

# Legislative Analysis

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## CANDIDATE FILING FEES FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICES

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 4747 as enacted**  
**Public Act 653 of 2018**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Kimberly LaSata**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

**House Bill 4748 as enacted**  
**Public Act 654 of 2018**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Julie Calley**

**House Committee: Elections and Ethics**  
**Senate Committee: Elections and Government Reform**  
**Complete to 2-9-19**

### SUMMARY:

The bills amend the Michigan Election Law to add a filing fee option for township offices and direct the proceeds to the township's general fund.

House Bill 4748 allows a candidate for township office to submit a \$100 filing fee to the township clerk in lieu of a nominating petition in order to appear on the primary election ballot. (MCL 168.349)

House Bill 4747 incorporates filing fees used in lieu of nominating petitions in the procedures for the withdrawal of candidacy for township offices. (MCL 168.351)

As is the case for other local offices, candidates who are nominated and an equal number of those receiving the next highest number of votes in a primary election must be refunded the filing fee. If two or more candidates receive the lowest number of votes triggering a refund, then the refund must be divided among them. All other candidates, including a candidate who withdraws or is disqualified from an election, do not receive a refund, and that money must go to the township's general fund.

The bills take effect March 28, 2019.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

Township governments would receive marginal increases in revenue under House Bill 4748. Filing fees submitted to townships would be new revenue since current law does not provide for filing fees in lieu of nominating petitions. Data on township and municipal elections were not available for this analysis; however, revenue increases would not likely be significant.

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