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Running for Non-Partisan Statewide Executive Office In 2020

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Qualifications and Terms of Office

Superintendent of Public Instruction: The Superintendent of Public Instruction must be at least 25 years of age, a qualified North Dakota voter, and have resided in North Dakota for the five years preceding the election. [North Dakota Constitution, Article V, Section 4](#) and [NDCC § 15.1-02-01](#)

The 4-year term of office for Superintendent of Public Instruction begins on January 1 following the election.

Running in the Primary Election

The office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is a non-partisan statewide office. As such, candidates only have the option of filing a Petition/Certificate of Nomination with the Secretary of State containing at least 300 signatures. [NDCC § 16.1-11-06](#)

A Complete Filing Must Include

1. A [Petition/Certificate of Nomination \(SFN 2704\)](#) containing the signatures of at least 300 qualified North Dakota electors;
2. An [Affidavit of Candidacy \(SFN 2703\)](#);
3. A [Statement of Interests \(SFN 10172\)](#).

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 Superintendent of Public Instruction in the June 9, 2020, 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 \(SFN 10172\)](#)

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.

Running in the General Election

The two candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction receiving the highest number of votes at the June 9, 2020 Primary Election will automatically be placed on the 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.

No person may file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination to place their name on the general election ballot as an independent for a non partisan office as is the case with partisan offices. [NDCC § 16.1-11-36](#)

Running as a Write-In Candidate in the General Election

A person who intends to be a write-in candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction at the November 3, 2020 General Election shall file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Secretary of State by 4:00 p.m. on the 21st day before the General Election. The sworn 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 \(SFN 10172\)](#).

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.

Campaign Finance and Disclosure

Candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction are subject to the registration and campaign finance and disclosure requirements found in [Chapter 16.1-08.1](#) of the North Dakota Century Code.

Forms

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

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