



PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE BALLOT ACCESS

ELECTION 2008

Elections Division
Beth Chapman, Secretary of State

Election Dates

Presidential Preference Primary

February 5, 2008

Presidential Petition Deadline

September 5, 2008

General Election

November 4, 2008

Electoral College

December 15, 2008

Presidential Electors: 9

Elector's Statement

Each certificate of nomination by a political party convention and nominating petition for president must be accompanied by a list of names and addresses for nine qualified voters of the state who will serve as the candidate's presidential electors. Each person shall sign the following statement which must be attached to the certificate or petition when it is filed with the secretary of state:

"I do hereby consent and do hereby agree to serve as elector for President and Vice-President of the United States, if elected to that position, and do hereby agree that, if so elected, I shall cast my ballot as such elector for _____ for President and _____ for Vice-President of the United States" (inserting in said blank spaces the respective names of the persons named as nominees for said respective offices in the certificate to which this statement is attached)."

[§17-14-31(c), Code of Alabama, 1975]

Campaign Finance Disclosure

Presidential candidates are governed by federal campaign finance disclosure laws administered by the Federal Elections Commission. For more information on requirements and filing deadlines, contact:

Federal Elections Commission
999 E. Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20463
1-800-424-9530

For additional information contact:

Elections Division
Office of the Secretary of State
P.O. Box 5616
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5616

Voice: 1-800-274-VOTE (8683)
1-334-242-7210

FAX: 1-334-242-2444

E-mail: alavoter@vote.alabama.gov
WWW: <http://www.sos.alabama.gov>

This document is not a substitute for the Code of Alabama. This document is not an authoritative statement of law. For further legal information, please consult the Code of Alabama or an attorney.

Presidential Preference Primary Ballot Access

Candidacy [§17-13-102, Code of Alabama (1975)]

To qualify for presidential preference primary ballot access, a prospective candidate must file a petition or petitions with his or her state political party chairperson no later than November 7, 2007. The political party's chairperson may prescribe the petition format.

- ☆ A single petition may be filed with not less than 500 signatures of qualified electors of the state, or
- ☆ Separate petitions from each of the seven congressional districts may be filed, provided that each petition is signed by not less than 50 qualified electors of the congressional district.

Filing Fees [§17-13-103]

The candidate must pay the filing fee required by the political party upon filing the petition(s) for candidacy in order for his or her name to be placed on the ballot.

Primary Rules [§17-13-101]

Political parties conducting presidential preference primaries may establish rules for the election so long as they are consistent with state law found in the Code of Alabama (1975). Prospective candidates should check with the appropriate political party for information on party rules.

General Election Ballot Access

Candidacy [§17-14-31]

To be certified as a presidential or vice-presidential candidate by the Alabama secretary of state for the general election, a prospective candidate may obtain ballot access through one of two routes - political party nomination or petition.

1. Political Party

Any political party's national convention or other like party assembly having state ballot access for the general election may nominate.

To qualify for statewide ballot access, a political party must:

- ☆ Receive more than twenty percent (20%) of the vote cast in the state at the last general election. (By this method, only the Alabama Democratic and Alabama Republican parties qualify for statewide ballot access in the 2008 election.) [§17-13-40]
- ☆ File a petition by June 3 with the secretary of state containing at least 37,513 signatures of qualified electors. The number of petition signatures for statewide ballot access must equal or exceed three percent (3%) of the electors who cast ballots for the office of governor in the last general election. [§17-6-22(a)(1)]

Parties submitting a petition must also:

- ◆ File with the secretary of state an original copy and a copy in digital format or other electronic format acceptable by the Secretary of State of the party's emblem by September 5, 2008. [§17-6-29]
- ◆ Hold a mass meeting, beat meeting, or other like assembly to nominate candidates for public office or delegates for a convention at which candidates would be nominated. A public notice of the time and place must be filed at least five days prior to the meeting date with the probate judge in the county where the meeting will be held and published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at the expense of the political party. [§17-13-50(a)-(b)]

The certificate of nomination issued by a political party convention must be signed by the presiding officer and secretary of the convention and by the chairman of the state executive or central committee of the political party making the nomination. [§17-14-31(b)]

2. Petition

An independent presidential candidate must file a petition containing the signatures of at least five thousand (5,000) qualified electors of the state who must include their addresses on the petition to be valid.

[§17-14-31(a) through (b)]

All certificates and presidential petitions for independent candidacy must be filed with the Alabama secretary of state no later than September 5, 2008. [§17-14-31(b)]