



**DEBRA BOWEN** | SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA | ELECTIONS

1500 11th Street, 5th Floor | Sacramento, CA 95814 | Tel (916) 657-2166 | Fax (916) 653-3214 | www.sos.ca.gov

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Summary of  
Qualifications and Requirements for the Office of

**UNITED STATES PRESIDENT**

**REPUBLICAN PARTY**

June 5, 2012, Presidential Primary Election

**I. QUALIFICATIONS**

Every candidate shall 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 cl. 5

**II. REQUIREMENTS**

There are two methods by which a person may have his or her name placed on the ballot as a presidential candidate in the June 5, 2012, Presidential Primary Election:

- by the Secretary of State as a generally-recognized candidate, or
- by circulating nomination petitions.

**A. GENERALLY-RECOGNIZED CANDIDATES**

1. The Secretary of State announces the names of individuals she has determined to be generally advocated for or recognized throughout the United States or California as actively seeking the nomination of the Republican Party for President. § 6340<sup>1</sup>

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, and
  - f. Advice and input from the chairs of the respective state parties.
2. On or before February 6, 2012 (E-120), the Secretary of State must publicly announce the list of candidates she intends to place on the presidential primary ballot. § 6340

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<sup>1</sup>All code references are to the California Elections Code unless otherwise stated.

3. Following this announcement, the Secretary of State may add presidential candidates to the selection but may not delete any candidate unless the candidate withdraws in accordance with the provisions of Elections Code sections 6341 and 6342.

§§ 6340-6342

4. The last day a candidate may withdraw from the list of candidates to be certified by the Secretary of State is March 29, 2012 (E-68).

§§ 6341, 6342

**B. CIRCULATION OF NOMINATION PETITIONS FOR CANDIDATES NOT SELECTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

1. Any candidate not selected by the Secretary of State desiring to be placed on the Presidential Primary Election ballot shall have nomination papers circulated in his or her behalf.

§ 6343

2. To qualify for placement on the Presidential Primary Election ballot, the nomination papers of the candidate must be signed by voters who have selected a preference with the Republican Party equal in number to not less than one percent of the number of persons who have selected a preference with the Republican Party in the Report of Registration issued by the Secretary of State on January 22, 2012\* (E-135).

§§ 6343, 6362

3. Each signer of a nomination paper for a Republican presidential candidate may sign only one paper. The signer shall declare his or her intention to support the candidate for nomination, add his or her place of residence, and give his or her street and number if any.

§ 6361

4. Each section of the nomination paper shall be delivered to the elections official of the county where the petition was circulated.

§§ 6360, 6362

5. The period for circulating the nominating petitions is February 22, 2012 (E-104), through March 23, 2012 (E-74).

§§ 6360, 6382

6. The last day to file nomination papers with the county elections official is March 23, 2012 (E-74).

§ 6360

7. No later than March 29, 2012 (E-68), the Secretary of State shall prepare a certified list containing the names and addresses of the candidates for whom nomination papers have been filed and who are entitled to be voted for at the Presidential Primary Election.

§ 6954

\*Asterisked dates indicate that the date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday; if the date is also a deadline, in most cases, it will move forward to the next business day.

### III. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The California Elections Code contains various requirements that must be met by anyone planning to run as a presidential candidate for the Republican Party. Prospective candidates should review these laws well in advance of the June 5, 2012, Presidential Primary Election. For further information, the candidate is advised to consult the California Elections Code section 6300, et seq. This code is available on the Internet at the Legislative Counsel's website at [www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html).
- B. Prospective candidates and delegates should contact the California Republican Party at 1215 K St., #1220, Sacramento, California, 95814, for additional duties and responsibilities not specified in the Elections Code or items not filed with either the Secretary of State or county elections officials.
- C. The Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office does not provide forms for presidential candidates.
- D. Because of the requirements of the Federal Election Campaign Act, As Amended, a presidential candidate 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.
- E. No filing fee is required from any person to be voted for at a presidential primary.

§ 6406

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

This information sheet of presidential 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.