

# COLE COUNTY CANDIDATE FILING INFORMATION

## AUGUST 4, 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION

### CANDIDATE FILING – Date, Time & Location RSMo 115.349

- Open: February 24, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.
- Closes: March 31, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
- Location: Cole County Clerk's Office

### COLE COUNTY OFFICES OPEN FOR FILING IN 2026

- Associate Circuit Judge Div. VI
- Auditor
- Circuit Clerk
- Collector
- County Clerk
- Presiding Commissioner
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Recorder of Deeds
- Township or Ward Committeepersons

### CANDIDACY REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for specific office listed on the following page.

### DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR FILING

- Missouri Driver's License, Voter I.D. Card, Birth Certificate or other form of identification are required at time of filing. RSMo 115.355.4
- For those individuals filing for the County Collector or Recorder of Deeds position, a signed affidavit from a bonding agency affirming that the candidate is bondable if they should take office. RSMo 52.010

### FORM 5120 REQUIRED

- Each candidate is required to submit a completed copy of "Candidate's Affidavit of Tax Payments and Bonding Requirements - Form 5120" or complete one online during candidate filing. [Form 5120 - Candidate's affidavit](#) RSMo 115.306

### COST OF FILING FOR OFFICE

- \$100 political party filing fee (checks made payable to Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, Green, or Constitution Central Committee). RSMo 115.357.1(2)

### MUST FILE IN PERSON EXCEPTIONS

- Candidates for office must file in person except for members of the armed services on active duty and disabled persons who may file by certified mail. RSMo 115.355.2

### BALLOT PLACEMENT

- For all first day filers, a random drawing determines ballot placement.
- After the first day to file, candidates are placed on the ballot in the order of their filing. RSMo 115.395.2

### WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

- Write-in candidates must file a declaration of intent in the County Clerk's office by 5:00 p.m. October 23, 2026. RSMo 115.453.4

### CANDIDATE WITHDRAWAL DEADLINES

- Withdrawal without a court order may occur until May 19, 2026. RSMo 115.359
- To withdraw after the deadline above, a court order is required and costs may be incurred. RSMo 115.359

### ELECTION RESULTS AND POLLING LOCATIONS

- Results of elections and polling locations can be found posted on the Cole County Clerk's website. [County Clerk | Cole County, MO](#)

### INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

- A petition with signatures of registered voters according to RSMo 115.321 must be filed with the Cole County Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on July 27, 2026. Those who pass the petition process, will be placed on the November ballot. RSMo 115.329

#### Cole County Clerk

311 E High St, Room 201  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
Phone (573)634-9101  
Fax (573)681-9678  
Email: [mmusselman@colecourt.org](mailto:mmusselman@colecourt.org)  
[www.colecounty.org/217/county-clerk.com](http://www.colecounty.org/217/county-clerk.com)

#### Missouri Secretary of State Elections Division

600 West Main Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
Phone (573)751-2301  
Fax (573)526-3242  
Email: [elections@sos.mo.gov](mailto:elections@sos.mo.gov)  
<https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections>

#### Missouri Ethics Commission

3411 Knipp Dr #A  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
Phone (573)751-2020  
Fax (573)526-4506  
Email: [helpdesk@mec.mo.gov](mailto:helpdesk@mec.mo.gov)  
[www.mec.mo.gov](http://www.mec.mo.gov)

## **COLE COUNTY 2026 CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS**

### **General Qualifications Applicable to the Following County Offices: (Art. VII, 8 Constitution of Missouri; RSMo. 115.306 and 115.349.3)**

- Citizen of the United States;
- Resident of the state 1 year next preceding election;
- Registered Missouri voter;
- Is not delinquent in the payment of any state income taxes, personal property taxes, municipal taxes, real property taxes on the place of residence as stated in the declaration of candidacy;
- Has not been found guilty of or pled guilty to a felony or misdemeanor under the federal laws of the United States of America;
- Has not been found guilty of or pled guilty to a felony under the laws of this state or an offense committed in another state that would be considered a felony in this state;
- Does not have outstanding campaign disclosure reports due from prior elections.

### **Associate Circuit Judge – Art. V, 21 Constitution of Missouri; RSMo. 478.320**

- At least 25 years of age
- Resident of county for at least 1 year before election
- Licensed to practice law in Missouri

### **Clerk of the Circuit Court – RSMo. 483.010**

- Resident of the county 3 months next preceding election
- Over 21 years of age

### **Collector of Revenue – RSMo. 52.010**

- 21 Years of age
- Resident of the county
- Must provide a copy of a signed affidavit from a surety company indicating that the candidate meets the bond requirements of \$750,000

### **County Auditor – RSMo. 55.060**

- Over 21 years of age
- Resident of county 3 months next preceding election
- Familiar with the theory and practice of accounting by education, training, and experience

### **County Clerk – 51.050, RSMo.**

- Over 21 years of age
- Resident of the county 1 year next preceding election

### **Presiding County Commissioner – RSMo. 49.020**

- Resident of the county

### **Prosecuting Attorney – RSMo. 56.010**

- At least 21 years of age
- Licensed to practice law in Missouri
- Resident of the county 1 year next preceding election

### **Recorder of Deeds – RSMo. 59.020 & 59.021**

- Over 21 years of age
- Resident of the county 1 year next preceding election
- Must provide a copy of a signed affidavit from a surety company indicating that the candidate meets the bond requirements of \$5,000

### **Committeeperson – RSMo. 115.607 & 115.613**

- Resident of the county 1 year preceding the election
- Resident of the committee district 1 year preceding the election