

LA PAZ COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT
2020 ELECTIONS INFORMATION
'Most Frequently Asked Questions'

DATES: Primary – August 04, 2020

General - November 03, 2020

1. WHO CAN BE A CANDIDATE FOR A PRIMARY ELECTION?

Only names of those candidates who are qualified electors of “recognized” parties will appear on a Primary Election Ballot. Voters registered with one of the “recognized” parties vote in the primary election to select the parties’ nominees for the general election (this includes write-in candidates). To date, there are four (4) parties that qualify for representation in the 2020 election: Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, Green

Arizona’s Open Primary Law allows voters registered as independent, no party preference or members of a party without ballot recognition to vote in the partisan Primary of their choice of one of the recognized political parties (Arizona Constitution, Art. VII, §10).

Independents or a person seeking nomination other than by Primary Election have access to the general election ballot through the process outlined in A.R.S. §16-341.

2. WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR RUNNING FOR PUBLIC OFFICE?

A candidate for public office shall be a qualified elector at the time of filing and shall reside in the county, district or precinct which he/she proposes to represent [A.R.S. §16-311(A)]

Candidates are also required to file the appropriate forms and nomination petitions containing a minimum number of signatures of citizens who are eligible to vote for the candidate as prescribed in A.R.S. §16-311 and §16-322. This excludes write-in candidates. Write-in candidates are not required to file nomination petitions.

3. WHICH FORMS NEED TO BE FILED TO PUT A CANDIDATE’S NAME ON A PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT?

1. Nomination Paper
Affidavit of Qualification
Campaign Finance Laws Statement
(A combined form covering the requirements of the nomination paper, affidavit of qualification, and campaign finance laws statement)
2. Nomination Petitions containing the minimum number of signatures (Write-in candidates do not file nomination petitions).
3. Financial Disclosure Statement

IMPORTANT NEW CHANGE

Once you have received contributions or made expenditures (in any combination) of at least \$1,200 in connection with your candidacy, you are required to form a **COMMITTEE** within 10 days of reaching this threshold. Please refer To the Candidate Committee information in your candidate packet. If you never reach the \$1,200 registration and Reporting are not required.

4. WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR CANDIDATES TO FILE THEIR NOMINATION PETITIONS?

Partisan Candidates	March 7, 2020 through April 6, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
Independent or Other than the Primary Candidates	
Nonpartisan Candidates (General) (School District, Fire District, etc.)	June 6, 2020 through July 6, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
Write-In Candidates	June 25, 2020, 5:00 p.m. (Primary) September 24, 2020, 5:00 p.m. (General)

5. WHERE CAN SOMEONE OBTAIN A CANDIDATE NOMINATION PACKET FOR PUBLIC OFFICE?

The candidate nomination packet for a county office can be picked up at the La Paz County Elections Department, 1108 Joshua Avenue, Parker, Arizona. Phone (928) 669-6149 or toll free 1-888-526-8685.

6. WHAT IS A CANDIDATE NOMINATION PETITION?

The nomination petition form is used to obtain the required number of signatures of registered voters and circulated by or on behalf of the person wishing to become a candidate for a political office as specified in law.

The caption stating the purpose of the petition and the body of the petition stating the intent of the petitioners, must be substantially the same language as the sample petition provided and as stated in the law. A photograph of the candidate may appear on the nomination petition. The petition form’s signature portion, circulator instructions and statement must be in the same form as stated in the law.

7. WHAT IS THE SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT FOR A CANDIDATE TO HAVE THEIR NAME PLACED ON THE PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT? (A.R.S. §16-322)

Candidates who file petitions with the La Paz County Elections Department, must file the minimum required signatures with their initial filing, supplements may be filed up until the last day of filing.

Countywide Candidates	1% but not more than 10% of the registered voters qualified to vote for the candidate.
Board of Supervisors and Vacant Constable Seats	1% but not more than 10% of the registered voters qualified to vote for the candidate and in the district the candidate proposes to represent.
Precinct Committeemen	2% but not more than 10% of the registered voters qualified to vote for the candidate and in the precinct the candidate proposes to represent.

8. WHO CAN CIRCULATE A CANDIDATE NOMINATION PETITION? (A.R.S. §16-315(B)(2))

A circulator must be qualified to register to vote in the State of Arizona. The circulator shall verify that each of the names on the petition was signed in his/her presence on the date indicated on the petition. A circulator may be any party or registered as a “party not designated”, or not registered, but eligible to register anywhere in Arizona.

9. WHO CAN SIGN A CANDIDATE NOMINATION PETITION? (A.R.S. §16-322(A))

Each signer of a nomination petition may only sign one petition for every seat to be elected. Each signer shall be qualified to vote for the candidate whose nomination petition they are signing and may be: a member of the candidate’s political party, Independents, no party preference, or a member of a non-recognized party, and who resides at the address given as their residence on the date indicated on the petition.

10. CAN A CANDIDATE SIGN HIS/HER OWN PETITION?

A candidate may sign his/her own petition.

11. WHAT IS THE CORRECT FORM OF THE PETITION (A.R.S. §16-315)

- A. The petitions shall be on paper 11 inches wide and 8 ½ inches long.
- B. Petitions shall be headed by a caption stating the purpose of the petition, followed by the body stating the intent of the petitioners.
- C. There shall be 10 lines spaced one half (1/2) of an inch apart and consecutively numbered 1 through 10.
- D. The signature portion of the petition shall be divided into columns headed by the titles: signature; printed name; actual address or description of place of residence; or Arizona Post Office Box address, City or Town, and date signed.
- E. A photograph of the candidate may appear on the nomination petition.

12. WHAT IS A NOMINATION PAPER?

A nomination paper is a form filed with the appropriate office by a person wishing to declare his/her intent to become a candidate for a particular office.

A nomination paper shall be filed at the time of filing the candidate's nomination petitions. The nomination paper must state the candidate's residence address, mailing address, political party, the office and district or precinct which the candidate proposes to represent, the exact manner in which the candidate's name is to be printed on the official ballot, and the date of the primary and general election.

A combined form covering the requirements of the nomination paper, affidavit of qualification and the campaign finance laws statement is provided to the candidate.

13. HOW WILL MY NAME APPEAR ON THE OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT? (A.R.S. 16-311.G)

The nomination paper shall include the exact manner in which the candidate desires to have his/her name printed on the official ballot and shall be limited to the candidate's surname and given name or names. Abbreviated version of such names or appropriate initials such as "Bob" for "Robert", "Jim" for "James", "Pam" for "Pamela" or "S" for "Samuel" are acceptable. Nicknames are permissible, but in no event shall nicknames, abbreviated versions or initials or given names suggest reference to professional, fraternal, religious or military titles. No other descriptive name or names shall be printed on the official ballot, except as provided in this section. Candidate's abbreviated names or nicknames may be printed within quotation marks. The candidate's surname shall be printed first, followed by the given name or names.

14. WHAT IS AN AFFIDAVIT OF QUALIFICATION STATEMENT?

A candidate must file with the nomination paper an affidavit printed on the form prescribed by the Secretary of State. The affidavit must include facts sufficient to show that the candidate will be qualified, other than the residency requirement, at the time of the election to hold the office they are seeking.

A combined form covering the requirements of the nomination paper, affidavit of qualification, and the campaign finance laws statement is provided to the candidate.

15. WHAT IS A CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS STATEMENT?

A candidate must sign and file a statement that he/she has read all laws relating to campaign finance and reporting.

A combined form covering the requirements of the nomination paper, affidavit of qualification, and the campaign finance laws statement is provided to the candidate.

16. WHAT IS A FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT?

A candidate for public office must file a financial disclosure statement containing any sources of compensation of the candidate or members of the household, financial investments, debts or any other financial obligation information on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State. The statement shall cover the preceding 12-month period, from the date of filing his/her nomination paper.

"Public Officer" means a member of the Legislature and any Judge of the Court of Appeals and the Superior Court, or a person holding an elective office, the constituency of which embraces the entire geographical limits of the State of Arizona. Members of Congress are not deemed to be public officers as defined in this paragraph.

"Local Public Officer" means a person holding an elective office of an incorporated city or town or a county.

17. WHO MAY FILE AS A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE (A.R.S. §16-312)

Only names of write-in candidates who are qualified electors of recognized parties will appear on the Authorized Write-In list for a Primary Election.

For a candidate in the Primary Election, the candidate may not file as a write-in if the candidate filed a nomination petition for the current Primary Election for the office sought and failed to provide a sufficient number of valid petition signatures as prescribed by A.R.S. §16-322.

For a candidate in the General Election, the candidate may not file as a write-in if the candidate ran in the immediately preceding primary election and failed to be nominated to the office sought in the current election and/or failed to provide sufficient number of valid petition signatures.

18. WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BECOME A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE?

Any person desiring to become a write-in candidate for an elective office in any election shall file a nomination paper signed by the candidate, stating his/her place of residence and post office address, age, length of residence in the state and date of birth. The filing shall take place no later than 5:00 p.m., forty (40) days prior to the election.

A write-in candidate shall be required to be a qualified elector at the time of filing and shall reside in the county, district or precinct which he/she proposes to represent.

A write-in candidate not filing such a statement shall not have his/her name printed on the Authorized Write-In list and shall not be counted in the tally of ballots.

19. HOW MANY VOTES ARE REQUIRED FOR A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE TO RECEIVE THE PARTY NOMINATION?

A write-in candidate of a recognized party shall be nominated only if the candidate received the number of votes equivalent to at least the same number of signatures required for nomination petitions for the same office and, of course, received the highest vote for the office.

20. WHICH FORMS ARE TO BE FILED TO BECOME A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE FOR A PRIMARY / GENERAL ELECTION?

A write-in candidate does not file nomination petitions but is required to file the following:

1. Nomination Paper
Affidavit of Qualification
Campaign Finance Laws Statement
(A combined form covering the requirements of the Nomination Paper, Affidavit of Qualification, and Campaign Finance Laws Statement is provided to the candidate.)

21. WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE TO FILE A NOMINATION PAPER?

A candidate shall file their nomination paper no later than 5:00 p.m. on the fortieth day prior to the election.

FILING DEADLINE:

- Primary Election - **No later than June 25, 2020, 5:00 p.m.**
- General Election - **No later than September 24, 2020, 5:00 p.m.**

22. HOW CAN AN INDEPENDENT OR A PERSON SEEKING NOMINATION OTHER THAN BY PRIMARY ELECTION RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE?

Independents or a person seeking Nomination Other Than By Primary Election have access to the General Election ballot through the process outlined in A.R.S. §16-341 (Nomination Other Than By Primary). The filing deadline for independent or third party candidates is the same as for Partisan Primary Election candidates, **March 7, 2020 through April 6, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

