

Summer 2026

To: Prospective City Council Candidates

Thank you for your interest in running for Milwaukie City Council! The November 3, 2026, general election ballot will feature Council positions 2 and 4 and the mayor position.

Robert Massey has served in position 2 since being elected in 2022.

Rebecca Stavenjord has served in position 4 since being elected in 2022.

Lisa Batey has served as mayor since being elected in 2022.

The individuals elected to positions 2 and 4 and the mayor's position on November 3 will serve terms that start January 1, 2027, and end December 31, 2030.

To be eligible to run for Milwaukie City Council, an individual must be registered to vote in Oregon and must have lived in the city for at least six months before the election. For the November 2026 general election, the deadline to live in the city was May 3, 2026. Interested residents must first submit forms to the state and city – see page 4 for more details.

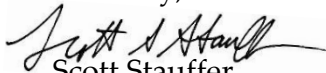
NEW: there are several new election laws in effect for the 2026 election; see notes below.

The city elections officer (city recorder) will accept “nomination papers comprising a petition” for the positions that will be on the general election ballot beginning at 8 a.m. on July 27, 2026, through 5 p.m. on August 25, 2026 – *New:* the deadline for incumbent candidates to file is a week earlier on August 18. Once the city elections officer certifies that a candidate is eligible to run, the candidate must then collect 20 valid signatures from registered Milwaukie voters during the filing period. ***Please Note: petition signature sheets must be approved by the city elections officer before they can be circulated.***

This guide provides an overview of the local election process. For more information, candidates should review the Milwaukie City Charter and Municipal Code online at <https://ecode360.com/MI4969>. Candidates for local office also need to be aware of state requirements, Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS), including campaign finance rules, and should review the state elections website: <http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/laws-rules-publications.aspx>. In addition, the Clackamas County elections website is a valuable source of information: <https://www.clackamas.us/elections>.

As your elections officer, I am a resource for you. Please contact me with any questions at 503-786-7502 or ocr@milwaukieoregon.gov. When you are ready to file candidate papers, please contact me to ensure I am available.

Sincerely,


Scott Stauffer
City Recorder

Important Dates

If you are interested in running for City Council, note these critical 2026 dates:

May 3, 2026	Candidates must live within city limits by this date.
July 27	First day to file nomination papers with the city elections officer. <i>Note: signature sheets must be approved <u>before</u> being circulated.</i>
August 11	Suggested deadline to submit signatures for verification.
August 18	NEW: Last day for <u>elected incumbent</u> candidates to file. This is a new requirement for 2026 (see ORS 260.034).
August 25	Last day for <u>new or appointed incumbent candidates</u> to file. Last day for city elections officer to submit candidate signature sheets to the County election office for verification.
August 25	Last day for candidates to file county voter's pamphlet statement.
August 28	Last day to withdraw candidacy.
October 14	First day that County elections office mails out ballots.
November 3	Election Day.
December 10	Last day for the County to certify the election results.
January 5, 2027	Oath of Office administered to individuals elected to Council.

Qualifications for Candidacy

- Must be a resident of the City of Milwaukie during the six months immediately preceding the election.
- Must be a qualified elector (voter) in the State of Oregon.

About Milwaukie City Council

- City Council is composed of a mayor and four councilors.
 - Each council position is numbered 1 through 4.
 - All council members are elected at large.
 - Terms are four years, unless filling an unexpired term.
 - No person shall serve more than two full consecutive terms.
- Candidates must declare the position number for which they are running.
 - Candidates may only run for one position per election.
- Councilors must take an oath of office before commencing duties.
 - Council meetings are held on the first three Tuesdays of each month.
 - Councilors attend multiple city and regional meetings each month.
 - Councilors must file an annual statement of economic interest with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGECE).

How to File for Candidacy by Petition

Find candidate forms here: <http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/electionforms.aspx>.

#1: **Establish a candidate committee** by submitting the following forms electronically via the state's ORESTAR system: <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/CFSearchPage.do>

1. **Form SEL220: [Statement of Organization for Candidate Committee](#)**

SEL220 must be filed within three business days of receiving a campaign contribution or making an expenditure. See the *Campaign Finance Manual* <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/campaign-finance.pdf>

#2: **Candidate nomination papers are filed** with the city:

1. **Form SEL101: [Candidate Filing](#)**

2. **Form SEL121: [Candidate Signature Sheet – Nonpartisan](#)**

All nomination papers are filed with the city elections officer between 100 and 70 days before the election. For the November 3, 2026, election the candidate filing period opens July 27 and the filing deadline is August 18 for elected incumbents (**New**) and August 25 for new candidates. **New:** as candidates file to run for office the city elections officer will post the candidate names and their SEL101 form on the city's website.

All signature sheets must be approved in writing by the city elections officer before circulating. Failure to do so will result in the rejection of signature sheets. Each candidate must declare in advance which position they plan to run for.

3. **NEW Form SEL180: [Residence Address Exemption Request](#)**

Candidates may submit the online SEL180 webform to the State as outlined in [ORS 247.940 or 247.945](#). Must be submitted within two business days of filing candidate forms. Candidates are not required to submit this form.

#3: The city elections officer **reviews signature sheets and provides written approval** prior to candidates circulating signature sheets.

#4: **The candidate (or circulator) circulates approved signature sheets (SEL121)** to collect signatures following the guidelines in the [state's candidate manual](#).

The [Milwaukie City Charter](#) requires candidates to acquire a minimum of 20 valid signatures to qualify for the ballot. It is recommended that more than 20 signatures be collected to ensure that enough valid signatures are gathered.

#5: **Signature sheets are submitted to the city elections officer** when enough signatures have been collected. Candidates must include a SEL338: [Candidate Petition Submission form](#) when submitting signature sheets.

The city elections officer submits signature sheets to the county elections office for verification. Candidates are encouraged to submit signatures by **August 11, 2026**, to ensure there is enough time for verification.

If a candidate does not submit enough valid signatures, the candidate may continue to collect additional signatures until the filing deadline.

Required Campaign Financing

As required by state law, candidates must follow campaign finance reporting requirements. Visit <http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/manuals-tutorials.aspx> to review the campaign finance reporting manuals. Be sure to review the contribution and expenditure reporting requirements and observe the filing deadlines. For detailed information regarding who must file and when, refer to the candidate manual or check with the local elections officer in the state elections division at 503-986-1518, or Clackamas County elections at 503-655-8510.

Withdrawal of Candidacy

To withdraw from the election, a candidate must file the **SEL150** Candidate Filing Withdrawal form with the city elections officer no later than **August 28, 2026**, for the November 3, 2026, general election. Form **SEL150** may be downloaded here: <http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/SEL150.pdf>

County Voters' Pamphlet

Each candidate is responsible for their own voters' pamphlet submission with the Clackamas County elections office. This generally includes a photo, brief biography, and an issues statement. Milwaukie City Council positions are considered paid positions, so the county charges a fee for candidate submissions. This fee is considered an expense and must be included on state campaign expenditure reports.

Political Signs and Printed Material

What kinds of signs are allowed?

Political signs are allowed in all zones of the City of Milwaukie. No permits are necessary if the signs meet these criteria:

Temporary signs which are nonilluminated, have an overall face area not exceeding 16 square feet, are not permanently installed, and are intended to be located on property for short durations of time. Such signs may include, but are not limited to, real estate lease and sales, political signs, building permits, public hearing notices, construction signs, garage sale, open house, special event, holiday, and similar signs. Temporary signs shall be removed within six months. ([Milwaukie Municipal Code \(MMC\) Section 14.12.010\(B\)](#))

Where can political signs be displayed?

Signs must be placed on private property with the owner's permission. They must not be placed on public property or in the public right-of-way (ROW) (i.e., streets, sidewalks, utility poles, parks, school grounds, etc.). Generally, the public ROW is all the property on the street side of utility poles, sidewalks, and fence lines. All signs found posted in the public ROW or affixed to power, utility, or traffic control poles must be removed or they will be confiscated.

Be aware that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has some stringent regulations. If you are considering posting political signs along Hwy. 224 or Hwy. 99E (McLoughlin Boulevard), contact ODOT before doing so.

How long can the political signs be displayed?

The city requests the signs be removed within ten days after the election.

Identification on Political Material

The state does not enforce identification requirements. The state elections division does, however, strongly recommend that identification be voluntarily included so the public knows who is authorizing the publication.

Miscellaneous

All election forms that are filed with the city are a matter of public record and will be released if requested.

The city elections officer is available as a resource during your candidacy. Please contact City Recorder Scott Stauffer at 503-786-7502 or ocr@milwaukieoregon.gov if you have any questions about the election process.

Internet Resources

- Milwaukie City Council Elections: www.milwaukieoregon.gov/elections
- Milwaukie City Charter and Municipal Code: <https://ecode360.com/MI4969>
- Clackamas County Elections Office: <https://www.clackamas.us/elections>
- State of Oregon Elections Division: <https://sos.oregon.gov/voting-elections/>
- League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Elections Overview:
<https://www.orcities.org/resources/reference/topics-z/details/elections>
- Subscribe to City Council meeting “Email Notifications” online via
<https://milwaukiecityor.documents-on-demand.com/EmailNotifications/SignUp>