



Running for U.S. Congress

Representative in Congress

Qualifications and Terms of Office

United States Senator: A member of the United States Senate must be at least 30 years of age, a citizen of the United States for at least nine years, and an inhabitant of the state of North Dakota ([United States Constitution, Article 1, Section 3](#)).

The 6-year term for United States Senator begins at noon on January 3rd following the election.

Representative in Congress: A member of the United States House of Representatives must be at least 25 years of age, a citizen of the United States for at least seven years, and an inhabitant of the state of North Dakota ([United States Constitution, Article 1, Section 2](#)).

The 2-year term for Representative in Congress begins at noon on January 3rd following the election.

Running in the Primary Election

Candidates for U.S. Congress may choose one of two methods for placing their names on the June 9, 2020, Primary Election ballot. They include:

A. Petition/Certificate of Nomination: Candidates may file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination with the Secretary of State containing signatures equal to 3% of the total votes cast for the candidates for the same office and carrying the same political party affiliation at the last general election. However, no more than 300 signatures are required. If the office sought did not have a candidate with the same political party affiliation in the preceding general election, at least 300 signatures are required (NDCC § [16.1-11-06](#)).

B. Certificate of Endorsement: Candidates endorsed by established political parties may file a Certificate of Endorsement with the Secretary of State to have their names placed on the June 9, 2020, Primary Election ballot (NDCC § [16.1-11-06](#)).

A Complete Filing Must Include:

1. A [Petition/Certificate of Nomination \(SFN 2704\)](#) containing the signatures of not more than 300 qualified North Dakota electors **OR** a [Certificate of Endorsement \(SFN 17196\)](#);
2. An [Affidavit of Candidacy \(SFN 2703\)](#);
3. A [Statement of Interests \(SFN 10172\)](#) or a like personal disclosure statement required by the Federal Election Commission or United States Senate Office for congressional candidates.

Circulating a Petition/Certificate of Nomination

A Petition/Certificate of Nomination may not be circulated or signed prior to **January 1, 2020**

When and Where to File

Candidates may not file earlier than January 2, 2020 or later than 4:00 p.m. Central Time on the 64th day before the June 9, 2020, Primary Election.

The filing deadline with the **Secretary of State is 4:00 p.m. Central Time on April 6, 2020**. Filings must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State's office by the filing deadline.

Running as a Write-In Candidate in the Primary Election

A person who intends to be a write-in candidate for Congress at the Primary Election shall file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Secretary of State. The Certificate of Write-In Candidacy must contain the complete address of the candidate (NDCC § [16.1-12-02.2](#)).

A Complete Filing Must Include:

1. A [Certificate of Write-In Candidacy \(SFN 50599\)](#);
2. A [Statement of Interests \(SFN 10172\)](#) or a like personal disclosure statement required by the Federal Election Commission or United States Senate Office for congressional candidates.

When and Where to File

Certificates of Write-In Candidacy must be filed by 4:00 p.m. Central Time on the 21st day before the June 9, 2020, Primary Election.

The filing deadline with the **Secretary of State is 4:00 p.m. Central Time on May 19, 2020**. Filings must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State's office by the deadline.

Options for other National Parties

A party may endorse candidates for Congress for inclusion on the June 9, 2020, Primary Election Ballot. To do so, the party must establish itself and gain ballot access by the 64th day prior to the June 9, 2020, Primary Election. That deadline is **4:00 p.m. Central Time on April 6, 2020**.

A party that has failed to establish itself and gain ballot access by the April 6, 2020, deadline, may only nominate candidates for inclusion on the November 3, 2020, General Election ballot as independents ([NDCC § 16.1-11-30](#) and Ch. [16.1-12](#)).

Running in the General Election

Candidates for Congress who receive the highest number of votes within their political party at the June 9, 2020, Primary Election will automatically be placed on the November 3, 2020, General Election ballot. No person may be deemed nominated as a candidate for any office at any primary election unless the candidate receives a number of votes equal to the number of signatures required on a petition to have a candidate's name for that office placed on the primary ballot. (NDCC § [16.1-11-36](#))

Running as an Independent Candidate in the General Election

A party that has failed to establish itself according to Section [16.1-11-30](#) of the North Dakota Century Code by the April 6, 2020, deadline, or any other entity or individual, may nominate candidates for Congress for inclusion on the November 3, 2020, General Election ballot as independents. Independent candidates will be designated on the general election ballot as "independent nominations" and will not carry a specific party designation or affiliation (NDCC [Ch. 16.1-12](#)).

A Complete Filing Must Include:

1. A [Petition/Certificate of Nomination \(SFN 2704\)](#) containing the signatures of 1,000 qualified North Dakota electors;
2. An [Affidavit of Candidacy \(SFN 2703\)](#);
3. A [Statement of Interests \(SFN 10172\)](#) or a like personal disclosure statement required by the Federal Election Commission or United States Senate Office for congressional candidates.

Circulating a Petition/Certificate of Nomination

A Petition/Certificate of Nomination may not be circulated or signed more than 150 days before the date the petition must be filed with the Secretary of State. Therefore, candidates may not circulate or have a Petition/Certificate of Nomination signed before **April 3, 2020**, for inclusion on the General Election ballot.

When and Where to File

Independent candidates must file by 4:00 p.m. Central Time on the 64th day before the November 3, 2020, General Election.

The filing deadline with the **Secretary of State** is **4:00 p.m. Central Time on August 31, 2020**. Filings must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State's office by the filing deadline.

Running as a Write-In Candidate in the General Election

A person who intends to be a write-in candidate for Congress at the November 3, 2020 General Election shall file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Secretary of State's office. The Certificate of Write-In Candidacy must contain the complete address of the candidate (NDCC [Ch. 16.1-12](#)).

A Complete Filing Must Include:

1. A [Certificate of Write-In Candidacy \(SFN 50599\)](#);
2. A [Statement of Interests \(SFN 10172\)](#) or a like personal disclosure statement required by the Federal Election Commission or United States Senate Office for congressional candidates.

When and Where to File

Certificates of Write-In Candidacy must be filed by 4:00 p.m. Central Time on the 21st day before the November 3, 2020, General Election.

The filing deadline with the **Secretary of State** is **4:00 p.m. Central Time on October 13, 2020**. Complete filings must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State's office by the filing deadline.

Interaction with Federal Laws

Candidates for Congress are subject to the registration and financial disclosure requirements of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

Under the Federal Election Campaign Act, a candidate is subject to registration and financial obligations when the campaign exceeds \$5,000 in either contributions or expenditures.

Questions may be directed to:

Federal Election Commission (FEC)
 999 E Street North West, Room 232
 Washington, D.C. 20463
 Toll Free.....800-424-9530
 Web Site.....www.fec.gov

Forms

The state forms (SFN's) listed above are available from the Secretary of State's office and may also be accessed from the Secretary of State's [web site](#).

Secretary of State
 State of North Dakota
 600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 108
 Bismarck ND 58505-0500
 Phone.....(701) 328-4146
 Toll Free.....800-352-0867
 Fax.....(701) 328-3413
 Web Site.....Vote.ND.Gov