



2026

General Election

Candidates' Pamphlet



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION



Kayla I. Magofna
Executive Director

Commissioners

Susan R. Babauta
Chairperson
Saipan Northern Is.

Jose P. Kiyoshi
Vice Chairperson
Tinian/Aguiguan

Esther A. Yatar
Rota

John D. Attao
Tinian/Aguiguan

Florence Sablan
Saipan Northern Is.

Kurt O. Maratita
Rota

Vacant
Saipan Northern Is.

Vacant
Saipan/Northern Is.

Vacant
Saipan/Northern Is

Hafa Adai and Tirow 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 disinterest 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,


KAYLA I. MAGOFNA
Executive Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

Qualifications for Elective Offices

A candidate for **Governor or Lieutenant Governor** shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth, at least thirty-five (35) years of age, and a resident and a domiciliary of the Commonwealth for at least ten (10) years immediately preceding the date on which a Governor would take 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 **Mayor** shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth and on the island or islands served by the mayor, at least twenty-five (25) years of age, a resident and a domiciliary of the island or islands served by the mayor for at least three (3) years immediately preceding the date on which the mayor takes office, and must reside in the island or islands served by the mayor 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 these offices unless a full pardon has been granted.

A candidate for **Delegate to the United States** shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth, a citizen of the United States, at least twenty-five (25) years of age, and a resident and a domiciliary of the Commonwealth for at least seven (7) years immediately preceding the date on which the resident representative 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.

A candidate for **Senator** shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth, at least twenty-five (25) years of age, and a resident and a domiciliary of the Commonwealth for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date on which a senator would take 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.

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 (3) 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 the **Attorney General** shall be 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 immediately 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 preceding 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 attorneys. No person convicted of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude in the Commonwealth or any other area under the jurisdiction of the United States may be eligible for this office.

A candidate for **Municipal Council** shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth 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 immediately 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, at least twenty-five (25) years of age, and a resident and domiciliary of the Commonwealth for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date on which a 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.

Candidate Filing Process

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 Commonwealth 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 Petition.

Signatures 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 nominating papers. The number of required

signatures and the amount of fee for filing varies according to the office sought. *(See provided table.)*

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>REQUIRED SIGNATURES</u>	<u>FILING FEE</u>
Governor or Lt. Governor	200	\$500.00
Mayor	5% or 100, whichever is less	\$250.00
U.S. Delegate	200	\$500.00
Senator	5% or 100, whichever is less	\$250.00
House of Representative	5% or 100, whichever is less	\$100.00
Attorney General	200	\$500.00
Municipal Council	5% or 100, whichever is less	\$100.00
Board of Education	5% or 100, whichever is less	\$100.00

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 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 may be required in anticipation of invalid signatures or unqualified voters. Submissions after August 05, 2026, submissions by facsimile transmission and submissions by electronic mail will not be considered nor processed.

All completed nominating petitions must be submitted to the Office of the Commonwealth Election Commission, in Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, by the close of business (4:30 p.m.), 90 days prior to the election day (11/3/2026). The Commission may refuse to accept for filing any petition that, on its face, fails to comply with the 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 by having its chairperson and secretary certify to the Commission the names of the party's candidates by November 03, 2026. 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 elective 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 Commonwealth Election Commission is not an authorized collection point and therefore cannot receive payments on behalf of the CNMI Government.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

IMPORTANT DATES *for the* **2026 General Election**

<u>DATES</u>	<u>DAYS</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
July 6, 2026	120 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Last day to establish residency requirements.•First day for submission for nominating petition and candidacy.
August 5, 2026	90 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Last day of submission of nominating petitions & candidacy documents.
August 20, 2026	75 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Request for absentee ballots commence.
September 4, 2026	60 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Last day for voter's registration for election.
September 18, 2026	46 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Last day for Commission's action on nominating petitions candidacy documents.•Early voting for Northern Island <i>ONLY</i> commences.
October 9, 2026	25 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Deadline for application for absentee voting by electronic/mail.
October 19, 2026	15 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Designation of polling places & distribution of listing.
October 27, 2026	7 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Early voting for Saipan, Tinian & Rota commences.•Specimen ballot to be posted in each polling place.
November 2, 2026	1 day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last day of early voting.
November 3, 2026	0 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•2026 GENERAL ELECTION
November 18, 2026	15 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Removal of all campaign materials from public places.
December 23, 2026	50 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Submission of Campaign Financial Statement.
January 11, 2027	2 nd Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elected Officials take Office



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION**

**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
(Name of the Recognized Political Party)

Certify the nomination of _____ as a
(Full name of Candidate/Nominee)

candidate for the election to the office of _____,
(Office Sought)

_____ in the _____, 20_____
(Election District, Senatorial District, Municipality)

General Election.

Nominating petitions containing the signatures, printed names, date 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



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION**

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
(Residence)

election 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 the 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: _____



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION**

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
(Date of Election)
the 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
COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION**

**CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE
ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT**

1.	Candidate	
Candidate's Name		
Mailing Address		
Contact No.: Business: Other:		Email Address
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 above mentioned Committee and 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:



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION**

**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 Legal Name of Nominee

as a candidate for election to the office of _____, Office Sought

_____ Election District, Senatorial District or Municipality

for the 2026 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
<i>Example: Doe , John</i>	<i>01-01-2000</i>	<i>P O BOX 500470 CK</i>	<i>2-Susupe</i>
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

FULL NAME (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

FULL NAME (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

FULL NAME (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
29			
30			
31			
32			

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

FULL NAME (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
33			
34			
35			
36			
37			
38			
39			
40			
41			

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

FULL NAME (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
42			
43			
44			
45			
46			
47			
48			
49			
50			

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

FULL NAME (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
51			
52			
53			
54			
55			
56			
57			
58			
59			

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

FULL NAME (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
60			
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			
78			

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

FULL NAME (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
79			
80			
81			
82			
83			
84			
85			
86			
87			

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

FULL NAME (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
88			
89			
90			
91			
92			
93			
94			
95			
96			

Name of Candidate

Office Sought

FULL NAME (Sign and Print)	Date of Birth	Current Mailing Address	Date of Signature Election District
97			
98			
99			
100			