

Write-In Candidates for the Office of President

Presidential candidates may be nominated at the primary election or elected to office at the general election. §§ 8600, 8650

Presidential Primary Election:

Endorsement of Write-In Candidacy

By May 15, 2012 (E-21), for the presidential primary election, any person who believes his or her name may be used as a write-in candidate for President of the United States shall file for endorsement of his or her write-in candidacy with the Secretary of State.

The Endorsement of Write-In Candidacy for the Presidential Primary shall contain the following information:

- Candidate's name,
- Candidate's complete residence address,
- A declaration stating that the candidate is a write-in candidate,
- The name of the office for which the candidate is running,
- The party nomination which the candidate seeks, and
- The date of the election. §§ 6241, 6441, 6621, 6822, 8600

In addition, it is requested that a candidate provide a telephone number and an address to which correspondence regarding the write-in candidacy may be addressed to expedite communications.

General Election:

Declaration of Write-In Candidacy – Presidential Electors

By October 23, 2012 (E-14) for the general election, any group of individuals, equal in number to the number of presidential electors to which this state is entitled (55), who desire to be write-in candidates for presidential electors pledged to a particular candidate for President and Vice-President of the United States shall file a declaration of write-in candidacy with the Secretary of State.

The Declaration of Write-In Candidacy – Presidential Elector shall contain the following information:

- Candidate's name,
- Candidate's complete residence address,
- A declaration stating that the candidate is a write-in candidate for the office of presidential elector,
- The date of the general election,
- The oath or affirmation as set forth in Section 3 of Article XX of the California Constitution, and
- The names of the candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States for which the group of presidential electors are pledged. §§ 8650-8653

Write-In Candidates for Voter-Nominated Offices

Write-in candidates for voter-nominated offices may be nominated at the primary election by fulfilling the requirements of Part 3 of Division 8 of the Elections Code, commencing at Section 8600:

Statement of Write-In Candidacy

Between April 9, 2012 (E-57), and May 22, 2012 (E-14), file a Statement of Write-In Candidacy. The Statement of Write-In Candidacy shall contain the following information:

- Candidate's name,
- Candidate's complete residential address,
- A declaration stating that the candidate is a write-in candidate,
- The name of the office for which the candidate is running,
- The date of the election,
- Candidate's 10-year political party preference history. § 8600

Nomination Papers

Between April 9, 2012 (E-57), and May 22, 2012 (E-14), circulate nomination papers for signatures within the jurisdiction and leave them for examination with the county elections official of the county in which the signers reside. § 8601

Signers must be voters in the district or political subdivision in which the write-in candidate is to be voted on. § 8603

The required numbers of signers to a write-in candidate's nomination paper for the respective offices are as follows:

- U.S. Senator: not less than 65 nor more than 100 § 8062(a)(1)
- Member of House of Representatives and state legislative office: not less than 40
nor more than 60 § 8062(a)(2)

Write-in candidates can only run in the Presidential Primary Election. A write-in candidate from the primary election is eligible to have his or her name on the ballot in the general election only if that candidate is one of the top-two vote-getters at the Presidential Primary Election. § 8605