



DEBRA BOWEN | SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA | ELECTIONS

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Presidential Candidate Information

A candidate for President must be a natural-born citizen of the United States, at least 35 years of age, and a resident of the United States for at least 14 years. (U.S. Const., art. II, § 1(5).)

A. Qualifications to Appear on Ballot

There are two methods by which a person may have his or her name placed on the ballot as a presidential candidate:

1. By the California Secretary of State as a generally-recognized candidate.

The Secretary of State announces the names of people she has determined to be generally advocated for or recognized throughout the United States or California as actively seeking the nomination of the American Independent, Democratic, Green, Libertarian, Peace and Freedom, or Republican Parties for President. (Elections Code §§ 6041, 6340, 6520, 6720.)

Other criteria the Secretary of State may use to determine who is a "generally-recognized" candidate includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Qualifying for federal matching funds
- b. Appearing in presidential public opinion polls, candidates' forums or debates
- c. Being on other states' primary ballots as a presidential candidate
- d. Actively campaigning in California for the presidency
- e. Having a campaign office in California
- f. Advice and input from the chairs of the respective state parties

2. By circulating nomination petitions.

Any candidate not selected by the Secretary of State who wants to be placed on the presidential primary election ballot shall have nomination papers circulated on behalf of their candidacy. (Elections Code §§ 6061, 6343, 6523, 6725.)

The periods for circulating nominating petitions are as follows:

- Democratic Party: E-130 through E-73. (Elections Code § 6122.)
- Republican, American Independent, Green, Libertarian, and Peace and Freedom parties: E-104 through E-74. (Elections Code §§ 6360, 6382, 6581, 6591, 6781, 6791.)

B. List of Presidential Candidates

The Secretary of State shall publicly announce and distribute to the news media a list of the selected presidential candidates intended to be placed on the ballot as follows:

- Democratic Party: between E-150 and E-68. (Elections Code § 6041.)
- Republican, American Independent, Green, Libertarian, and Peace and Freedom parties: on or before E-120. (Elections Code §§ 6340, 6520, 6722.)

C. General Information

No filing fee shall be required from any person in order to file presidential nomination papers. (Elections Code §§ 6146, 6406, 6502, 6702.)

The Secretary of State's Office does not provide forms for presidential candidates. The forms are available at the county elections officials' offices.

Presidential candidates do not file campaign finance documents with the Secretary of State's Office and their campaign finance information is not listed on the Secretary of State's website. For information on presidential campaign finance filing requirements, contact the Federal Election Commission at (800) 424-9530 or www.fec.gov.