



Open Offices

May 19, 2026, Primary Election

This is a list of Columbia County offices for which the County Clerk will accept declarations of candidacy or petitions for nomination or election for the primary election of May 19, 2026. The earliest day to file for the following positions is September 11, 2025, and the deadline is not later than 5 PM on **March 3, 2026, for all elected incumbents** and no later than 5 PM on **March 10, 2026, for new and appointed candidates.**

- **Columbia County Assessor (4-year term)**
- **Columbia County Clerk (4-year term)**
- **Columbia County Commissioner, Position 2 (4-year term)**
- **Columbia County Sheriff (4-year term)**

ORS 249.088, 249.091; Nomination and Election to Nonpartisan Office. The way a nonpartisan candidate is nominated or elected is dependent upon which of two categories the office falls:

Category 1 (County Commissioner, Assessor)

- Candidate can be elected at the primary election if the candidate receives a majority of the votes cast (at least 50% plus one vote).
- If no candidate receives a majority of votes, the top two vote getters move forward to the general election.

Category 2 (Sheriff, County Clerk, County Treasurer)

Article V, Section 16 and Article VI, Section 6, of the Oregon Constitution provide that candidates for the offices of Sheriff, County Clerk, County Treasurer, and nonpartisan offices that are open due to a vacancy in office and the office is not normally printed on the ballot, may not be elected at the Primary Election but must be elected at the General Election.

- If one or two candidates have submitted their filing of candidacy for Clerk or Sheriff, the one candidate or the two candidates are the nominees for the office to be on the General Election ballot. Even though the candidates must file for the office by the filing deadline for the Primary Election, the names of these candidates are not printed on the ballot at the Primary Election, and they are not included in the Voters' Pamphlet for the Primary Election.
- If three or more file for Clerk or Sheriff, the contest will be printed on the Primary ballot for nomination. If one of these candidates receives a majority of the votes cast (50% plus one vote), then only that candidate is nominated and goes forward to the General Election ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of votes, then the top two vote getters move forward to the General Election. Once again, it is noted that these candidates may not be elected at the Primary Election.