

Running for Office – President

There are three ways qualified individuals who wish to run for United States President may have their name printed on the General Election ballot (including their selected candidate for Vice-President):

- 1) A person can seek the nomination of the Democratic or Republican Party for the office of President of the United States through the New Hampshire Presidential Primary by submitting a Declaration of Candidacy and the \$1,000 fee (cash or certified check) to the Secretary of State during the Presidential Primary filing period. The Secretary of State will announce the dates for the filing period. The individual's name will be printed on the Presidential Primary ballot of their political party. The name of the nominee chosen by the national political party will be printed on the General Election ballot. Related RSAs:

655:47 Declaration of Candidacy. –

I. The names of any persons to be voted upon as candidates for president at the presidential primary shall be printed on the ballots upon the filing of declarations of candidacy with the secretary of state.

655:48 Fees. –

I. No candidate for the office of president shall have his or her name placed on the ballot for the presidential primary unless the candidate shall pay to the secretary of state at the time of filing the declaration of candidacy a fee of \$1,000.

655:50 Selection of Delegates. – Each presidential candidate who has filed pursuant to RSA 655:47 shall file with the secretary of state no later than the third Friday following the last day of the filing period for the presidential primary the names and addresses in alphabetical order of the delegates and their alternates, one alternate per delegate, who shall represent the candidate as his or her delegation to the national convention.

- 2) A person seeking the nomination of the Democratic or Republican Party for the office of President of the United States who proves to the Secretary of State that they cannot afford the \$1,000 filing fee by reason of indigence (unable to pay) can submit the required number of Primary Petitions along with a Declaration of Candidacy and Assent to Candidacy to the Secretary of State during the Presidential Primary filing period. The Secretary of State will announce the dates for the filing period. The individual's name will be printed on the Presidential Primary ballot of their political party only if they qualify as indigent and submit the required number of petitions in proper form by the deadline. The name of the nominee chosen by the national political party will be printed on the General Election ballot. Related RSAs:

655:47 Declaration of Candidacy. –

I. The names of any persons to be voted upon as candidates for president at the presidential primary shall be printed on the ballots upon the filing of declarations of candidacy with the secretary of state.

655:48

II. Any person otherwise qualified to run for president, who is unable to pay the filing fee as prescribed in paragraph I by reason of indigence may, after proving such indigence, have his or her name printed on the presidential primary ballot of any party by filing with the secretary of state 10 primary petitions from each county of the state signed by registered voters of the party, who are domiciled in New Hampshire, together with one written assent to candidacy pursuant to RSA 655:25.

655:25 Assent to Candidacy. – No primary petitions as provided in RSA 655:21 shall be accepted by the official with whom they are to be filed unless there is attached thereto an assent to candidacy.

655:50 Selection of Delegates. – Each presidential candidate who has filed pursuant to RSA 655:47 shall file with the secretary of state no later than the third Friday following the last day of the filing period for the presidential primary the names and addresses in alphabetical order of the delegates and their alternates, one alternate per delegate, who shall represent the candidate as his or her delegation to the national convention.

- 3) A person who would like to have their name printed on the General Election ballot for United States President and who does not run in the primary seeking the nomination of the Democratic or Republican parties can submit a Declaration of Intent and the \$250 filing fee during the State Election filing period in June of the election year. The individual must also submit nomination papers signed by the required number of New Hampshire voters from each Congressional District. Nomination papers are verified by the Supervisors of the checklist and due to the Secretary of State no later than the Wednesday one week before the Primary.

A political organization may have a slate of candidates, including a candidate for President, printed on the General Election ballot by submitting the required number of nomination papers for the political organization. The organization must file a declaration of intent with the Secretary of State during the filing period for the State Primary in June.

Related RSAs:

655:14-a Filing by Other Candidates. – Every candidate for state or federal office who intends to have his name placed on the ballot for the state general election by means other than nomination by party primary shall file a declaration of intent with the secretary of state as provided in RSA 655:17-a or RSA 655:17-b during the same time period in which party candidates file a declaration under RSA 655:14.

655:17-b Declaration of Intent; Presidential Candidates Who File Nomination Papers. –

I. Declarations of intent for each candidate for president who seeks nomination by nomination papers shall be in the form provided in paragraph II. Declarations of intent required by this section shall be filed with the secretary of state, signed by the candidate, and notarized by a notary public.

II. I, _____, swear under penalties of perjury that I am qualified to be a candidate for president of the United States pursuant to article II, section 1, clause 4 of the United States Constitution, which states, "No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States, at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty-five years, and been fourteen years a resident within the United States." I further declare that I am domiciled in the city (or town or unincorporated place) of _____, county of _____, state of _____, and am a qualified voter therein; that I intend to be a candidate for the office of president to be chosen at the general election to be held on the _____ day of _____; and I intend to file nomination papers by the deadline established under RSA 655:43. I further declare that, if qualified as a candidate for said office, I shall not withdraw; and that, if elected, I shall be qualified for and shall assume the duties of said office.

655:17-c Declaration of Intent; Political Organization. –

I. Declarations of intent for political organizations shall be in the following form and signed by the chairman of the political organization:

I, _____, chairman of the _____ organization hereby declare that the _____ organization intends to file nomination papers by the deadline established under RSA 655:43, I.

II. At the time of filing the declaration of intent, the chairman of the political organization shall submit a list of the offices for which it intends to file candidates and the names of the candidates for those offices. In addition, each candidate shall file a declaration of candidacy. The declaration of candidacy shall be in the form provided by RSA 655:17 with the understanding that, where the form says primary election, it shall be construed to mean general election. If the political organization does not obtain enough nomination papers to have its name placed on the ballot, any declarations of candidacy filed for that political organization shall be void.

655:19-a Filing Fee for Presidential Candidates Who File Nomination Papers. – At the time of filing declarations of intent, each candidate for president who seeks nomination by nomination papers shall pay to the secretary of state a single fee of \$250 for himself and his vice-presidential candidate.

655:40-a Nomination of Organization. – A political organization may have its name placed on the ballot for the state general election by submitting the requisite number of nomination papers, in the form prescribed by the secretary of state, pursuant to RSA 655:42, III. Such papers shall contain the name of the political organization and shall be signed by such persons only as are registered to vote at the state general election. No voter shall sign more than one nomination paper which allows a political organization access to the state general election ballot. Nomination papers shall be signed and dated in the year of the election.

655:42 Number. –

I. It shall require the names of 3,000 registered voters, 1,500 from each United States congressional district in the state, to nominate by nomination papers a candidate for president, United States senator, or governor.

III. It shall require the names of registered voters equaling 3 percent of the total votes cast at the previous state general election to nominate by nomination papers a political organization.

655:43 Filing Deadline. –

I. Nomination papers shall be filed with the secretary of state no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday one week before the primary. Nomination papers to be filed shall be grouped by municipality. No nomination papers shall be accepted by the secretary of state unless the candidate shall have met the age and domicile qualifications for the office he or she seeks at the time of the general election and meets all the other qualifications at the time of filing; and if a candidate for the office of governor, executive councilor, state senator, or state representative, unless the candidate shall file with the nomination papers an affidavit of qualifications as provided in RSA 655:28 and 655:29; and if a candidate for United States senator or United States representative, unless the candidate shall meet the qualifications for office under RSA 655:3 and 655:4.

II. No candidate who intends to run for any state or federal office in the state general election by means of nomination papers shall have his or her name placed on the ballot unless the candidate files a declaration of intent, as provided in RSA 655:17-a or 655:17-b, within the filing deadline required by RSA 655:14-a. Any person who files on the last day of the filing period must do so in person before the secretary of state.

III. No political organization shall have the names of its candidates placed on the ballot unless the chairman of the organization files a declaration of intent, as provided in RSA 655:17-c, within the filing deadline for candidates established in RSA 655:14-a.

IV. No person who filed as a candidate in the state primary election shall be eligible to have his or her name placed on the ballot for the state general election by submitting nomination papers as provided in this subdivision.