

**NEW POLITICAL PARTY QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS  
FOR THE 2004 AND 2006 PRIMARY ELECTIONS**  
(Based on the Number of Persons who Voted at the 2002 General Election)

There are two methods by which political parties can qualify for official status and so be able to place candidates on the primary election ballot. The qualification deadline for either method is 135 days before a statewide primary in an even-numbered year, based on the registration totals as of the 154<sup>th</sup> day before the election.

1. **Registration.** By the 135-day deadline, a party must have obtained registrations equal in number to 1% of the total vote cast in the last gubernatorial election. The current registration requirement is:

New Political Party by Registration      **77,389**  
[1 percent of 7,738,821 (§ 5100(b), Elections Code)]

2. **Petition.** By the deadline, a party must have collected petition signatures of registered voters of any party equal in number to 10% of the vote cast in the last gubernatorial election. The current signature requirement is:

New Political Party by Petition      **773,883**  
[10 percent of 7,738,821 (§ 5100(c), Elections Code)]

To retain its official status, a party must maintain a registration level equal to 1/15 of 1% (0.00067) of the total registration of the state at all times. In addition, after each gubernatorial election party qualifications are reviewed. To retain its official status after the election, a party must

1. maintain a registration level equal to at least 1 percent of the entire vote of the state at the last gubernatorial election **or**
2. have a candidate for statewide office (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, Controller, Insurance Commissioner, or United States Senator) poll at least 2% of the vote for that office.