



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

# 2014

# Candidates' Pamphlets



*January 7, 2014*



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION**

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January 7, 2014

Dear Candidates:

We'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your decision to seek public office. Your willingness to serve in a position of public trust strengthens the foundations of our democratic system and further provides more choices for our voters when they visit the polls this November.

As you are probably aware, the Commonwealth Election Commission serves a vital role as the disinterested guardian of the democratic franchise in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Commonwealth Election Commission must ensure a fair, orderly and free election. It must be indifferent to the outcome of this election or any other election.

In keeping our candidates for public office informed on numerous requirements and in particular, the election process, we have prepared this brief pamphlet containing information that we feel may be helpful to you in the coming months. While we tried to cover every aspect possible in preparation for the upcoming general election, we suggest that you also review Title 1 Division 6 of the Commonwealth Code. If you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to let us know.

As we enter this campaign season, the Commissioners and staff of the Commonwealth Election Commission join me in extending our warmest regards to you.

Respectfully,



ROBERT A. GUERRERO  
Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION**

## **Important Dates for the Upcoming General Election**

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<b><u>Date &amp; Days before Election</u></b>		<b><u>Activity</u></b>
<b>July 7, 2014</b>	120 Days	Last day to establish residency requirements.  First day for submission of nominating petitions & candidacy documents.
<b>Aug. 6, 2014</b>	90 Days	Last day for submission of nominating petitions & candidacy.
<b>Aug. 21, 2014</b>	75 Days	Request for absentee ballots commences.
<b>Sept. 5, 2014</b>	60 Days	Last days for voters' registration for the election.
<b>Sept. 20, 2014</b>	45 Days	Last day for Commission's action on nominating petitions & candidacy documents.  Early Voting for Northern Islands <b><u>only</u></b> commences.
<b>Oct. 10, 2014</b>	25 Days	Deadline for application for absentee voting by electronic/mail.
<b>Oct. 20, 2014</b>	15 Days	Designation of polling places.
<b>Oct. 24, 2014</b>	11 Days	Early Voting for Saipan, Tinian & Rota only commences.
<b>Oct. 28, 2014</b>	7 Days	Posting/distribution of specimen ballots.
<b>Nov. 3, 2014</b>	1 Day	Last day for early voting.
<b>Nov. 4, 2014</b>	<b>0 Days</b>	<b>2014 General Election</b>
<b>Dec. 4, 2014</b>	30 Days	Removal of all campaign materials from public places.
<b>Dec. 24, 2014</b>	50 Days	Submission of Campaign Financial Statement
<b>Jan. 12, 2015</b>		Elected officials take office.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
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## **Elective Offices for Nomination (Gubernatorial Election)**

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Governor/Lieutenant Governor	Commonwealth Wide	1
Delegate to the U.S. House of Rep.	Commonwealth Wide	1
Attorney General	Commonwealth Wide	1
Mayors	Municipality of Northern Islands	1
	Municipality of Saipan	1
	Municipality of Tinian	1
	Municipality of Rota	1
Senators	First Senatorial District (Rota)	2
	Second Senatorial District (Tinian & Aguijan)	2
	Third Senatorial District (Saipan & Northern Islands)	2
Representatives	Election District No. 1	6
	Election District No. 2	2
	Election District No. 3	6
	Election District No. 4	2
	Election District No. 5	2
	Election District No. 6	1
	Election District No. 7	1
Municipal Councils	Municipality of Rota	3
	Municipality of Tinian & Aguijan	3
	Municipality of Saipan & Northern Islands	3
Board of Education	By Senatorial District	



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## **Elective Offices for Nomination (Mid-Term Election Only)**

Delegate to the U.S. House of Rep.	Commonwealth Wide	1
Senators	First Senatorial District (Rota)	1
	Second Senatorial District (Tinian & Aguijan)	1
	Third Senatorial District (Saipan & Northern Islands)	1
Representatives	Election District No. 1	6
	Election District No. 2	2
	Election District No. 3	6
	Election District No. 4	2
	Election District No. 5	2
	Election District No. 6	1
	Election District No. 7	1
Municipal Councils	Municipality of Rota	3
	Municipality of Tinian & Aguijan	3
	Municipality of Saipan & Northern Islands	3
Board of Education	By Senatorial District	



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
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## **Qualifications for Elective Offices**

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A candidate for **Governor and Lieutenant Governor** shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at least thirty-five (35) years of age and a resident and domiciliary of the Commonwealth for at least ten (10) years preceding the date on which a Governor/Lieutenant Governor takes office. No person convicted of a felony in the Commonwealth or in any area under the jurisdiction of the United States may be eligible for these offices unless a full pardon has been granted.

A candidate for **U.S. Delegate** shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at least twenty-five (25) years of age and a resident and domiciliary of the Commonwealth for at least seven (7) years preceding the date on which U.S. Delegate takes office. No person convicted of a felony in the Commonwealth or in any area under the jurisdiction of the United States may be eligible for these offices unless a full pardon has been granted.

A candidate for **Attorney General** shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at least thirty-five (35) years of age, a U.S. Citizen and a resident and domiciliary of the Commonwealth for at least five (5) years preceding the date on which the Attorney General takes office. Must be an active member in good standing of the Commonwealth Bar Association for at least 5 years proceeding the date the Attorney General takes office and have not been suspended from practice of law in any jurisdiction of the United States for violation of ethics rules governing the practice of law. No person convicted of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude in the Commonwealth or in any area under the jurisdiction of the United States may be eligible for this offices.

A candidate for **Mayor** shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and on the island or islands served by the mayor, at least twenty-five (25) years of age and a resident and domiciliary of the island or islands served by the mayor for at least tree (3) years preceding the date on which the mayor takes office. No person convicted of a felony in the Commonwealth or in any area under the jurisdiction of the United States may be eligible for these offices unless a full pardon has been granted.

A candidate for **Senator** shall be qualified to vote in the senatorial district where he or she is a candidate, at least twenty-five (25) years of age and is a resident and is a domiciliary of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for at least five (5) years preceding the date on which the senator takes office. No person convicted of a felony in the Commonwealth or in any area under the jurisdiction of the United States may be eligible for these offices unless a full pardon has been granted.

A candidate for the **House of Representatives** shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth, at least twenty-one years of age, a resident and a domiciliary of the Commonwealth for at least three years immediately preceding the date on which a representative would take office. A candidate for the House of Representatives shall be a registered voter and a resident of the election precinct where he or she is a candidate. No person convicted of a felony in the Commonwealth or in any area under the jurisdiction of the United States may be eligible for this office unless a full pardon has been granted.

A candidate for **Municipal Council** shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and on the island or islands served by the Municipal Council, at least twenty-one (21) years of age and a resident and a domiciliary of the island or islands served by the Council for at least three (3) years preceding the date on which the Municipal Council takes office and must reside in the island or islands served by the Council after each election. No person convicted of a felony in the Commonwealth or any area under the jurisdiction of the United States may be eligible for this office unless a full pardon has been granted.

A candidate for the **Board of Education** shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at least twenty-five (25) years of age and a resident and a domiciliary of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for at least five (5) years preceding the date on which the member takes office. No person convicted of a felony in the Commonwealth or any area under the jurisdiction of the United States may be eligible for this office unless a full pardon has been granted.



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## **Qualifications for Elective Offices**

The candidate filing process enables qualified individuals to have their names appear on the general election ballots. Nominating Petitions forms may be obtained from the Office of the Election Commission on Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan or from a Commissioner on Tinian or Rota. Nominating petitions may be circulated by the candidates themselves or by a person chosen by the candidates to circulate the nominating petitions.

### **Signature and Filing Fee Requirements**

Before being filed, nominations papers must be signed by a specified number of registered voters who are qualified to vote for the office sought. The candidate is responsible for ensuring that there are sufficient signatures of qualified voters on his/her nomination papers. The number of required signatures and the amount of fee for filing varies according to the office sought. (See table below.)

<u>Office</u>	<u>Required Signatures</u>	<u>Filing Fee</u>
Governor/Lieutenant Governor	200	\$500
U.S. Delegate	200	\$500
Attorney General	***** (Awaiting legislation) *****	
Mayor	5% or 100, whichever is less	\$250
Senator	5% or 100, whichever is less	\$250
Representative	5% or 50, whichever is less	\$100
Municipal Council	5% or 100, whichever is less	\$100
Board of Education	5% or 100, whichever is less	\$100

To be valid, each signer must live and be registered in the senatorial/election/municipal district from which the candidate seeks election; must sign no more nomination petition papers than there are available seats; and must include his/her name, signature (as it appears on the Affidavit of Registration of the voter), date of birth and election district for verification.

Candidates are advised to file their nomination papers early and to obtain more signatures than required in anticipation of invalid signature or unqualified voters. ***Submissions after the 90-day submission period, submissions by facsimile transmission or submissions by mail shall not be considered and/or processed.***

All completed nominating petitions must be submitted to the Office of the Election Commission on Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan no later than the close of business day 90 days prior to the election day. The Commission may refuse to accept for filing any petition that, on its face, fails to comply with the requirements of Public Law 12-18, as amended, applicable rules and regulations, promulgated manuals or established Election Commission policies.



Any recognized political party may nominate candidates for senator or representative by having its chairperson and secretary certify to the Commission the names of the party's candidates on or before the 90 day submission date. This certification must accompany the nominating petitions.

Except for the requirement of recognized political party certification, nonpartisan and independent candidates must submit their petitions in the same manner as those for candidates for recognized political candidates.

All candidates for election office must submit, together with the nomination papers, signed statements attesting that they are qualified to seek and hold office and that they have complied with all laws, rules and regulations governing candidacy for election to public office.

Filing fees shall be paid at the Department of Finance or at any of its authorized collection points. The Election Commission is not an authorized collection point and therefore, cannot receive monies on behalf of the CNMI Government.



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**CANDIDACY CERTIFICATION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a United States citizen and resident of  
(Full Legal Name of Candidate/Nominee)  
\_\_\_\_\_, do hereby assent to my nomination as a candidate election  
(Residence)  
to the office of \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Office Sought) (Election District, Senatorial District or Municipality)  
pursuant to the requirements of the Northern Mariana Islands Election Law (P.L. 12-18, as  
amended).

Under penalty of perjury, I hereby affirm that I meet all the requirements established by Public  
Law 12-18, as amended, for my candidacy for the office for which I am herein nominated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_



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## **Waiver**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a candidate for election to  
(Full Legal Name of Candidate/Nominee)

public office in the \_\_\_\_\_ General Election, hereby fully and freely consent to the  
(Date of Election)

following:

- a. I hereby waive any and all rights and legal imperfections with respect to the ballot format and content;
- b. I hereby understand and acknowledge that the ballot will show my full legal name as shown on my Affidavit of Registration on file with the Commonwealth Election Commission; and
- c. I hereby understand that the ballot will be designed pursuant to applicable provisions of the Commonwealth Election Commission's Regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

Witnessed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Signature



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
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**Nominating Petition for  
Candidates for Public Office**

To the Commonwealth Election Commission:

We the undersigned do hereby declare that we are registered to vote under the provisions of the Northern Mariana Islands Election Law (Public Law 12-18, as amended) and in the election district indicated after our signatures below and that we do hereby nominate

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Full Name of Nominee)

as a candidate for election to the office of \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Office Sought)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Election District, Senatorial District or Municipality)

For the \_\_\_\_\_ General Election. We do further represent that the person nominated herein meets all the requirements for public office pursuant to Article 3 of Public Law 12-18, as amended.

Full Name (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
1			
2			
3			
4			

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Name of Candidate

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Office Sought

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Full Name (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

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Name of Candidate

---

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Office Sought

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Full Name (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

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Name of Candidate

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Office Sought

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Full Name (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			

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Name of Candidate

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Office Sought

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Full Name (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
29			
30			
31			
32			
33			
34			
35			
36			



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Name of Candidate

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Office Sought

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Full Name (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
37			
38			
39			
40			
41			
42			
43			
44			

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Name of Candidate

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Office Sought

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Full Name (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
45			
46			
47			
48			
49			
50			
51			
52			

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Name of Candidate

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Office Sought

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Full Name (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
53			
54			
55			
56			
57			
58			
59			
60			

---

Name of Candidate

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Office Sought

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Full Name (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
61			
62			
63			
64			
65			
66			
67			
68			

---

Name of Candidate

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Office Sought

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Full Name (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
69			
70			
71			
72			
73			
74			
75			
76			

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Name of Candidate

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Office Sought

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Full Name (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
77			
78			
79			
80			
81			
82			
83			
84			

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Name of Candidate

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Office Sought

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Full Name (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
85			
86			
87			
88			
89			
90			
91			
92			

---

Name of Candidate

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Office Sought

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Full Name (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
93			
94			
95			
96			
97			
98			
99			
100			





COMMONWEALTH OF \_\_\_\_\_ RN MARIANA ISLANDS

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION**

**Certification of Nomination by a  
Recognized Political Party**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Pursuant to Article 2, Chapter 3 of Public Law 12-18, as amended, we, the Chairman and

Secretary of the \_\_\_\_\_ hereby certify  
(Name of the Recognized Political Party)

the nomination of \_\_\_\_\_ as a candidate for  
(Full Name of Candidate/Nominee)

the election to the office of \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Office Sought)

\_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ General Election.  
(Election District, Senatorial District, Municipality)

Nominating petitions containing the signatures, printed names, dates of birth, residence and mailing addresses of a sufficient number of individuals duly qualified to nominate the candidate(s), the candidacy certification(s), the signed ballot format waiver(s), and the receipt(s) for payment of the candidacy fee(s) of the individual(s) above named are attached to and made a part of this certification.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Secretary





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## **Polling Places (Tentative)**

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There shall be fourteen (14) polling places in the Northern Mariana Islands. Polling Places are tentative until such time that they are officially designated by the Commission. They are as follows:

### **Election District No. 1**

- 1-A: San Antonio Elementary School
- 1-B: Dandan Elementary School
- 1-C: Koblerville Youth Center

### **Election District No. 2**

- 2: Joeten Kiyu Public Library

### **Election District No. 3**

- 3-A: Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium
- 3-B: Garapan Elementary School (Northern Entrance)

### **Election District No. 4**

- 4-A: Tanapag Elementary School
- 4-B: Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School
- 4-C: House of Representatives Chamber (Capitol Hill)
- 4-D: Northern Islands

### **Election District No. 5**

- 5: Kagman Elementary School

### **Election District No. 6**

- 6: Tinian Elementary School

### **Election District No. 7**

- 7: Northern Marianas College Campus-Rota



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## **Campaign Financial Disclosure**

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Campaign Financial Disclosure forms which shall be used to report campaign finances, must be obtain from the CNMI Office of Public Auditor. The Commonwealth Election Commission, jointly with the Office of the Public Auditor, will, before the election, conduct a seminar for candidates and their treasurers on how to complete the forms and comply with the requirements pertinent to campaign financial disclosure and reporting. In the meantime, candidates need assistance pertaining to campaign disclosure should contact the Office of the Public Auditor directly.

The forms are a reporting guide. Please refer to Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Public Law 12-18, as amended, for the campaign disclosure controlling requirements.

## **Notice to Users**

**This pamphlet is a reference source. It is not to be used as the authority on Commonwealth Election Laws for individuals, candidates or political parties. It is distributed with the understanding that the Commonwealth Election Commission is not rendering legal advice and the pamphlet is therefore not to be used as a substitute for legal counsel for the individual, candidate or political party using it. In case of conflict, the law, regulation or rule will apply.**

**Users should consult Title 1 Division 6 of the Commonwealth Code of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the United States in Political Union with the United States of America, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and other sources for a complete and legal basis of the law.**