

City Council Candidate FAQ

November 3, 2026 General Election | City of Keego Harbor, Michigan Quick facts

Topic	Answer
Seats on the ballot	Three City Council seats: two regular three-year terms and one partial one-year term.
Regular term	Two regular-term seats; term expires November 13, 2029.
Partial term	One partial-term seat; term expires November 9, 2027.
Filing method	Nominating petitions and Affidavit of Identity.
Petition signatures	No fewer than 25 and no more than 50 valid signatures of registered City electors.
Residency standard	City candidates must meet the Charter's one-year City residency requirement; Michigan election law looks to the person's established residence/domicile.
Filing deadline	Charter deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Frequently asked questions

What City Council seats are available in the November 2026 election?

Keego Harbor will have three City Council seats on the November 3, 2026 general election ballot: two regular three-year seats and one partial-term seat.

Authority: City-provided election facts; City Charter §§ 3.3, 3.5-3.7.

Why is there a partial-term seat?

The one-year partial term is separate from the two full-term City Council seats that are also on the November 3 ballot.

This partial term exists because former Council Member Ronnie Dahl resigned before her elected term expired, creating a vacancy on the City Council. Under the City Charter, the City Council appointed Corine Streng to serve on an interim basis until the next regular City election.

At the November 3 election, voters will elect one candidate specifically to fill the remaining one year of the unexpired term. The candidate elected to the partial term will serve until the original term expires. The two candidates elected to the full-term seats will each serve the standard four-year term.

Authority: City Charter §§ 3.5, 3.6, 3.7(a).

How long are City Council terms?

The Charter provides that Council members serve three-year terms, beginning on the first Monday following the election. For this election, the two regular-term seats expire November 13, 2029. The partial term expires November 9, 2027.

Authority: City Charter § 3.3; term dates supplied for the 2026 candidate packet.

Is the Mayor directly elected by voters?

No. Voters elect City Council members. The Charter provides that Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and one to serve as Mayor pro tem for the ensuing year at the organization meeting. The Mayor has an equal voice and vote on Council and no veto power.

Authority: City Charter §§ 4.1, 4.2.

What should I select on the Affidavit of Identity?

In Section 2 of the Affidavit of Identity, a candidate must select **one term of office option**. Select the regular-term option if running for one of the two regular three-year seats expiring November 13, 2029. Select the partial-term option if running for the one partial term expiring November 9, 2027. Candidates should not mark both term options.

Authority: Michigan Election Law affidavit requirement, MCL 168.558; City candidate packet term information.

Affidavit reference image: Section 2 term-of-office selection

Use this section to confirm the office name, jurisdiction, nonpartisan status, general election date, and the selected term of office. The example image is for form-completion guidance only.

How many signatures are required?

A candidate must file nominating petitions signed by **no fewer than 25 and no more than 50** registered electors of the City. Because some signatures may be found invalid, candidates are encouraged to review petitions carefully before filing.

Authority: City Charter § 10.5.

Who may sign a candidate's nominating petition?

Signers must be registered electors of the City of Keego Harbor. A voter may not sign more petitions for one office than the number of people to be elected to that office. For example, there are two regular-term seats and one partial-term seat.

Authority: City Charter § 10.5; qualified elector reference in City Charter § 10.4 and MCL 168.10.

Who may circulate a petition?

The City candidate packet instructs that anyone circulating a petition on behalf of a candidate must be a registered voter within Keego Harbor. The circulator must complete the circulator certification/affidavit at the bottom of each petition sheet, and signatures should be made in the circulator's presence.

Authority: City candidate packet instruction; City Charter § 10.6; Michigan petition form requirements, MCL 168.544c.

What parts of the nominating petition must be completed?

Complete the top candidate/office portion before circulation and complete the bottom circulator certification after signatures are collected. Petitions for the partial-term vacancy should clearly state that the petition is for filling a vacancy/partial term.

Authority: City Charter §§ 10.5, 10.6.

When are candidate filings due?

The filing deadline is **4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday July 21, 2026** for the November 3, 2026 election.

Authority: City Charter § 10.5.

What happens if a petition does not have enough valid signatures?

After the final filing date, the Clerk determines whether petitions contain the required number of legal signatures. If a petition is insufficient, the Charter provides notice to the candidate and allows five days from service or mailing of the notice to file a supplemental petition.

Authority: City Charter § 10.6.

Are City Council elections partisan?

No. The Charter provides that elective offices are elected by nonpartisan ballot, and the ballot form may not include a party designation or emblem for City offices.

Authority: City Charter §§ 10.8, 10.13.

Who is eligible to run for City Council?

The Charter requires a person to be an elector and taxpayer of the City, or exempt from taxes by operation of law, and to have been a City resident for at least one year immediately before the election or appointment. The Charter also provides that a person in default to the City is not eligible. For residency questions, the City should apply Michigan election-law residence/domicile standards and consult the Clerk.

Authority: City Charter § 3.4; Michigan Election Law residence/domicile standards, MCL 168.11.

How is residency or domicile determined?

Michigan election law generally treats a person's residence as the place where the person has an established home for voting purposes - the place where the person habitually lives, keeps personal effects, and intends to return when away. If a person has more than one place to stay, the residency analysis looks to the place that functions as the person's true, fixed, and regular home. Candidates should contact the City Clerk if they have questions about how the one-year City residency requirement applies to their circumstances.

Authority: City Charter § 3.4; Michigan Election Law, MCL 168.11.

How are the winners determined?

For offices where more than one person is elected, the candidates receiving the greatest number of votes are declared elected. Because this election includes both regular terms and a partial term, candidates should make sure the correct term option is selected on the affidavit and petitions.

Authority: City Charter § 10.14.

Candidate filing checklist

- Confirm eligibility for office with the City Clerk.
- Decide which term to run for: regular term expiring 11/13/2029 or partial term expiring 11/9/2027.
- Complete the Affidavit of Identity and select only one term-of-office option.
- Obtain official nominating petition forms from the Clerk.
- Complete the top candidate/office portion before petitions are circulated.
- Collect 25-50 valid signatures from registered Keego Harbor electors.
- Make sure each circulator completes the bottom circulator section for the petition sheet they circulated.
- File completed documents with the Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2026.

Sources and citations

City of Keego Harbor Charter, §§ 3.1-3.7, 4.1-4.3, 10.3-10.15.

https://www.keegoharbor.org/Documents/Government/City%20Council/charter_update_08.30.22.pdf

Michigan Election Law, Affidavit of Identity, MCL 168.558. <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-168-558>

Michigan Election Law, nominating petition form/circulator provisions, MCL 168.544c.

<https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-168-544c>

Michigan Election Law, qualified elector definition, MCL 168.10. <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-168-10>

Michigan Election Law, residence/domicile standards, MCL 168.11. <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-168-11>

Publication note: This FAQ summarizes charter and election filing requirements for public convenience. If there is any conflict between this FAQ, the City Charter, the Michigan Election Law, or official Clerk instructions, the Charter, state law, and Clerk-issued forms control.