

**NEW POLITICAL PARTY QUALIFICATION  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2008 AND 2010 PRIMARY ELECTIONS**  
(Based on the number of persons who voted at the 2006 General Election)

There are two methods by which political parties can qualify for official status which enables them to place candidates on a 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 that election.

1. **Registration.** No later than 135 days before the primary election, 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 88,991 [1% of 8,899,059 (Elections Code section 5100(b))]
  
2. **Petition.** No later than 135 days before the primary election, a party must have collected petition signatures of registered voters of any party equal in number to 10% of the total vote cast in the last gubernatorial election. The current signature requirement is 889,906 [10% of 8,899,059 (Elections Code section 5100(c))]

To retain its official status, a political party must maintain a registration level equal to 1/15 of 1% (0.00067) of the total registration of the state at all times [Elections Code section 5101]. 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% of the entire vote of the state at the last gubernatorial election [Elections Code section 5100(b)]; or
  
2. Have a candidate for statewide office (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, or United States Senator) receive at least 2% of the vote for that office [Elections Code section 5100(a)].