



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

2016

Candidates' Pamphlet



January 15, 2016



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

January 26, 2016

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 Staffs of the Commonwealth Election Commission join me in extending our warmest regards to you.

Respectfully,


JULITA A. VILLAGOMEZ
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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Qualifications for Elective Offices

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 **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 (21) 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 these offices 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 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 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 in any area under the jurisdiction of the United States may be eligible for this office unless a full pardon has been granted.

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>
U.S. Delegate	200	\$500
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 complete 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 requirements of Title 1 Division 6 of the Commonwealth Code, 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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Important Dates for the Upcoming General Election

<u>Dates & Days before Election</u>	<u>Activity</u>
July 11, 2016 120 days	Last day to establish residency requirements
	First day for submission for nominating petitions and candidacy documents
Aug 10, 2016 90 days	Last day for submission of nominating petitions & candidacy
Aug 25, 2016 75 days	Request for absentee ballots commences
Sep 9, 2016 60 days	Last day for voters' registration for election
Sep 24, 2016 45 days	Last day for Commission's action on nominating petitions & candidacy documents
	Early Voting for Northern Islands <u>only</u> commences
Oct 14, 2016 25 days	Deadline for application for absentee voting by electronic/mail
Oct 24, 2016 15 days	Designation for polling places (Distribution of Listing)
Nov 1, 2016 7 days	Early Voting for Saipan, Tinian, Rota only commences
Nov 7, 2016 1 day	Last day for early voting
Nov 8, 2016	2016 GENERAL ELECTION
Dec 8, 2016 30 days	Removal of all campaign materials from public places
Dec 28, 2016 50 days	Submission of Campaign Financial Statement
Jan 9, 2017 2 nd Monday of Jan	Election officials take office



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

Date: _____

Pursuant to Title 1 Division 6 of the Commonwealth Code, we, the Chairman and Secretary of

the _____ hereby certify the
(Name of the Recognized Political Party)

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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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 Title 1 Division 6 of the Commonwealth Code.

Under penalty of perjury, I hereby affirm that I meet all the requirements established by Title 1 Division 6 of the Commonwealth Code, 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



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CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

1	Candidate
Candidate's Name	
Mailing Address:	
Contact No.:	Email Address:
Business:	Other:
Office Sought:	Municipality/District:

2	Candidate's Committee
Party Affiliation:	
Committee Name:	
Mailing Address:	Contact No.:

3	Chairperson (Required)	4	Treasurer (Required)
Full Name		Full Name	
Mailing Address:		Mailing Address:	
Contact No.:		Contact No.:	
Business:	Other:	Business:	Other:
I hereby accept this appointment as Chairperson and Treasurer for the committee mentioned above for the above mentioned candidate.			
Chairperson's Signature/Date		Treasurer's Signature/Date	

I hereby certify that the information on this report is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.	
Candidate's Signature/Date	



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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 Title 1 Division 6 of the Commonwealth Code 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, *if applicable*)

For the _____ General Election. We do further represent that the person nominated herein meets all the requirements for public office pursuant to Title 1 Division 6 of the Commonwealth Code.

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

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

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

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

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

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

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

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

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

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

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

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

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

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

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

Office Sought

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

Office Sought

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

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

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

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

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

Office Sought

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



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Polling Places

There shall be fourteen (14) polling places in the Northern Mariana Islands. The proposed Polling Places are as follows:

Election District No. 1

1-A: Hopwood Junior High 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

Campaign Financial Disclosure forms which shall be used to report campaign finances must be obtained from the CNMI Office of Public Auditor. The Commonwealth Election Commission jointly with the Office of Public Auditor will conduct a seminar before the election 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 Title 1 Division 6 of the Commonwealth Code, for the campaign disclosure controlling.

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.