,000 people per seat)

Number of signatures required to get on the ballot:

- State Senate candidates must collect signatures from at least 100 registered voters of the Senate district

Other forms required:

- State Senate candidates must also file the financial disclosure form prepared by the State Ethics Commission

Where to file:

- Petitions, the consent of candidate form, and the Financial Disclosure form are filed with the Senate District Clerk, which in all cases is a county clerk



Filing Deadlines

Statewide & Legislative Candidates

– Major Party Candidates

- Candidates must file between the end of April and the end of May of the election year

– Independent and Minor Party Candidates

- Candidates must file between the end of April and the Thursday prior to the Primary Election
- All independent and Minor Party candidates file with the Secretary of State



Overview of Signature Requirements

Office Sought	# of Signatures	Place to File – Major Party	Place to File Minor Party Independent
Statewide/Congressional	500	Sec. of State	Sec. of State
State Senate	100	Senate District Clerk	Sec. of State
State Representative	50	Rep. District Clerk	Sec. of State
County Office	100	County Clerk	Sec. of State
Local Office	30 or 1 % checklist, whichever is less	Town Clerk (no political party for local office)	Town Clerk (no political party for local office)



Secretary of State Jim Condos

Campaign Finance Requirements

All Candidates for ANY Office

Any candidate that **spends over \$500** or **raises over \$500** is required to register in the Vermont Campaign Finance System **within 10 days** of reaching that threshold and file regularly scheduled reports!

This includes reporting all contributions and expenditures on a schedule, which can be found on our website.

<https://campaignfinance.sec.state.vt.us>



Secretary of State Jim Condos

Contribution Limits

Statewide	\$4,080 from a single source per election cycle
State Senate	\$1,530 from a single source per election cycle
State Representative	\$1,020 from a single source per election cycle
Local	\$1,020 from a single source per election cycle

Read our Guide to Campaign Finance on our website for more details:

<https://www.sec.state.vt.us/media/822047/20172018-cf-guide.pdf>



Secretary of State Jim Condos

Welcome!

Welcome to the Vermont Campaign Finance System— your location to register an entity, file reports, and search all information filed by candidates, PACs, and parties.

REGISTER

Entities That Must Register Campaign Finance Account Activity

Register Candidate

Candidates who have raised or expended \$500 or more must register their campaign account with the Vermont Office of the Secretary of State.

Register Political Action Committee

Political Action Committees must register with the Vermont Office of the Secretary of State.

Register Political Party Committee

State, county, and town political parties must register with the Vermont Office of the Secretary of State.

Register Public Question Committee

Committees advocating for a public question that have made expenditures of \$1,000 or more must register with the Vermont Office of the Secretary of State.

File Mass Media Activities

Mass media activities totaling \$500 or more that occur within 45 days of an election must be reported to the Vermont Office of the Secretary of State.

SEARCH

Search All Activity Filed with the Vermont Office of the Secretary of State

[Search Filed Reports](#)

[Search Contributions](#)

[Search Expenditures](#)

[Search Registrants](#)

[Search by Campaign](#)

[Search by Contributor](#)

ACCOUNT LOGIN

Log in here to conduct your campaign finance activities

User ID

Password

Remember me

[LOG IN](#) [NOT YET REGISTERED?](#)

[FORGOT PASSWORD?](#)

STATISTICS: 2018 GENERAL

Candidate:	226
Political Action Committee:	60
IE Only Political Action Committee:	9
Legislative Leadership PAC:	3
Political Party Committee:	35
Public Question Committee:	0
Public Mass Media:	0

LATEST NEWS



Secretary of State Jim Condos

THANK YOU!

Please call or visit our office with any questions!

James C. Condos, Vermont Secretary of State

128 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05633-1101

802-828-2363

www.sec.state.vt.us

www.facebook.com/SecretaryOfStateJimCondos

www.twitter.com/VermontSOS



Secretary of State Jim Condos