

2026 CANDIDATE PACKET

This packet contains information for prospective candidates running for Bend City Council in the 2026 General Election, taking place on November 3, 2026.

Important dates

- June 3, 2026 – First day to file
- August 18, 2026 – Last day for elected incumbent candidates to file
- August 25, 2026 – Last day for candidates, other than elected incumbents, to file
- August 25, 2026 – Last day to submit statement for voters' pamphlet to County
- August 28, 2026 – Last day for candidates to withdraw
- November 3, 2026 – Election Day

Positions up for Election

- Position #5, currently held by Ariel Méndez
- Position #6, currently held by Mike Riley
- Mayor (Position #7), currently held by Melanie Kebler

Forms

Required forms are marked with an asterisk. Printed forms are available at the City Hall, Administrative Offices (2nd Floor), 710 NW Wall Street, starting June 3, 2026, or online at: **State of Oregon: Elections - Election Forms**. Please refer to the Secretary of State's **Candidate Manual** for information on completing these forms. Please note, all forms are public record and are subject to disclosure. Candidate SEL 101 forms will be posted on the City's website.

- **SEL 101 Candidate Filing – Major Political Party or Nonpartisan***
 - Submit to City of Bend City Recorder
 - Please note, all Council seats are "Nonpartisan"
 - See attached sample SEL 101
- **SEL 121 Candidate Signature Sheet – Nonpartisan***
 - Fill out top portion and Submit to City of Bend City Recorder for approval (see attached sample SEL 121)
 - Please note, the City Recorder must approve your SEL 121 in writing before you begin circulating for signatures
 - Once the required signatures have been obtained, submit to the Deschutes County Clerk, 1300 NW Wall St STE 202, for signature verification.
- **SEL 220 Statement of Organization for Candidate Committee**
 - Campaigns that expect to spend or receive over \$1,500 are required to create a Candidate Committee
 - This form is submitted to the State Elections Division, online or by mail.



- Please refer to the **Campaign Finance Manual** for requirements and information about the SEL 220
- **SEL 180 Residence Address Exemption Request**
 - Optional, submit online through Secretary of State
- **SEL 338 Petition Submission – Candidate, Voter’s Pamphlet***
 - This is submitted to the City Recorder along with your completed signature sheets (SEL 121), containing 150 verified signatures
 - See attached sample SEL 338
- **SEL 150 Candidate Filing – Withdrawal / (PDF Version)**
 - May submit online or submit printed form to City Recorder’s Office

Candidate Requirements

- Must be a qualified elector, as defined by the Oregon State Constitution:
 - US citizen
 - 18 years of age or older
 - Is registered to vote
 - Has resided in Oregon State during the 6 months immediately preceding the election
- Must reside in the City of Bend during the 12 months immediately preceding the November 3, 2026, election
- Cannot be running for another position on the same ballot
- Cannot be running for another lucrative office
 - An office is considered lucrative if a salary or other compensation beyond expenses is attached to it
- Candidates are required, by City Ordinance, to file by petition

Process to Qualify as a Candidate

Step 1: Complete SEL 101 Candidate Filing and top portion of SEL 121 Candidate Signature Sheet

- See attached sample SEL 101 and sample SEL 121
- See page 33-35 of Secretary of State’s **Candidate Manual**

Step 2: Submit completed SEL 101, SEL 121, and provide proof of residency in person to the City Recorder

- An appointment is not required, but is encouraged. Please contact Ashley Bontje, City Recorder, at abontje@bendoregon.gov to set up an appointment during business hours (M-F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.).
- Proof of 12-month residence is required. Please provide two or more of the following documents:
 - Utility bills showing service to a Bend residential address



- Received correspondence (envelopes) with delivery to a Bend residential address with post mark
- Copy of current driver's license, Passport or real ID with a Bend residential address
- Copy of deed of home ownership or rental agreement within the City limits
- Copy of property tax documents in the candidates' name with a Bend residential address

Step 3: Within 3 business days, the City Recorder will review documents, confirm candidacy requirements, and provide written approval to circulate the SEL 121 for signatures. The City Recorder will set up a meeting with you to pick up your SEL 121, grant written approval to circulate, and review important information.

Step 4: Meet with City Recorder to pick up your SEL 121, receive written approval to circulate your petition, and review important information. You are now approved to circulate your SEL 121 for signatures.

Step 5: Collect Signatures

- Candidates are required to collect 150 valid signatures
- All signatures must be from active Oregon registered voters, registered within the City of Bend
- Candidates are advised to collect more than the required number of signatures to ensure the petition contains a sufficient number of valid signatures
- See Secretary of State's **Candidate Manual** for guidelines and requirements for circulators and signers
- Guidelines for Circulation
 - Candidates must use approved signature sheets to collect signatures. Candidate nominating petitions may not be circulated electronically.
- Circulator Requirements
 - One circulator per sheet
 - Circulator must personally witness each signature
 - Circulator must complete the circulator certification, including signature and date signed, after witnessing all signatures collected on a sheet

Step 6: Once at least 150 signatures are collected, submit signed SEL 121 petitions to the Deschutes County Clerk at 1300 NW Wall Street, 2nd Floor, Bend, OR 97701.

- Before submitting, be sure circulators complete the required fields on the bottom portion of the form
- See attached sample SEL 121
- Please allow up to 10 days for the County to verify signatures
- Common reasons signatures are rejected:
 - Signer is not a registered voter, or signed before they were a registered voter
 - Signature does not match signature on voter registration
 - Voter is inactive



- Voter is out of district
- Printed signature
- Duplicate signature

Step 7: Once signatures have been verified by the County Elections office, they will notify you. You will pick up signature sheets from the Deschutes County Clerk’s Office (1300 NW Wall Street, 2nd Floor) and make an appointment with the City Recorder to return the following documents **no later than 5 p.m. on August 18, 2026**, (for elected incumbents) **or August 25, 2026**, (for candidates aside from elected incumbents):

- Completed SEL 338 Petition Submission
- County’s Signature Verification
- Verified SEL 121 sheets

Step 8: If all forms are completed correctly, The City Recorder will send your name to the Deschutes County Clerk to be added to the ballot for the November 3, 2026, General Election. All forms submitted are public record and your SEL 101 will be posted to City of Bend website.

Candidate Withdrawal: The deadline to withdraw your name from the ballot is August 28, 2026. Please complete **SEL 150 Candidate Withdrawal** to withdraw your name from the ballot.

Voter’s Pamphlet Statement: see details under “Additional Steps” below

Timeline

All candidacy filings must be delivered to and actually received by the City Recorder no later than 5:00 p.m. on the applicable filing deadline. Please allow ample time to collect 150 signatures on your nominating petition and at least 10 business days for the Deschutes County Clerk’s Office to verify signatures. We suggest beginning Step 1 no later than four weeks prior to the applicable filing deadline.

Additional Steps

These steps are optional or conditionally required.

Campaign Finance Requirements

- Campaigns that expect to spend or receive over \$1,500 are required to create a Candidate Committee, which is done via **SEL 220 - Statement of Organization for Candidate Committee**
- This form is submitted to the State Elections Division, online or by mail
- Please refer to the **Campaign Finance Manual** for requirements, exemptions and information about the SEL 220
- Contact the Secretary of State Election’s Division with any questions.

Residence Address Exemption Request



- Candidates for public office must provide their residential address for elections officials to confirm that candidates and elected officials reside in the appropriate district and/or jurisdiction.
- However, a candidate may choose to limit the public accessibility of candidate’s residence address from the filing form and a list of electors delivered under ORS 247.940 or 247.945. Candidates wanting to exempt their residence address from public disclosure must complete and file the following online form: **SEL 180 – Residence Address Exemption Request**
- If you plan to or have completed the SEL 180, please indicate this on your SEL 101 filing form. Please see page 32 of the Secretary of State’s **Candidate Manual** for more information. Please note, indicating that you do not want your address disclosed on your SEL 101 filing form is not sufficient to receive an address exemption. You must submit the SEL 180 to the Secretary of State.
- Please note, despite an address exemption, residential addresses are still subject to disclosure through a public records request.
- Contact the Secretary of State Election’s Division with any questions.

Voter’s Pamphlet

- Deschutes County publishes a voter’s pamphlet for the general election.
- Candidates may not submit their statement until after the City Recorder certifies your name for the ballot (i.e. after steps 1-8 above are complete).
- Statements must be submitted by 5 p.m. on August 25, 2026, to the Deschutes County Clerk.
- For more information, visit <https://deschutescounty.gov/elections>
- Contact the Deschutes County Clerk’s Office with any questions.

Elections Signs

- Candidates must adhere to city code when posting temporary election signs.
- Please see the attached **Political/Campaign Signs Flyer** for sign requirements

Resources

- **Secretary of State Election Forms**
- **Deschutes County Clerk, Elections & Voting**
 - **Candidate’s Statement for Voters’ Pamphlet 2026**
 - **Endorsement Form for Voters’ Pamphlet**
- **Secretary of State Manuals and Quick Guides**
 - **Candidate Manual**
 - **Campaign Finance Manual**
 - See **Manuals & Quick Guides** for additional Campaign Finance manuals
- **Campaign Signs Information**



Elections Offices

City of Bend

Ashley Bontje, City Recorder

abontje@bendoregon.gov

541-323-7164

710 NW Wall Street, 2nd Floor, Bend, OR 97701

<https://bendoregon.gov/city-council/elections/>

Deschutes County Elections

County Clerk

541-388-6547

1300 NW Wall Street, 2nd Floor, Bend, OR 97701

<https://www.deschutescounty.gov/471/Elections-Voting>

Oregon State Elections Division

503-986-1518

elections.sos@sos.oregon.gov

141 State Capitol, Salem, OR 97310

<http://oregonvotes.gov>



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities & Language Assistance Services

You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please email accessibility@bendoregon.gov or call 541-693-2198. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1. All requests are subject to vendor processing times and should be submitted 48-72 hours in advance of events.

Servicios de asistencia lingüística e información sobre alojamiento para personas con discapacidad

Puede obtener esta información en formatos alternativos como Braille, formato electrónico, etc. También disponemos de servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Póngase en contacto en correo electrónico accessibility@bendoregon.gov o número de teléfono 541-693-2198. Los usuarios del servicio de retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1. Por favor, envíe sus solicitudes con 48-72 horas de antelación al evento; todas las solicitudes están sujetas a los tiempos de procesamiento del proveedor.

Candidate Filing

Major Political Party or Nonpartisan

Fields highlighted in yellow are required

SEL 101

rev 09/25
ORS 249.031

Filing Dates		Candidate Filing		Candidate Withdrawal	
Primary Election May 19, 2026	First Day to File Last Day to File	September 11, 2025 March 10, 2026*	March 13, 2026		
General Election November 3, 2026	First Day to File Last Day to File	June 3, 2026 August 25, 2026*	August 28, 2026		

*An incumbent seeking re-election to the same office must file their declaration of candidacy or nominating petition at least seven days before applicable filing deadline for non-incumbent candidates. Incumbent candidates that were appointed to the position they are seeking election to are subject to the same filing deadline as non-incumbent candidates.

Filing Information

This filing is an Original Amendment

Office Information

Filing for Office of: Indicate only one: "Position #5", "Position #6", or "Position #7 (Mayor)"

District, Position or County: City of Bend

Party Affiliation: Democratic Party Republican Party Nonpartisan

Incumbent: No Yes **If Incumbent:** Elected** Appointed

****If you are an Elected Incumbent, you are subject to an earlier filing deadline!**

Filing Method

Fee Do not select Fee. Bend Code requires filing by nominating petition

Office	Filing Fee	Office	Filing Fee
United States Senator	\$150	Justice of the Peace	n/a
United States Representative	\$100	County Office	\$50
Statewide Offices	\$100	City Office	Set by charter or ordinance
State Senator or Representative	\$25	MSD Executive Officer, MAD Director	\$100
Circuit Court, District Attorney	\$50	MSD Councilor	\$25

Prospective Petition, in lieu of filing fee Bend Municipal Code requires filing by nominating petition Some circulators may be paid Yes No

Candidate Information

Name of Candidate

First MI Last

This is your legal name, not how it will appear on the ballot.

How you would like your name to appear on the ballot

This is exactly how your name will appear on the ballot.

Candidate Residence / Route Address

Street Address	City	State	Zip	County
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Candidate Mailing Address and Contact Information Only one phone number and an email is required.

Street Address or PO Box	City	State	Zip
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Work Phone	Home Phone	Cell Phone
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One phone number must be provided

Email Address	Web Site, if applicable
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Race and Ethnicity Optional

These highlighted fields are required. If needed, enter N/A or None, do not leave blank.

Occupation (present employment) If not employed, enter "Not Employed".

Occupational Background (previous employment) If no relevant experience, None or NA must be entered.

Educational Background (schools attended)

Complete name of School	Last Grade completed	Diploma/Degree/Certificate	Course of Study

Educational Background (other) Attach a separate sheet if necessary.

Prior Governmental Experience (elected or appointed) If no relevant experience, None or NA must be entered.

Campaign Finance Information Not applicable to candidates for federal office.

A candidate must file a Statement of Organization not later than three business days of first receiving a contribution or making an expenditure and no later than the deadline for filing a nominating petition, declaration of candidacy, or certificate of nomination, whichever occurs first, unless they meet the criteria for an exemption. To meet the criteria, the candidate must serve as their own treasurer, not have an existing candidate committee, and not expect to spend or receive more than \$1,500 during the entire calendar year (including in-kind contributions and personal funds).

If you have an existing candidate committee you must amend the statement of organization not later than 10 days after a change in information. This includes changes to the election you are active in and the office you are running for.

See the [Campaign Finance Manual](#) for the procedural and legal requirements of establishing and maintaining a candidate committee.

Residence Address Exemption Your address will not be exempt until you complete the SEL 180 form.

To exempt your residence address from public disclosure, complete form [SEL 180 – Residence Address Exemption Request](#). The request for a Residence Address Exemption MUST include a publicly disclosable mailing address. See the Candidates Manual for further information.

I don't want my residence address to be disclosed. I will be filing a separate [SEL 180 – Residence Address Exemption Request](#).


Candidate Attestation

By signing this document, I hereby state that:

- I will accept the nomination for the office indicated above;
- I will qualify for said office if elected;
- All information provided by me on this form is true to the best of my knowledge; **and**
- No circulators will be compensated based on the number of signatures obtained by the circulator on a prospective petition

For Major Political Party Candidates

- if not nominated, I will not accept the nomination or endorsement of any political party other than the one named
- I have been a member of said political party, subject to the exceptions stated in ORS 249.046, for at least 180 days before the deadline for filing a nominating petition or declaration of candidacy (ORS 249.031). Does not apply to candidates filing for the office of US President.

Warning
 Supplying false information on this form may result in conviction of a felony with a fine of up to \$125,000 and/or prison for up to 5 years. (ORS 260.715). A person may only file for one lucrative office or not more than one precinct committee person at the same election. Unless the person has withdrawn from the first filing, all filings are invalid. (ORS 249.013 and ORS 249.170)

Candidate Signature

Date

Candidate Signature Sheet | Nonpartisan

Petition ID **2026-XX**
(use petition ID assigned to you by City Recorder)

SOME Circulators No Circulators for this petition are being paid. **An option must be selected**

This is a candidate nominating petition. Signers of this page must be active registered voters in the county listed.

i Signatures must be verified by the appropriate county elections official before the petition can be filed with the filing officer.

County **Deschutes**

Candidate Information	
Name First & Last Name	Office Bend City Council
Election November 3, 2026, General Election	District or Position Number (include city if applicable) Position 5, Position 6, or Position 7 (Mayor)

To the Elections Official/Filing Officer, We the undersigned voters, request the candidate's name be placed on the ballot at the election listed above for nomination to the office indicated.

! Signers must initial any changes the circulator makes to their printed name, residence address or date they signed the petition.

Signature	Date Signed mm/dd/yy	Print Name	Residence or Mailing Address street, city, zip code
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Sample

Circulator Certification This certification **must** be completed by the circulator and additional signatures **should not** be collected on this sheet once the certification has been signed and dated!

I hereby certify that I witnessed the signing of the signature sheet by each individual whose signature appears on the signature sheet, and I believe each person is a voter qualified to sign the petition (ORS 249.061). I also hereby certify that compensation I received, if any, was not based on the number of signatures obtained for this petition.

Wait - this portion is filled out by the person who collected signatures (circulator) AFTER signatures have been collected

Wait to complete until all signatures & circulation forms are collected

Circulator Signature	Date Signed mm/dd/yy	Sheet Number
Printed Name of Circulator	Circulator's Address street, city, zip code	Completed by Candidate

Petition Submission
Candidate, Voters' Pamphlet

Candidate completes this form after they have collected all of their signatures.
Submit to City Recorder after County has verified signatures

→ This form must be completed and filed with any submission of signatures.

Election Type			Year		
<input type="checkbox"/> Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Election	<input type="checkbox"/> 2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2026

Petition Information	
Petition ID/Candidate's Name <i>#2026-XX (use petition # provided by City Recorder)/ First & Last Name</i>	

Type of Filing	Number of Signatures Submitted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Candidate Nominating	Enter total number of signatures collected
<input type="checkbox"/> Voters' Pamphlet, Candidate	
<input type="checkbox"/> Voters' Pamphlet, Measure	

Candidate's Nominating/Voters' Pamphlet Filing	
Candidate completes highlighted fields	
→ By signing this document, I hereby state that all information on the form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.	

Name	Contact Phone	Email Address
Signature	Date Signed	

Measure Argument Filing	
N/A - Do not complete this section	
→ By signing this document, I hereby state that all information on the form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.	

Name	Contact Phone	Email Address
Signature	Date Signed	

Do not complete this section - City Recorder will complete

For office use only	
Submittal number	Number of signatures accepted
Is the petition complete? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Will there be additional submittals? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

POLITICAL/CAMPAIGN SIGNS

The following temporary sign is permitted to be displayed without a sign permit:

- Non-illuminated sign placed on private property with permission of the property owner
- Beginning 60 days before and ending seven days after any election date established by State statute
- In a residential zone the sign must not exceed 6 square feet in area (i.e. 2' x 3') and not more than 6 feet in height
- In all other zones the sign must not exceed 16 square feet in area (i.e. 4' x 4') and not more than 8 feet in height
- Sign must not be placed in a hazardous location
- Sign must not be placed in the right-of-way including medians, roundabout, and the landscape area between sidewalks and street curbs – place the sign a minimum of 20 feet from the street curb if unsure of the property line location
- Signs may not be attached to trees

Bend Code Chapter 9.50 Signs, 9.50.060 Temporary Signs and 9.50.070 Prohibited Signs

For Sign Code Inquiries & Complaints

Please contact Code Enforcement.

Inquiries:
codeenforcement@bendoregon.gov

Complaints:
Code Enforcement | City of Bend

Signs illegally placed in the City's right-of-way are subject to confiscation. A fee of \$109.35 may be imposed to recover the signs.

Signs illegally placed in State right-of-way can be removed and are subject to fees.



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