

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

H. B. No. 950

Representative Fischer

To amend sections 3513.07 and 3513.261 and to 1
repeal section 3505.02 of the Revised Code to 2
require space on declarations of candidacy and 3
petition forms for former names, and to remove 4
the requirement that former names appear on the 5
ballot. 6

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3513.07 and 3513.261 of the 7
Revised Code be amended to read as follows: 8

Sec. 3513.07. The form of declaration of candidacy and 9
petition of a person desiring to be a candidate for a party 10
nomination or a candidate for election to an office or position 11
to be voted for at a primary election shall be substantially as 12
follows: 13

"DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION 14

I, _____ (Name of Candidate and any 15
previous names used by Candidate in the last five years as 16
required under R.C. 3513.06 or 3513.271), the undersigned, 17
hereby declare under penalty of election falsification that my 18
voting residence is in _____ precinct of the 19
_____ (Township) or (Ward and City or 20

Village) in the county of _____, Ohio; that my voting 21
residence is _____ (Street and Number, if any, or 22
Rural Route and Number) of the _____ 23
(City or Village) of _____, Ohio; and that I am a 24
qualified elector in the precinct in which my voting residence 25
is located. I am a member of the _____ Party. I hereby 26
declare that I desire to be _____ (a candidate 27
for nomination as a candidate of the Party for election to the 28
office of _____) (a candidate for election to the office 29
or position of _____) for the _____ in the 30
state, district, (Full term or unexpired term ending 31
_____) county, city, or village of 32
_____, at the primary election to be held on the 33
_____ day of _____, _____, and I hereby request that 34
my name be printed upon the official primary election ballot of 35
the said _____ Party as a candidate for _____ (such 36
nomination) or (such election) as provided by law. 37

I further declare that, if elected to said office or 38
position, I will qualify therefor, and that I will support and 39
abide by the principles enunciated by the _____ Party. 40

Dated this _____ day of _____, _____ 41

(Signature of candidate) 42 43

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A 44
FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE. 45

PETITION OF CANDIDATE 46

We, the undersigned, qualified electors of the state of 47
Ohio, whose voting residence is in the county, city, village, 48
ward, township, or school district, and precinct set opposite 49

our names, and members of the 50
_____ Party, hereby certify 51
that _____ (Name of candidate) whose 52
declaration of candidacy is filed herewith, is a member of the 53
_____ Party, and is, in our opinion, well qualified to 54
perform the duties of the office or position to which that 55
candidate desires to be elected. 56

Street City, 57
and Village or 58
Signature Number Township Ward Precinct County Date 59

(Must use address on file with the board of elections) 60

_____ 61
62
63

_____ (Name of circulator 64
of petition), declares under penalty of election falsification 65
that the circulator of the petition is a qualified elector of 66
the state of Ohio and resides at the address appearing below the 67
signature of that circulator; that the circulator is a member of 68
the _____ Party; that the circulator is the circulator of 69
the foregoing petition paper containing _____ (Number) 70
signatures; that the circulator witnessed the affixing of every 71
signature; that all signers were to the best of the circulator's 72
knowledge and belief qualified to sign; and that every signature 73
is to the best of the circulator's knowledge and belief the 74
signature of the person whose signature it purports to be or of 75
an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.382 of the 76
Revised Code. 77

_____ 78

(Signature of circulator)	79
_____	80
(Address of circulator's	81
permanent residence in this	82
state)	83
_____	84
(If petition is for a	85
statewide candidate, the	86
name and address of person	87
employing to circulate	88
petition, if any)	89
WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A	90
FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE."	91
The secretary of state shall prescribe a form of	92
declaration of candidacy and petition, and the form shall be	93
substantially similar to the declaration of candidacy and	94
petition set forth in this section, that will be suitable for	95
joint candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant	96
governor.	97
The petition provided for in this section shall be	98
circulated only by a member of the same political party as the	99
candidate.	100
Sec. 3513.261. A nominating petition may consist of one or	101
more separate petition papers, each of which shall be	102
substantially in the form prescribed in this section. If the	103
petition consists of more than one separate petition paper, the	104

statement of candidacy of the candidate or joint candidates 105
named need be signed by the candidate or joint candidates on 106
only one of such separate petition papers, but the statement of 107
candidacy so signed shall be copied on each other separate 108
petition paper before the signatures of electors are placed on 109
it. Each nominating petition containing signatures of electors 110
of more than one county shall consist of separate petition 111
papers each of which shall contain signatures of electors of 112
only one county; provided that petitions containing signatures 113
of electors of more than one county shall not thereby be 114
declared invalid. In case petitions containing signatures of 115
electors of more than one county are filed, the board of 116
elections shall determine the county from which the majority of 117
the signatures came, and only signatures from this county shall 118
be counted. Signatures from any other county shall be invalid. 119

All signatures on nominating petitions shall be written in 120
ink or indelible pencil. 121

At the time of filing a nominating petition, the candidate 122
designated in the nominating petition, and joint candidates for 123
governor and lieutenant governor, shall pay to the election 124
officials with whom it is filed the fees specified for the 125
office under divisions (A) and (B) of section 3513.10 of the 126
Revised Code. The fees shall be disposed of by those election 127
officials in the manner that is provided in section 3513.10 of 128
the Revised Code for the disposition of other fees, and in no 129
case shall a fee required under that section be returned to a 130
candidate. 131

Candidates or joint candidates whose names are written on 132
the ballot, and who are elected, shall pay the same fees under 133
section 3513.10 of the Revised Code that candidates who file 134

nominating petitions pay. Payment of these fees shall be a 135
condition precedent to the granting of their certificates of 136
election. 137

Each nominating petition shall contain a statement of 138
candidacy that shall be signed by the candidate or joint 139
candidates named in it or by an attorney in fact acting pursuant 140
to section 3501.382 of the Revised Code. Such statement of 141
candidacy shall contain a declaration made under penalty of 142
election falsification that the candidate desires to be a 143
candidate for the office named in it, and that the candidate is 144
an elector qualified to vote for the office the candidate seeks. 145

The form of the nominating petition and statement of 146
candidacy shall be substantially as follows: 147

"STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY 148

I, _____ (Name of candidate_ 149
and any previous names used by Candidate in the last five years 150
as required under R.C. 3513.06 or 3513.271), the undersigned, 151
hereby declare under penalty of election falsification that my 152
voting residence is in _____ Precinct of 153
the _____ (Township) or (Ward and City, or 154
Village) in the county of _____ Ohio; that my post- 155
office address is _____ (Street and 156
Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number) of the 157
_____ (City, Village, or post office) 158
of _____, Ohio; and that I am a qualified elector 159
in the precinct in which my voting residence is located. I 160
hereby declare that I desire to be a candidate for election to 161
the office of _____ in the _____ 162
(State, District, County, City, Village, Township, or School 163
District) for the _____ (Full 164

term or unexpired term ending _____) at the General Election to be held on the _____ day of _____, _____

I further declare that I am an elector qualified to vote for the office I seek. Dated this _____ day of _____, _____

(Signature of candidate)

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE.

I, _____, hereby constitute the persons named below a committee to represent me:

Name	Residence
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

NOMINATING PETITION

We, the undersigned, qualified electors of the state of Ohio, whose voting residence is in the County, City, Village, Ward, Township or Precinct set opposite our names, hereby nominate _____ as a candidate for election to the office of _____ in the _____ (State, District, County, City, Village, Township, or School District) for the _____ (Full term or unexpired term ending _____) to be

voted for at the general election next hereafter to be held, and 191
certify that this person is, in our opinion, well qualified to 192
perform the duties of the office or position to which the person 193
desires to be elected. 194
195

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

A Street

B Address

C or R.F.D.

D (Must use

E address on City,

F file with Village

G the board of or Date of

H Signature elections) Township Ward Precinct County Signing

_____ 196

_____ 197

_____ 198

_____, declares under penalty of election 199
falsification that such person is a qualified elector of the 200
state of Ohio and resides at the address appearing below such 201
person's signature hereto; that such person is the circulator of 202
the foregoing petition paper containing _____ 203
signatures; that such person witnessed the affixing of every 204
signature; that all signers were to the best of such person's 205

knowledge and belief qualified to sign; and that every signature 206
is to the best of such person's knowledge and belief the 207
signature of the person whose signature it purports to be or of 208
an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.382 of the 209
Revised Code. 210

(Signature of circulator) 211
212

(Address of circulator's 213
214

permanent residence 215

in this state) 216

(If petition is for a statewide 217
218

candidate, the name and address 219

of person employing circulator 220

to circulate petition, if any) 221

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A 222
FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE." 223

The secretary of state shall prescribe a form of 224
nominating petition for a group of candidates for the office of 225
member of a board of education, township office, and offices of 226
municipal corporations of under two thousand population. 227

The secretary of state shall prescribe a form of statement 228
of candidacy and nominating petition, which shall be 229
substantially similar to the form of statement of candidacy and 230
nominating petition set forth in this section, that will be 231

suitable for joint candidates for the offices of governor and 232
lieutenant governor. 233

If such petition nominates a candidate whose election is 234
to be determined by the electors of a county or a district or 235
subdivision within the county, it shall be filed with the board 236
of such county. If the petition nominates a candidate whose 237
election is to be determined by the voters of a subdivision 238
located in more than one county, it shall be filed with the 239
board of the county in which the major portion of the population 240
of such subdivision is located. 241

If the petition nominates a candidate whose election is to 242
be determined by the electors of a district comprised of more 243
than one county but less than all of the counties of the state, 244
it shall be filed with the board of elections of the most 245
populous county in such district. If the petition nominates a 246
candidate whose election is to be determined by the electors of 247
the state at large, it shall be filed with the secretary of 248
state. 249

The secretary of state or a board of elections shall not 250
accept for filing a nominating petition of a person seeking to 251
become a candidate if that person, for the same election, has 252
already filed a declaration of candidacy, a declaration of 253
intent to be a write-in candidate, or a nominating petition, or 254
has become a candidate through party nomination at a primary 255
election or by the filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 or 256
3513.31 of the Revised Code for any federal, state, or county 257
office, if the nominating petition is for a state or county 258
office, or for any municipal or township office, for member of a 259
city, local, or exempted village board of education, or for 260
member of a governing board of an educational service center, if 261

the nominating petition is for a municipal or township office, 262
or for member of a city, local, or exempted village board of 263
education, or for member of a governing board of an educational 264
service center. 265

Section 2. That existing sections 3513.07 and 3513.261 of 266
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 267

Section 3. That section 3505.02 of the Revised Code is 268
hereby repealed. 269