



DEBRA BOWEN | SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA | ELECTIONS

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Summary of
Qualifications and Requirements for the Office of

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR

WRITE-IN CANDIDATE

November 6, 2012, General Election

Only those names written on the ballot at the General Election for President of the United States, for which a group of 55 Presidential Electors pledge their votes to that write-in candidate, shall be counted as votes. § 8653¹

I. QUALIFICATIONS

A candidate for Presidential Elector must have a valid voter registration affidavit on file in the county of residence at the time nomination papers are obtained. There are no political affiliation restrictions on electors; they need only be registered voters in California. § 201

In addition to having 55 Presidential Electors pledged to a write-in presidential candidate, the write-in presidential candidate must be: (1) a natural-born citizen of the United States, (2) at least 35 years of age, and (3) a resident of the United States at least 14 years.

U.S. Const., art. II, § 1 cl. 5

II. REQUIREMENTS

DECLARATION OF WRITE-IN CANDIDACY—PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR

1. Voters in the General Election are technically voting for the 55 Presidential Elector candidates, not directly for the candidates for President and Vice President. Therefore, in order to be a write-in presidential candidate, that candidate must have 55 write-in Presidential Elector candidates file papers pledging themselves to the presidential candidate.
2. The 55 write-in candidates for Presidential Elector who have pledged themselves to vote for a candidate for President and a candidate for Vice President must file a Declaration of Write-In Candidacy, which must be received by the Secretary of State on or before October 23, 2012 (E-14). §§ 8650-8653

¹ All code section references are to the California Elections Code unless otherwise stated.

There are two variations of the declaration form:

- a. Declaration of Write-In Candidacy—Presidential Elector (Multiple Signature Form – this form includes spaces for more than one Presidential Elector write-in candidate to sign).
- b. Declaration of Write-In Candidacy—Presidential Elector (Single Signature Form – this form allows each of the 55 Presidential Elector write-in candidates to sign and submit separate forms).

In addition to the elector candidate's name, these forms must also include the elector candidate's residence address, the date of the general election, a statement stating that he or she is a write-in candidate for the office of Presidential Elector, an oath of office which must be signed in front of an officer authorized to administer oaths, such as a county elections official or a notary public, and the names of the presidential and vice presidential candidates to whom the elector candidate is pledged. § 8651

The Declaration of Write-In Candidacy must be filed with the Secretary of State in person or by mail. Please send your documents to:

Office of the California Secretary of State
Elections Division
ATTN: Candidates & Elections
1500 11th Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please indicate on the envelope "Declaration of Write-In Candidacy." The Declaration of Write-In Candidacy must be received no later than October 23, 2012 (E-14). § 8652

III. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Secretary of State and county elections officials do not supply Declarations of Write-In Candidacy—Presidential Elector. Sample 1 and 2 are suggested formats for a multiple signature form and a single signature form, respectively.
- B. Because of the requirements of the Federal Election Campaign Act, As Amended, candidates for federal office should contact the Federal Election Commission at 999 E Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20463, or call toll-free (800) 424-9530 for a copy of the Act, related regulations giving the filing requirements for reporting campaign contributions, and the forms on which to file.
- C. No filing fee is required to file as an independent Presidential Elector.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This information sheet of presidential elector candidate qualifications and requirements is for general information only and does not have the force and effect of law, regulation, or rule. In case of conflict, the law, regulation, or rule will apply. The candidate should obtain the most up-to-date information available because of possible changes in law.