



ALEX PADILLA | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ELECTIONS DIVISION

1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 | **Tel** 916.657.2166 | **Fax** 916.653.3214 | www.sos.ca.gov

Summary of
Qualifications and Requirements for the Office of

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

REPUBLICAN PARTY

June 7, 2016, 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 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election:

- by determination of the Secretary of State that a person is a generally-recognized candidate, or
- by circulating nomination petitions.

A. GENERALLY-RECOGNIZED CANDIDATES

1. The Secretary of State announces the names of individuals he 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. § 6340¹

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 chairpersons of the Republican Party or the Republican State Central Committee.
2. On or before February 8, 2016 (E-120), the Secretary of State will publicly announce this determination. § 6340

¹All code section 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 31, 2016** (E-68). To withdraw, the candidate must file an affidavit pursuant to Section 6342 with the Secretary of State. §§ 6341, 6342

B. CIRCULATION OF NOMINATION PAPERS 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 on 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 1% of the number of persons who have selected a preference with the Republican Party in the 154-Day Report of Registration issued by the Secretary of State. §§ 2187(d)(1), 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, and include his or her residence address. § 6361

4. Any nomination paper may be presented in sections. Each section shall contain the names of the candidate. Each section shall bear the name of the county in which it is circulated. Only voters of the county registered as intending to affiliate with the political party by which the nominations are to be made are competent to sign. § 6362

5. Each section of the nomination paper shall be delivered to the elections official of the county where the petition was circulated. § 6360

6. The period for circulating the nominating papers is February 24, 2016 (E-104), through March 25, 2016 (E-74). §§ 6360, 6382

7. The last day to file nomination papers with the county elections official is March 25, 2016 (E-74). §§ 6360, 6382

8. No later than March 31, 2016** (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

**Date falls on a weekend or state holiday; it moves 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 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election. For further information, the candidate is advised to consult Section 6300, et seq. The Elections Code is available on the California Legislature's website at <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml>.
- B. Prospective candidates and delegates should contact the California Republican Party at 1121 L Street, Suite 207, 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. A copy of the nomination paper can be obtained from the county elections official. The nomination paper must be delivered to the elections official of the county where the paper circulated. The candidate information sheet (see attached) can be mailed to or filed in person in the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office at 1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, California, 95814, or at any county elections office.
- 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
- F. The term of office for United States President is four years, beginning January 20, 2017.
U.S. Cont., art. II, § 1; 20th Amend., § 1

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This information sheet of candidate qualifications and procedures 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.