

MICHIGAN 2026 ELECTION GUIDE - Feb 2026

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: Candidate lists are subject to frequent changes as people file, withdraw, or shift races. Michigan's party nominating process for statewide offices like Secretary of State and Attorney General is conducted by party conventions, not by typical primaries. For the official, most current candidate list, always check: **Michigan Bureau of Elections** – Michigan.gov/Elections.

Primary Election: Tuesday, August 4, 2026
General Election: Tuesday, November 3, 2026

I. STATE EXECUTIVE CANDIDATES

Note: Michigan statewide candidates (Governor, SOS, AG) do not have incumbents this year due to term limits.

Governor & Lieutenant Governor

Party	Candidate	Notable Background
Democratic	Jocelyn Benson	Current Secretary of State
Democratic	Chris Swanson	Genesee County Sheriff
Democratic	Marni Sawicki	Former Mayor of Cape Coral, FL
Republican	John James	U.S. Congressman (District 10)
Republican	Mike Cox	Former Michigan Attorney General
Republican	Aric Nesbitt	State Senate Minority Leader
Republican	Tom Leonard	Former Speaker of the House
Independent	Mike Duggan	Mayor of Detroit

Secretary of State

Party	Candidate	Status
Democratic	Garlin Gilchrist II	Current Lieutenant Governor
Democratic	Barbara Byrum	Ingham County Clerk
Democratic	Adam Hollier	Former State Senator
Republican	Anthony Forlini	Macomb County Clerk
Republican	Timothy Smith	Political Advocate

Attorney General

Note: Nominees for Attorney General are typically selected via Party Conventions.

Party	Candidate	Background
Democratic	Karen McDonald	Oakland County Prosecutor
Democratic	Eli Savit	Washtenaw County Prosecutor
Republican	Matthew DePerno	2022 AG Nominee
Republican	Doug Lloyd	Eaton County Prosecutor

II. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES

U.S. Senate (Seat currently held by Gary Peters)

Senator Gary Peters is not seeking re-election.

Party	Candidate	Status
Democratic	Haley Stevens	U.S. Representative (Dist. 11)
Democratic	Mallory McMorrow	State Senator (Dist. 8)
Democratic	Abdul El-Sayed	Former Wayne Co. Health Dir.
Republican	Mike Rogers	Former U.S. Representative
Republican	Bernadette Smith	Former Michigan GOP Co-Chair

U.S. House of Representatives (District 3 - Kent County/49507)

Party	Candidate	Status
Democratic	Hillary Scholten	Incumbent
Republican	J. Allen Fiorletta	Declared Challenger
Democratic	Zachary Ketchum	Declared Challenger

III. STATE LEGISLATIVE CATEGORIES

- **Michigan State Senate:** All 38 seats are up for election in 2026.
- **Michigan House of Representatives:** All 110 seats are up for election.

Local Focus: State House (Grand Rapids Area)

- **District 82:** Incumbent **Kristian Grant (D)** is eligible for re-election.
- **District 80:** Incumbent **Phil Skaggs (D)** is eligible for re-election.

IV. VOTER RESOURCES

- **Filing Deadline:** April 21, 2026. This is the last day for candidates to officially enter the race.
- **Voter Registration:** You can register online, by mail, or in person up to 15 days before an election. Within 14 days of an election, you must register in person at your clerk's office with proof of residency.
- **Official Data:** For the most current, verified candidate list, visit the **Michigan Bureau of Elections** at Michigan.gov/Elections.