

# 2020 Independent Candidate Ballot Access

Those candidates who choose to not run as a political party candidate may obtain ballot access by submitting a petition to the Secretary of State, if seeking a state or federal office, or to the Judge of Probate, if seeking a county office. There is no qualifying fee.

For ballot access in the 2020 General Election, the petition must be filed no later than **the date of the primary election, March 3, 2020, by 5:00p.m.**

For ballot access in special elections, please contact the Secretary of State or the Judge of Probate for the petition deadline.

## **Signature Requirements**

A ballot access petition for an independent candidate must contain signatures of registered Alabama voters. The number of valid signatures on the petition must equal or exceed at least **three percent** of the qualified electors who cast ballots for the office of governor in the last general election in the political jurisdiction for which the independent candidate is seeking ballot access: statewide, countywide, or district.

**Statewide Offices.** For the 2020 General Election, an independent candidate seeking ballot access for a statewide office must submit a petition that contains at least **51,588** signatures of registered voters in the State of Alabama.

**Federal and State District Offices.** For federal and state district offices, such as Congress, Alabama House of Representatives, Alabama Senate, State Board of Education, Circuit Judges, please contact the Secretary of State's Election Division for the required number of signatures of registered voters: 334-242-7210.

**Countywide and County District Offices.** For countywide offices or county district offices, such as County Commission or County School Board, please contact the county Judge of Probate for the required number of signatures of registered.

### **Fair Campaign Practices Act (for non-federal candidates) ...**

Independent candidates should be aware of their obligation to file an **Appointment of Principal Campaign Committee Form** within five days of the time they submit the ballot access petition or within five days of raising or spending more than \$1,000.

Once an independent candidate raises or spends more than \$1,000, then he or she must also file campaign finance disclosure reports beginning with the next scheduled report.

### **Statement of Economic Interests (for non-federal candidates) ...**

Independent candidates must file a **Statement of Economic Interests** with the Alabama Ethics Commission simultaneously on the date he or she submits the ballot access petition. For information on filing the **Statement of Economic Interests**, call the Alabama Ethics Commission (334) 242-2997.

Prepared by the Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of State, State of Alabama. This document is not a substitute for the Code of Alabama. This document is provided as a guide and is not intended to be an authoritative statement of law. For further information, please consult the Code of Alabama.

