

What presidential, Senate candidates will appear on Ohio's ballot for the primary election in March?

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COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio's candidate filing deadline for the March 19 primary election passed without any surprises, at least when it comes to the statewide ballot.

The two leading presidential nominees, Democratic President Joe Biden and ex-President Donald Trump, have filed paperwork to run, a process that involves submitting lists of delegates who would represent the candidates at their respective political conventions, according to Secretary of State Frank LaRose.

Also filing on the Republican side are all of Trump's major opponents in the ongoing GOP primary: Former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Ohio entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy and former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. Ryan Binkley, a minor candidate from Georgia also filed to run.

On the Democratic side, self-help author and perennial candidate Marianne Williamson and Dean Phillips, a congressman from Minnesota, also qualified. Robert F. Kennedy, an anti-vaccine activist whose father is the famous former U.S. attorney general, has dropped his bid to run in the Democratic primary election and instead has said he will run as a political independent.

Under state law, presidential candidates running as independents don't have to file for the ballot until March 18, the day before the primary election.

For U.S. Senate, all three major Republican U.S. Senate candidates — state Sen. Matt Dolan, Westlake businessman Bernie Moreno and LaRose — filed their campaign paperwork, as did a minor candidate, Doug Stuart. Sen. Sherrod Brown was the only Democrat to file, meaning he will run uncontested in March.

For Ohio Supreme Court, Republican Justice Joe Deters [has filed to run for a seat currently held by Democratic Justice Melody Stewart](#).

Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge Megan E. Shanahan, a Republican who [announced her intention to run](#) for the high court last April, filed to challenge Democratic Justice Michael Donnelly.

Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Dan Hawkins, a Republican, filed to run for the seat currently held by Deters. Two Democrats also filed, meaning there will be a competitive primary election between 8th District Court of Appeals Judge Lisa Forbes, from Shaker Heights, and Ohio 10th District Court of Appeals Judge Terri Jamison, a Democrat from Columbus who ran unsuccessfully for Supreme Court last year.

The candidate filings ahead of the Wednesday deadline aren't final. Officials from county boards of election will review the signatures submitted with the petitions to make sure they are valid ahead of a Jan. 2 deadline. LaRose's office has until Jan. 9 to certify whether the petitions are valid.

Early voting ahead of the March election begins on Feb. 2, when mail ballots will be sent to military members and other overseas voters.