

RESIST. REVOLT.

A RESIST REVOLT CANDIDATE GUIDE | ARIZONA

Run for Office

The ruling class runs for office every cycle. So can we.

Building the campaign / Getting on the Arizona ballot / Money without the bosses
Organizing voters + GOTV / Arizona Democratic Party + district contacts / Key links

START HERE

Why you, why now

City councils, school boards, justice courts and the Legislature decide what rent costs, whose labor is valued, who gets evicted and whose water gets shut off. Those seats are held overwhelmingly by landlords, developers, business owners and the people they bankroll. The state is not neutral; it is shaped by whoever holds it. It's time it was held by the tenants, workers, mothers and caregivers whose unpaid and underpaid labor keeps this state running.

Electoral work is one front in a larger struggle, not a replacement for organizing in our workplaces, buildings and neighborhoods. A campaign run by and for working people is a chance to build that power: every door knocked is a relationship, every \$5 donation is a comrade. This guide walks you through it, from first idea to the day after the election, with Arizona's rules for getting on the ballot and handling money, and who to call at the Arizona Democratic Party. You don't need to be part of Resist Revolt to use it.

Check the calendar first. Arizona's 2026 filing deadline (March 23, 2026) and primary (July 21, 2026) have passed; the general election is **November 3, 2026**. The dates in this guide come from the Secretary of State's 2026 candidate guide and show how the cycle works. For 2028 legislative and statewide races, or for city, town and school board races, confirm current dates with the Secretary of State or your local filing officer before you start collecting signatures.

How an Arizona campaign cycle runs

Step	2026 example date	What happens
Clean Elections window opens	Aug 1, 2025	Start collecting \$5 qualifying contributions if you're running publicly funded.
Petition signatures count from	Jan 2, 2026	Signature requirements are based on registered voters on this date.
Filing period opens	Feb 21, 2026	File nomination paperwork online; in-person filing from Feb 23.
Filing deadline	Mar 23, 2026, 5 p.m.	Petitions, nomination paper and financial disclosure due.
Primary write-in deadline	May 22, 2026, 5 p.m.	Last day to file as a primary write-in candidate.
Primary voter registration closes	Jun 22, 2026	Last day to register for the primary.
Primary election	Jul 21, 2026	Party nominees chosen.
General voter registration closes	Oct 5, 2026	Last day to register for the general.
General election	Nov 3, 2026	Winners decided.

Source: [Arizona Secretary of State, 2026 Running for Office Candidate Guide](#). Candidates file 120–150 days before the primary.

PHASE 1

Before you announce

Build the base before you go public. Campaigns that skip this phase end up dependent on consultants and donors instead of people.

- **Write your "why."** One paragraph on who you're fighting for, and who you're fighting against. Test it on your neighbors and coworkers. ([Why I'm Running template](#))
- **Confirm you're eligible** for the office: age, citizenship and residency rules are below.
- **Be honest about capacity:** time, energy, money and care. Who will cook, watch the kids and check on you? Campaigns lean on invisible domestic labor, usually women's. Name it, share it and plan for it.
- **Know your district:** past results, who votes, and the issues people raise at the door. Use Resist Revolt's Win Number Worksheet to find how many votes you need.
- **Sketch a plan:** goals, target voters and a rough timeline back from Election Day.
- **Build a collective, not a cult of personality:** campaign manager, treasurer, communications lead and volunteers who make decisions together. Share the work so no one burns out.
- **Set up your tools:** one master calendar and one place for contacts, to-dos and paperwork.
- **Open a separate campaign bank account** from day one. Compliance rules are used against working-class candidates; don't give them the opening.

Who can run for state office in Arizona

Office	Term / seats	Qualifications
State Representative	2 yrs / 2 per district (60)	U.S. citizen; age 25+; Arizona resident 3+ years; county resident 1+ year before the election
State Senator	2 yrs / 1 per district (30)	Same as State Representative
U.S. Representative	2 yrs / 9 districts	U.S. citizen 7+ years; age 25+; Arizona resident when elected
Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Superintendent	4 yrs / 1 each	U.S. citizen 10+ years; age 25+; Arizona resident 5+ years
Attorney General	4 yrs / 1	Same as above, plus 5+ years practicing law in Arizona
Corporation Commissioner	4 yrs / 2 seats	U.S. citizen; Arizona resident; age 18+; no interest in regulated companies

City council, school board, justice of the peace and other local offices have their own rules. Ask your city or town clerk, county elections department or county school superintendent. Party candidates must stay registered with their party from the first petition signature through the general election.

Getting on the ballot

Ballot access rules are written by people already in power, and the paperwork is designed to wear you down. Know the rules cold. State, legislative and federal candidates file with the Secretary of State's online Candidate Portal; local candidates file with their city, town or county filing officer.

- 1 File a Statement of Interest first.** Submit it in the Candidate Portal **before** collecting any signatures. Signatures gathered earlier can be challenged in court (A.R.S. § 16-351).
- 2 Create your Candidate Portal profile.** Pick the right election and office, your ballot name and addresses. Your residential address prints on petitions; protected voters can use a P.O. box in the district (A.R.S. § 16-153).
- 3 Collect nomination signatures.** On paper petitions printed from the Portal (8.5 x 11, double-sided, organized by county) and online through [E-Qual](#). Collect well above the minimum; challengers will hunt for every bad signature. And every signature is a conversation: use it to recruit.
- 4 Close and print your E-Qual petition.** Use "Prepare for Filing," print the PDF and sign the first page as circulator. Never click "Void Petition" unless you're dropping out; it deletes every signature.
- 5 Complete your Financial Disclosure Statement.** Required for state and legislative candidates, filed in the Portal under penalty of perjury.
- 6 File by the deadline.** In person at 1700 W. Washington St., 7th Floor, Phoenix (book an appointment) or by mail, received by 5 p.m. on deadline day. No filings at the Tucson office.

How many signatures you need

Office	Party candidate (min / max)	Independent (min)
Legislature	0.5% / 3% of qualified signers in the district	3% of district voters not in a recognized party
U.S. House	0.5% / 10% of qualified signers in the district	3% of district voters not in a recognized party
Statewide	0.25% / 10% of qualified signers statewide	3% of voters not in a recognized party

Exact numbers for each district are posted on the [Secretary of State elections site](#). You must file at least the minimum and no more than the maximum. Independents file the same paperwork by the same deadline and appear on the general election ballot.

Money: run on people, not capital

Register a candidate committee

Once you raise or spend **\$1,500 combined** on your campaign, including your own money, you must register a committee (file a Statement of Organization) within **10 days**. Track every dollar from the first one.

Running for	File your committee with
Statewide or Legislature	Secretary of State, through Beacon
County office or certain special districts	County Recorder or county elections department
School board	County School Superintendent
City or town office	City or town clerk

Reporting dates are on the Secretary of State's Campaign Finance Reporting Dates page. Miss a report and you face fines, and opponents will use it. Set reminders now and give your treasurer the calendar.

Clean Elections: run without big money

Big donors expect a return on investment. Statewide and legislative candidates can refuse their money and run with public funding from the [Citizens Clean Elections Commission](#) by agreeing not to take special-interest or large private donations. You qualify by collecting **\$5 qualifying contributions** from registered voters in your district. Two hundred \$5 contributions means two hundred people who own a piece of your campaign. That's accountability to the base, not to capital.

Office	\$5 contributions needed
Legislature	200
State Mine Inspector	500
Treasurer, Superintendent, Corporation Commission	1,500
Secretary of State, Attorney General	2,500
Governor	4,000

- Collect at least 20% more than the minimum; some will be disqualified.
- Apply through Beacon with a notarized Application for Certification, submit a W-9 and attend a Commission training class.
- In 2026 the window ran Aug 1, 2025 to Jul 14, 2026. Write-in candidates aren't eligible.

Launch, then talk to voters

Launch and outreach

- **Finalize your message:** name the material conditions people live with, who profits from them, and what you'll fight for. Refine it as you listen.
- **Go digital:** a simple website with your story, issues, a donate button and volunteer sign-up; official social accounts separate from personal ones.
- **Announce** by email, social media and local press, then launch where working people already gather: a park, a living room, a union hall. Offer childcare and food so caregivers can come.
- **Start outreach early** with door knocking, calls and texts, beginning in friendly neighborhoods.
- **Recruit volunteers** with a sign-up form and small first tasks. Build with unions, tenant unions, mutual aid networks and immigrant and reproductive justice groups.
- **Start fundraising now:** call friends and family first, then ask for small-dollar gifts. Fundraising is organizing; every donor is a relationship, not a transaction.

Voter contact and persuasion

- **Knock doors every week** in priority neighborhoods using walk lists from the voter file.
- **Run regular phone and text banks** with a conversational script, and record every response.
- **Listen more than you talk.** Rent, wages, childcare, heat, healthcare: let the issues people raise shape your platform.
- **Seek endorsements from organized people:** unions, tenant groups and community organizations, not just officials. Post them and ask endorsers to mobilize.
- **Show up** at community events, markets, school board and council meetings, even when you're not speaking.
- **Track everything:** mark supporters, undecided voters and follow-ups in one clean database. Your county or district party can help with voter file access.

Avoid the five classic first-campaign mistakes: no clear message, underestimating the time it takes, skipping voter research, waiting too long to fundraise, and ignoring compliance deadlines. Each one hands power back to the professionals and the people who pay them.

Get out the vote, Election Day and after

Get out the vote (start planning 3–4 weeks out)

- Build a list of every identified supporter with their contact info and preferred way to be reached.
- Schedule texting, calling and canvassing shifts from the final weekend through Election Day.
- Arizona votes heavily by early ballot; chase early ballots, not just Election Day turnout.
- Print walk lists, scripts, reminder cards, polling place maps and "Vote Today" flyers.
- Organize rides to the polls and recruit trained poll observers through your party.

Election Day

- Staff key polling places with signs and literature, following the 75-foot limit for electioneering.
- Track turnout through the day and aim afternoon calls and texts at supporters who haven't voted.
- Text in the morning, call in the afternoon, post all day: "Polls close in 2 hours."
- Name one person to handle problems: wrong polling places, intimidation, broken equipment. Report voter problems to your county elections office or 1-877-THE-VOTE.
- Care for each other: rotate shifts, bring water and food. Phoenix heat is no joke, and care work is campaign work.

After the election, win or lose

- Thank volunteers, donors and supporters right away.
- Debrief with your team while it's fresh.
- File your post-election finance reports on time and keep every receipt.
- Pick up your signs, export your contact lists and lock down your accounts.
- Decide what's next: govern, run again, or keep organizing. Win or lose, the people you organized are a base of power. Keep them together; that's what the bosses fear most.

CONNECT

Arizona Democratic Party

The party is a tool, not a home. Use it: it holds the voter file, trainings, volunteers and precinct committee members who know your district. Reach out early, before you file, and bring your base with you.

Arizona Democratic Party	Contact
Phone	(602) 298-4200
Email	info@azdem.org
Mail	P.O. Box 36123, Phoenix, AZ 85067
Website	azdems.org
County parties	azdems.org/county-parties
District parties	azdems.org/legislative-districts

County Democratic parties

County	Website	County	Website
Apache	www.apachecountydems.org	Mohave	www.mohavedemocrats.com
Cochise	www.cochisecodems.org	Navajo	www.navajocountydemocrats.org
Coconino	coconinodemocrats.org	Pima	pimadems.org
Gila	sites.google.com/azdem.org/gila-county-democratic-party	Pinal	www.pinaldemocrats.org
Graham	www.grahamcountymocraticparty.com	Santa Cruz	www.azsantacruzdemocrats.org
Greenlee	www.greenleecountyazdems.org	Yavapai	www.yavdem.org
La Paz	www.lapazcountyazdems.org	Yuma	www.yumademocrats.com
Maricopa	www.maricopadems.org		

Find your legislative district by entering your address at the [Secretary of State elections site](#) or your county recorder's site, then use the district contacts on the next page.

CONNECT

Legislative district Democrats

Each district party is run by an elected chair and board, and precinct committee members vote on who leads. Email your district to reach the chair, show up to the next meeting, and consider becoming a PC yourself.

LD	Website	Email
LD 1	www.yavdem.org	info@yavdem.org
LD 2	azld2dems.org	info@azld2dems.org
LD 3	www.azld3dems.org	communications@AZld3Dems.org
LD 4	www.azld4dems.org	See website*
LD 5	azld5dems.org	info@azld5dems.org
LD 6	www.navajocountydemocrats.org	info@navajocountydemocrats.org
LD 7	azld7democrats.org	info@azld7democrats.org
LD 8	azld8dems.org	arizonald8dems@gmail.com
LD 9	www.azld9dems.org	ld9@maricopadems.org
LD 10	www.azld10dems.org	info@azld10dems.org
LD 11	southmountaindems.org	info@southmountaindems.org
LD 12	www.azld12dems.org	secretary@azld12dems.org
LD 13	ld13dems.org	contact@ld13dems.org
LD 14	d14dems.org	info@d14dems.org
LD 15	www.southeastvalleydems.org	info@southeastvalleydems.org
LD 16	azld16.org	azld16dem@gmail.com
LD 17	www.ld17azdemocrats.org	ld17azdemocrats@gmail.com
LD 18	ld18dems.org	info@ld18dems.org
LD 19	ld19arizonademocrats.org	georgemcgaughey1@gmail.com
LD 20	www.ld20democratsaz.com	ld20demsaz@gmail.com
LD 21	www.azld21dems.org	azld21democrats@gmail.com
LD 22	Mobilize event page	ld22dems@maricopadems.org
LD 23	www.azld23dems.org	connect@azld23dems.org
LD 24	Facebook page	info@azdem.org
LD 25	www.azld25dems.org	outreach@azld25dems.org
LD 26	azld26dems.org	ld26dems@maricopadems.org
LD 27	ld27dems.org	ld27dems@maricopadems.org
LD 28	azld28dems.org	info@azdem.org
LD 29	www.azld29dems.org	ld29@maricopadems.org
LD 30	www.mohavedemocrats.com	See website*

LD 1, 6 and 30 are organized through their county parties (Yavapai, Navajo and Mohave). *The state party's listing shows the LD 3 email for LD 4 and the LD 27 email for LD 30, which look like errors; use those districts' websites instead. Chairs change after party reorganizations, so confirm on each site. Source: azdems.org/legislative-districts, October 2026.

KEEP CLOSE

Key contacts and links

Resource	Contact
AZ Secretary of State, Elections	(602) 542-8683 or 1-877-THE-VOTE candidate@azsos.gov azsos.gov/elections
2026 Candidate Guide (PDF)	azsos.gov 2026 Running for Office guide
E-Equal online signatures	apps.azsos.gov/equal
Beacon campaign finance	beacon.arizona.vote
Clean Elections	www.azcleaselections.gov/run-for-office
Voter registration	azmvdnow.gov/vr
GoodParty.org campaign checklist	Political campaign checklist for local candidates
Requirements by state	GoodParty: requirements to run
Campaign finance by state	GoodParty: state-by-state finance guide

Your first-month checklist

- ☐ Write your "why I'm running" statement and test it on five neighbors or coworkers
- ☐ Confirm eligibility and filing officer for your office
- ☐ Find your win number and study past results
- ☐ Contact your county and legislative district Democratic party
- ☐ Recruit a treasurer and campaign manager
- ☐ Open a separate campaign bank account
- ☐ File your Statement of Interest before collecting any signatures
- ☐ Register your committee within 10 days of hitting \$1,500
- ☐ Decide on Clean Elections and start \$5 contributions if you're in
- ☐ Put every filing and reporting deadline on one shared calendar

This guide is general information, not legal advice. Election rules change; confirm with the Secretary of State or your filing officer. Campaign checklist adapted from GoodParty.org.

Take the seat. Share the power. Solidarity forever.