



Summary of
Qualifications and Requirements for the Office of
**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR AND
ALTERNATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR**
INDEPENDENT NOMINATION

November 5, 2024, General Election

An independent nominee for President of the United States attains ballot status by qualifying a group of 54 Presidential Electors and their alternates who pledge their votes to that independent presidential nominee. §§ 8303, 8304, 8550¹

I. QUALIFICATIONS

A candidate for Presidential Elector and Alternate Presidential Elector must have a valid voter registration affidavit on file in the county of residence at the time nomination papers are obtained. There are no political party preference restrictions on electors; they need only be registered voters in California. § 201

In addition to qualifying the 54 Presidential Electors and 54 Alternate Presidential Electors, the person seeking the independent nomination for President of the United States must 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

A. A presidential candidate for whom a nomination paper has been filed as a partisan candidate at the primary election and who is defeated for their party nomination at the primary election is ineligible for nomination as an independent candidate. § 8301

B. NOMINATION PAPERS

A candidate for Presidential Elector must circulate nomination papers for signatures between April 26, 2024 (E-193), and 5:00 p.m. on August 9, 2024 (E-88), and deliver them to the county elections official of the county in which the papers were circulated. The nomination papers will be forwarded for filing with the Secretary of State after the verification of signatures by the county elections official. § 8403(a)(2)

¹ All code section references are to the California Elections Code unless otherwise stated.

Whenever a group of candidates for Presidential Elector, equivalent to 54, files a nomination paper with the Secretary of State, the nomination paper may contain the name of the candidate for U.S. President and U.S. Vice President for whom all of those candidates for Presidential Elector pledge themselves to vote. § 8303

The nomination papers must be signed by at least 219,403 registered voters (equivalent to 1% of the statewide registration from the last Report of Registration prior to the November 2022 General Election). §§ 2187(c)(6), 8400

1. All signers must be registered voters of the state. § 100, 8400
2. Any registered voter who is a candidate may obtain signatures to and sign their own nomination papers. § 106(a)
3. Circulators shall be 18 years of age or older. §§ 102, 8451
4. The nomination paper shall be delivered to the county elections official of the county in which the signers reside and are voters. § 8403

C. DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY—PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR AND ALTERNATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR

1. EACH of the 54 candidates for Presidential Elector must complete a Declaration of Candidacy Independent Nomination – Presidential Elector and file it with the county elections official of the county in which they are registered to vote. The declaration shall state:
 - a. The candidate’s residence address, with street and number
 - b. That the candidate is a voter in the precinct in which they reside,
 - c. The name of the office sought (i.e., Presidential Elector),
 - d. That the candidate will not withdraw as a candidate before the election, and
 - e. That if elected, the candidate will qualify for the office. § 8550
2. A declaration of candidacy described above shall be accompanied by a Declaration of Candidacy Independent Nomination – Alternate Presidential Elector. This accompanying declaration shall state that the individual is an alternate to the candidate for the office of presidential elector and shall contain the information described in paragraphs a, b, d, and e above. § 8550(b)
3. The Declaration of Candidacy Independent Nomination – Presidential Elector and Declaration of Candidacy Independent Nomination – Alternate Presidential Elector shall be left with the county elections official not later than 5:00 p.m. on August 9, 2024 (E-88). § 8550

III. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. A copy of the nomination paper, Declaration of Candidacy Independent Nomination – Presidential Elector, and Declaration of Candidacy Independent Nomination – Alternate

Presidential Elector can be obtained from the county elections official. The nomination paper must be delivered to the elections official of the county where the paper was circulated. The Declarations of Candidacy can be mailed to the Secretary of State's Office at 1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, California, 95814, or filed in person in the Elections Division drop box located in the 1st floor lobby of the Secretary of State's Office or at any county elections office.

- B. Because of the requirements of the Federal Election Campaign Act, As Amended, candidates for federal office should contact the Federal Election Commission at 1050 First Street, NE, 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.
- C. No filing fee is required from any person in order to file nomination papers.
- D. The term of office for United States President is four years, beginning January 20, 2025.
U.S. Const., 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.