


SECRETARY OF STATE
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Running For Partisan Statewide Executive Office In 2020

Governor & Lt. Governor	State Auditor
State Treasurer	Insurance Commissioner
Public Service Commissioner	

Qualifications and Terms of Office

Constitutional Statewide Officers: The above mentioned constitutional statewide officers of North Dakota must be at least 25 years of age, be qualified North Dakota voters, and have resided in North Dakota for the five years preceding the next election. [North Dakota Constitution, Article V, Section 4](#)

The 4 year term of office for these constitutional statewide officers begins on January 1 following the election. However, the term of office for governor and lieutenant governor begins on December 15 following the election.

The 6 year term of office for Public Service Commissioners begins on January 1 following the election.

Running in the Primary Election

Candidates for statewide executive office 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 \(SFN 10172\)](#).

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 statewide executive office 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 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 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 filing deadline.

Options for other National Parties

A party may endorse candidates for statewide office 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 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**.

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 statewide executive office who receive the highest number of votes within their political party designation 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, or which would have been required had the candidate not had his
(Continued on next page...)

or her name placed on the ballot through a Certificate of Endorsement, 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 NDCC § [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 statewide executive office 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 \(SFN 10172\)](#).

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 statewide executive office 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 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 statewide executive office 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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