



2024 Ohio Presidential Guide



The information in this Publication is current as of 05/08/2023. However, this publication may be revised at any time due to changes in Ohio or federal law. Please visit the Secretary of State's publications page at www.OhioSoS.gov/SOS/publications.aspx for the most current version.

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2024 Ohio Presidential Guide

I. Introduction

If you are considering running for President or as a party delegate to a national convention, this guide can help you navigate the legal requirements to becoming a candidate. This guide is only a brief summary and not a complete digest of laws. The information in this guide is current as of the date printed on the front cover of this guide. Legislative or judicial action may change the information in this guide. For the most up-to-date information, visit the Ohio Secretary of State's website at www.OhioSoS.gov and always consult your own legal counsel. It is a well-established principle of Ohio election law that the candidate is solely responsible for ensuring their own petition satisfies the requirements of law. Candidates are obligated to investigate, learn, and know the law governing the election process.

II. Qualifications for Offices of President and Vice President

A candidate for the office of President of the United States must be a natural born citizen of the United States, a U.S. resident for at least 14 years, and at least 35 years old on or before the day of the election. ([U.S. Constitution, Article II, section 1](#)).

A candidate for the office of Vice President of the United States must have the same qualifications as a candidate for President. The candidate for Vice President shall not be an inhabitant of the same state as the candidate for President. ([U.S. Constitution, Amendment XII](#))

Presidential and vice presidential candidates must file jointly with, or be certified jointly to, the Ohio Secretary of State's Office ([U.S. Constitution, Amendment XII](#); [R.C. 3513.12](#), [R.C. 3513.121](#)).

Generally, a presidential candidacy may take one of the following forms in Ohio:

- Participation in a party primary as provided by law and party rules;
- Joint candidacy of a minor political party having legal status in Ohio;
- Independent joint candidacy; or
- Joint write-in candidacy.

The form of candidacy determines the method by which candidates obtain access to the Ohio ballot for the presidential primary or general election.

III. Ballot Access for Major Political Parties

The presidential and vice presidential nominees of major political parties are not nominated through primary elections, but are selected by delegates at each party's national convention. The number of delegates and alternates to be sent to a convention is determined by the national party committee's written rules governing the primary process in each state.

The two major political parties currently having legal status in Ohio – the Democratic and Republican parties – have filing requirements and deadlines in each party’s written rules, in addition to those provided for by statute.

A. Democratic Presidential Primary

Anyone interested in participating as a candidate in the Democratic presidential nominating process should:

- Review the relevant materials of the state and national Democratic Party organizations, including the party rules and the Ohio Democratic Party’s “[2024 Ohio Delegate Selection Plan](#)”; and
- Obtain the appropriate forms and file those forms as provided by Ohio law and the Ohio Democratic Party’s “[2024 Ohio Delegate Selection Plan](#).”

If you are interested in being designated as a delegate or alternate delegate, obtain the written consent of the two people, your first and second choices for the Democratic Party’s presidential candidate, whom you want to support as a delegate or alternate delegate.

Additional information regarding the delegate selection plan may be obtained by contacting the Ohio Democratic Party directly.

Ohio Democratic Party
697 E. Broad Street, Suite 101
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614) 207-3951
ohiodems.org

Please contact the [Democratic National Committee](#) for information on the 2024 Democratic National Convention.

1. **What to File**

The Secretary of State’s Office has prescribed forms that satisfy the statutory requirements:

- [Form 2-N](#) Declaration of Candidacy and Petition - At-large Delegate or Alternate - Single Candidate
- [Form 2-R](#) Consent for Use of Name as First Choice for the Presidency - Single Candidate
- [Form 2-S](#) Consent for Use of Name as Second Choice for the Presidency - Single Candidate

Forms may be obtained by following the hyperlinks provided in this Guide or by contacting the Ohio Secretary of State’s Office:

Ohio Secretary of State - Elections Division
Phone: (614) 466-2585
www.OhioSoS.gov

2. Petition and Signature Requirement

(R.C. 3513.05; R.C. 3513.262; R.C. 3501.38; R.C. 3503.06)

For a Democratic presidential candidate to appear on the ballot, candidates for at-large delegate or alternate-at-large delegate must file the Declaration of Candidacy and Petition ([Form 2-N](#)), designating their first and second choices for nomination as the Democratic candidate for President.

The Declaration of Candidacy and Petition ([Form 2-N](#)) may consist of separate petition papers, each containing signatures of electors of only one county. If a petition paper contains signatures of electors from more than one county, the Secretary of State's Office will determine the county from which the majority of signatures came, and only signatures from that county shall be counted. Any other signature on that petition paper will be invalidated.

The petition must contain signatures of at least 1,000 – but not more than 3,000 – qualified Ohio electors affiliated with the Democratic Party. For purposes of signing or circulating a petition in 2023 an elector is considered to be affiliated with the Democratic Party if the elector either voted most recently in the primary elections of the Democratic Party in years 2021 to 2023 or did not vote in any other political party's primary elections in those years.

Each separate petition paper must be circulated by one individual and is governed by the rules set forth in [R.C. 3501.38](#) and [R.C. 3503.06](#).

3. Additional Forms

Each candidate for at-large delegate also must file the Consent for Use of Name ([Forms 2-R](#) and [2-S](#)), signed by the presidential candidates designated in the Declaration of Candidacy and Petition ([Form 2-N](#)) as the delegate or alternate's first and second choices for the Democratic nomination for President.

4. When and Where to File

The properly-completed and signed forms must be filed no later than **4 p.m. on December 20, 2023** with the Ohio Secretary of State's Elections Division.

Please be advised that the [2024 Ohio Delegate Selection Plan](#) may require that additional forms be filed with the Ohio Democratic Party in advance of the December 20, 2023 filing deadline. Please consult the Plan for further information.

5. Filing Fee

There is no fee to file these forms with the Secretary of State's Office.

B. Republican Presidential Primary

Anyone interested in participating as a candidate in the Republican presidential nominating process should:

- Review the relevant materials of the national and state Republican Party organizations, including the party rules;
- If you are interested in being designated as a delegate or alternate delegate, obtain the written consent of the two people, your first and second choices as the Republican Party's presidential candidate, whom you want to support as a delegate or alternate delegate; and
- Determine which method you will use to obtain access to the Ohio Republican Party primary election ballot (outlined below), obtain the appropriate forms, and file those forms as provided by Ohio law.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Ohio Republican Party directly.

Ohio Republican Party

211 S. Fifth Street

Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: (614) 228-2481

www.ohiogop.org

Please contact the [Republican National Committee](#) for information on the 2024 Republican National Convention.

1. Petition Method of Ballot Access ([R.C. 3513.12](#))

A presidential candidate who is not eligible to attain ballot access via the Alternate (non-petition) Method of [R.C. 3513.121](#), or who wants to use the petition process, may obtain access to the Republican Party's presidential primary ballot through the filing of petitions for delegates and alternate delegates.

Under the petition method, the presidential candidate gains access to the party's primary ballot by fielding candidates for delegate and alternate delegate to the party's national convention who have pledged their support to that candidate. The candidates must file a Declaration of Candidacy and Petition.

Under the rules of the Ohio Republican Party, the delegates and alternate delegates are elected both at-large and by congressional district. Candidates for delegate or alternate delegate may file either as an individual or as a group.

Each candidate for delegate or alternate delegate filing under the petition method must file a Declaration of Candidacy and Petition with the appropriate election officials.

Individual candidates for district delegate or alternate district delegate file a Declaration of Candidacy and Petition with the board of elections of the most populous county in the congressional district. Individual candidates for at-large delegate or alternate at-large delegate file with the Office of the Ohio Secretary of State.

The Declaration of Candidacy and Petition may consist of separate petition papers, each of which must contain signatures of electors of only one county. If a petition paper contains signatures of electors from more than one county, even if in the same congressional district, the election officials who accepted the filing will determine the county from which the majority of signatures came, and only signatures from that county shall be counted. Any other signature on that petition paper will be invalidated. ([R.C. 3513.05](#)).

Each separate petition paper must be circulated by one person, and is governed by the rules set forth in [R.C. 3501.38](#) and [R.C. 3503.06](#).

a. District Delegate or District Alternate – Single/Individual Candidate

i) **What to File**

The Secretary of State’s office has prescribed forms that satisfy the statutory requirements:

- [Form 2-P](#) Declaration of Candidacy and Petition - District Delegate or District Alternate - Single Candidate
- [Form 2-R](#) Consent for Use of Name as First Choice for the Presidency - Single Candidate
- [Form 2-S](#) Consent for Use of Name as Second Choice for the Presidency - Single Candidate

Forms may be obtained by following the hyperlinks provided in this Guide or by contacting the Ohio Secretary of State’s Office:

Ohio Secretary of State - Elections Division

Phone: (614) 466-2585

www.OhioSoS.gov

ii) **Petition and Signature Requirements ([R.C. 3513.05](#); [R.C. 3501.38](#); [R.C. 3503.06](#))**

A candidate for district delegate or alternate district delegate is elected from the congressional district in which his or her voting residence address is located. The district delegate or alternate district delegate candidate files a Declaration of Candidacy and Petition ([Form 2-P](#)), which designates the district delegate or alternate district delegate candidate’s first and second choices for president.

The Declaration of Candidacy and Petition ([Form 2-P](#)) for a district delegate or alternate district delegate must contain signatures of at least 50, but not more than 150, qualified electors from that congressional district.

To be qualified to sign or circulate the petition, an elector must be affiliated with the Republican Party, as defined by Ohio election law. For purposes of signing or circulating a petition in 2023, an elector is considered to be affiliated with the Republican Party if the elector either voted most recently in the primary elections of the Republican Party in years 2021 to 2023 or did not vote in any other political party’s primary elections in those years.

iii) Additional Forms

The district delegate or alternate district delegate candidate also must file the appropriate Consent for Use of Name ([Forms 2-R](#) and [2-S](#)) signed by his or her first or second choice, as appropriate, for President.

iv) When and Where to File (R.C. 3513.05)

The properly-completed and signed forms must be filed no later than **4 p.m. on December 20, 2023** with the board of elections of the most populous county in the congressional district.

Below is a list of Ohio’s 15 congressional districts, the most populous county of each district, and the city of the most populous county in which the county board of elections office is located:*

District 1	Hamilton County (Cincinnati)
District 2	Clermont County (Batavia)
District 3	Franklin County (Columbus)
District 4	Delaware County (Delaware)
District 5	Lorain County (Lorain)
District 6	Mahoning County (Youngstown)
District 7	Cuyahoga County (Cleveland)
District 8	Butler County (Hamilton)
District 9	Lucas County (Toledo)
District 10	Montgomery County (Dayton)
District 11	Cuyahoga County (Cleveland)
District 12	Licking County (Newark)
District 13	Summit County (Akron)
District 14	Lake County (Painesville)
District 15	Franklin County (Columbus)

*Based on the district map adopted by the Ohio Redistricting Commission on March 2, 2022. As of the date of publication, the district map is subject to judicial review.

v) Filing Fee

There is no fee to file these forms with the county boards of elections.

b. At-Large Delegate and Alternate At-Large Delegate – Single/Individual Candidate Filings

i) **What to File**

At-large delegates and alternate at-large delegates to the Republican national nominating convention are elected on a statewide basis.

The Secretary of State's Office has prescribed forms that satisfy the statutory requirements:

- [Form 2-N](#) Declaration of Candidacy and Petition – At-large Delegate or Alternate - Single Candidate
- [Form 2-R](#) Consent for Use of Name as First Choice for the Presidency - Single Candidate
- [Form 2-S](#) Consent for Use of Name as Second Choice for the Presidency - Single Candidate

Forms may be obtained by following the hyperlinks provided in this Guide or by contacting the Ohio Secretary of State's Office:

Ohio Secretary of State - Elections Division

Phone: (614) 466-2585

www.OhioSoS.gov

ii) **Petition and Signature Requirements** ([R.C. 3513.05](#); [R.C. 3501.38](#); [R.C. 3503.06](#))

A candidate for at-large delegate or alternate at-large delegate files a Declaration of Candidacy and Petition ([Form 2-N](#)) that designates the candidate's first and second choices for nomination as the Republican candidate for President.

The petition must contain signatures of at least 1,000 qualified Ohio electors affiliated with the Republican Party. For purposes of signing or circulating a petition in 2023, an elector is considered to be affiliated with the Republican Party if the elector either voted most recently in the primary elections of the Republican Party in years 2021 to 2023 or did not vote in any other political party's primary elections in those years.

iii) **Additional Forms**

Each at-large delegate or alternate at-large delegate also must file the appropriate Consent for Use of Name ([Forms 2-R](#) and [2-S](#)), signed by the presidential candidates designated in the Declaration of Candidacy and Petition ([Form 2-N](#)), as the delegate or alternate delegate's first and second choices for party nomination for President.

iv) **When and Where to File**

The properly-completed and signed forms must be filed no later than 4 p.m. on December 20, 2023 with the Ohio Secretary of State's Elections Division.

v) **Filing Fee**

There is no fee to file these forms with the Secretary of State's Office.

c. Group Petition for Delegates and Alternates

i) **What to File**

The Secretary of State's Office has prescribed forms that satisfy the statutory requirements:

- [Form 2-Q](#) Declaration of Candidacy and Petition – At-large Delegate or Alternate - Several Candidates
- [Form 2-Q](#) Declaration of Candidacy and Petition – District Delegate or Alternate - Several Candidates
- [Form 2-T](#) Consent for Use of Name as First Choice for the Presidency - Several Candidates
- [Form 2-U](#) Consent for Use of Name as Second Choice for the Presidency - Several Candidates

Forms may be obtained by following the hyperlinks provided in this Guide or by contacting the Ohio Secretary of State's Office:

Ohio Secretary of State - Elections Division

Phone: (614) 466-2585

www.OhioSoS.gov

If a group of candidates for at-large delegate or alternate delegate files with the Ohio Secretary of State, a properly-completed petition that designates the same two individuals as the first and second choices for President, and the appropriate Consent for Use of Name (Forms 2-T and 2-U), then that single petition will suffice for all of the candidates for delegate or alternate named in the petition.

Note: A group petition may be filed only if the group of candidates listed on the petition is equal in number to the whole number of delegate or alternate candidates to be elected on either an at-large or district basis.

ii) **Petition and Signature Requirements** ([R.C. 3513.05](#); [R.C. 3501.38](#); [R.C. 3503.06](#))

The signature requirements for a group petition are the same as for a petition filed by a single delegate or alternate candidate:

- District Delegate or Alternate ([Form 2-Q](#)): Signatures of at least 50, but not more than 150, qualified electors
- At-large Delegate or Alternate ([Form 2-O](#)): Signatures of at least 1,000, but not more than 3,000, qualified electors

For purposes of signing or circulating a petition in 2023, an elector is considered to be affiliated with the Republican Party if the elector either voted most recently in the primary elections of the Republican Party in years 2021 to 2023 or did not vote in any other political party's primary elections in those years.

iii) When and Where to File

Group petitions for candidates for at-large delegates or alternate at-large delegates must be filed no later than **4 p.m. on December 20, 2023** with the Ohio Secretary of State’s Elections Division.

Group petitions for district delegates or alternate district delegates must be filed **no later than 4 p.m. on December 20, 2023** with the board of elections of the most populous county in the congressional district.

Below is a list of Ohio’s 15 congressional districts, the most populous county of each district, and the city of the most populous county in which the county board of elections office is located:*

District 1	Hamilton County (Cincinnati)
District 2	Clermont County (Batavia)
District 3	Franklin County (Columbus)
District 4	Delaware County (Delaware)
District 5	Lorain County (Lorain)
District 6	Mahoning County (Youngstown)
District 7	Cuyahoga County (Cleveland)
District 8	Butler County (Hamilton)
District 9	Lucas County (Toledo)
District 10	Montgomery County (Dayton)
District 11	Cuyahoga County (Cleveland)
District 12	Licking County (Newark)
District 13	Summit County (Akron)
District 14	Lake County (Painesville)
District 15	Franklin County (Columbus)

*Based on the district map adopted by the Ohio Redistricting Commission on March 2, 2022. As of the date of publication, the district map is subject to judicial review.

iv) Filing Fee

There is no fee to file these forms with the Secretary of State’s Office or the county boards of elections.

2. Alternate (Non-Petition) Method of Ballot Access

([R.C. 3513.121](#); [52 U.S.C. 30104](#))

Eligibility

A Republican presidential candidate who is able to meet the criteria (below) established in [R.C. 3513.121](#) may be certified to the Ohio presidential primary ballot if the presidential candidate and the candidates for delegate and alternate delegate who have pledged to support that presidential candidate file Declarations of Candidacy (no petition containing signatures of Ohio electors is necessary).

Presidential Candidates

Each presidential candidate filing for the Republican primary election under the Alternate (non-petition) Method must file the following documents with the Ohio Secretary of State's Elections Division:

- A "reasonable accounting" proving that the candidate's campaign committee has raised at least \$5,000 for the primary election in each of 20 states from individuals, with a maximum of \$250 per contributor counting toward the threshold.¹
- A statement from the presidential candidate's registered presidential campaign committee treasurer meeting the standards of [52 U.S.C. 30104](#) and certifying that the candidate's committee has met the applicable contribution requirements.²

The appropriate Declaration of Candidacy (no petition):

- [Form 1-C](#), Declaration of Candidacy for Party Primary Election for President – Designation of Delegates and Consent for Use of Name, including the presidential candidate's list of approved delegates (district and at-large) and consent for use of the candidate's name as first choice for President.

These documents must be filed, in person or by mail, at the same time with the Ohio Secretary of State's Elections Division **no later than 4 p.m. on December 20, 2023**.

Ohio Secretary of State - Elections Division

Phone: (614) 466-2585

www.OhioSoS.gov

¹ Ohio law does not define what constitutes a "reasonable accounting." The Secretary of State's Office previously has accepted a document containing, for each state, each individual contributor's name and address and the amount and date of the contribution as a "reasonable accounting."

² Ohio law does not prescribe language for the statement. The Secretary of State's Office previously has accepted a signed and dated statement containing the following language: "I declare (certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury that the attached accounting is true and correct, and that the campaign committee of (Presidential Candidate) has met the contribution requirements of Revised Code Section [3513.121](#)."

a. District Delegate or Alternate District Delegates – Single or Individual Candidate

Single (individual) candidates for district delegate or district alternate delegate who are designated by a Republican presidential candidate filing under the Alternate (non-petition) Method must file the following documents with the Secretary of State's Office **no later than 4 p.m. on December 20, 2023**:

- [Form 2-PA](#), Declaration of Candidacy Party Primary Election for District Delegate or Alternate District Delegate to the National Convention (Single Candidate), that includes a signed statement indicating the district delegate or alternate district delegate's first and second choices for President; and
- [Form 2-S](#), Consent for Use of Name as Second Choice for the Presidency - Single Candidate, bearing the original signature of the district delegate or alternate district delegate's second choice for President.

b. District Delegate or Alternate District Delegates – Group or Several Candidates

A group or several candidates for district delegate or alternate district delegate who are designated by a Republican presidential candidate filing under the Alternate (non-petition) Method must file the following documents with the Secretary of State's Office **no later than 4 p.m. on December 20, 2023**:

- [Form 2-QA](#), Declaration of Candidacy Party Primary Election for District Delegate or Alternate District Delegate to the National Convention (Several Candidates), that includes a signed statement indicating the delegate or alternate delegate's first and second choices for President; and
- [Form 2-U](#), Consent for Use of Name as Second Choice for the Presidency - Several Candidates, bearing the original signature of the district delegate or alternate district delegate's second choice for President.

c. At-large Delegate and At-large Alternate Delegate – Single or Individual Candidate

Candidates for at-large delegate and at-large alternate delegate for a Republican presidential candidate who submit a Declaration of Candidacy under the Alternate (non-petition) Method are selected in accordance with rules adopted by the Republican state central committee.

A candidate for at-large delegate or at-large alternate delegate who is designated by a Republican presidential candidate filing under the Alternate (non-petition) method must file the following documents with the Secretary of State's Office **no later than 4 p.m. on December 20, 2023**:

- [Form 2-NA](#), Declaration of Candidacy Party Primary Election for Delegate At-large or Alternate At-large to the National Convention (Single Candidate), that includes a signed

statement indicating the at-large delegate or alternate at-large delegate's first and second choices for President; and

- [Form 2-S](#), Consent for Use of Name as Second Choice for the Presidency - Single Candidate, bearing the original signature of the at-large delegate or alternate at-large delegate's second choice for President.

d. At-large Delegate and At-large Alternate Delegate – Group or Several Candidates

A group or several candidates for at-large delegate and at-large alternate delegate for a Republican presidential candidate who submit a Declaration of Candidacy under the Alternate (non-petition) method are selected in accordance with rules adopted by the Republican state central committee.

A group or several candidates for at-large delegate or district alternate delegate who are designated by a Republican presidential candidate filing under the Alternate (non-petition) Method must file the following documents with the Secretary of State's Office **no later than 4 p.m. on December 20, 2023**:

- [Form 2-OA](#), Declaration of Candidacy Party Primary Election for At-large Delegate or At-large Alternate Delegate to the National Convention (Several Candidates), that includes a signed statement indicating the at-large delegate or alternate at-large delegate's first and second choices for President; and
- [Form 2-U](#), Consent for Use of Name as Second Choice for the Presidency - Several Candidates, bearing the original signature of the at-large delegate or alternate at-large delegate's second choice for President.

Filing Fee for Alternate (Non-Petition) Method

There is no fee to file these forms with the Secretary of State's Office.

IV. Ballot Access for Minor Political Parties

A minor political party is a political party organized under the laws of Ohio where either of the following applies ([R.C. 3501.01](#); [R.C. 3517.012](#)):

- The minor party's candidate for governor or its nominees for presidential electors received less than 20% but not less than 3% of the total vote cast at the most recent regular state election; or
- A group of voters filed a party formation petition with the Secretary of State's Office that satisfied the requirements of [R.C. 3517.01](#).

What to File and Filing Deadlines ([R.C. 3517.012](#); [R.C. 3505.10](#); [R.C. 3513.257](#))

- **Recognized Minor Political Party**

A recognized minor party must certify the names of its nominees for the offices of President and Vice President to the Secretary of State's Office **no later than August 7, 2024** (90 days before the date of the November 5, 2024 General Election). The certification must be accompanied by a list of the names of 17 presidential electors who will represent the party and candidates in the Electoral College, should the candidates win the general election.

- **Minor Political Party That Has Filed a Party Formation Petition**

To appear on the general election ballot as a nominee and candidate for a minor political party that has filed a party formation petition, the joint candidates must file Secretary of State Form 4-C, Minor Party Nominating Petition for Candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, **no later than July 18, 2024** (110 days before the date of the November 5, 2024 General Election).

Filing Fee

There is no fee to file these forms with the Secretary of State's Office.

Where to File ([R.C. 3513.257](#))

Candidate petitions and minor party certifications must be filed with the Ohio Secretary of State's Elections Division.

V. Ballot Access for Independent Candidates

Independent joint candidates for President and Vice President run without a political party designation. Instead of participating in the primary process, they participate in Ohio’s general election by filing a valid and sufficient joint nominating petition.

Be advised that an independent candidate must actually be unaffiliated from any political party, and the required claim of being unaffiliated must be made in good faith for the candidate to be qualified to run as an independent candidate. *Morrison v. Colley*, 467 F.3d 503 (6th Cir. 2006); *Jolivette v. Husted*, 694 F.3d 760 (6th Cir. 2012).

What to File (R.C. 3513.257)

Independent candidates wanting their names to be printed on the general election ballot for the offices of President and Vice President must file with the Ohio Secretary of State:

- A valid and sufficient Joint Nominating Petition ([Form 3-A](#)) that complies with [R.C. 3513.257](#) and [R.C. 3501.38](#). The nominating petition must contain the names and signatures of both the candidate for President and the candidate for Vice President, and at least 5,000 – but not more than 15,000 – signatures of qualified Ohio electors (any qualified Ohio elector may sign the petition, regardless of the elector’s political party affiliation); and
- A slate of presidential electors. Joint candidates must file a list of names of 17 electors who will represent them in the Electoral College, should the candidates win the general election.

When and Where to File (R.C. 3513.257)

The properly completed and signed forms must be filed no later than **4 p.m. on August 7, 2024** with the Ohio Secretary of State’s Elections Division.

Filing Fee

There is no fee to file this form with the Secretary of State’s Office.

Desired Ballot Designation (R.C. 3505.03, R.C. 3513.257)

Independent candidates who are nominated by petition may be designated in one of the following three ways on the ballot:

- “Nonparty candidates”;
- “Other-party candidates”; or
- No designation.

When the prospective independent candidates file their joint nominating petition with the Secretary of State’s Office, they may request to have one of the designations above. The designation “independent” may not appear on the ballot. If the candidates do not request either the “nonparty candidate” or “other-party candidate” ballot designation, then no designation will be printed on the ballot below their names.

VI. Ballot Access for Joint Write-In Candidates

What to File (R.C. 3513.041)

Joint write-in candidates must file with the Ohio Secretary of State:

- A properly completed Declaration of Intent To Be Joint Write-in Candidates ([Form 13-A](#)). The declaration of intent must contain the names and signatures of both the candidate for President and the candidate for Vice President. (Note: Only candidates who have filed a Declaration of Intent To Be Joint Write-in Candidates are eligible to have votes counted in the general election.) and
- A slate of presidential electors. Joint write-in candidates must file a list of names of 17 electors who will represent them in the Electoral College, should the candidates win the general election.

Filing Fee

There is no fee to file this form with the Secretary of State's Office.

When and Where to File (R.C. 3513.041)

The properly completed and signed forms must be filed no later than **4 p.m. on August 26, 2024** with the Ohio Secretary of State's Elections Division.

VII. Rules Governing Petitions

The following is an overview of the rules governing petitions. For additional information on rules governing petitions, please see [Chapter 11](#) of the Ohio Election Official Manual. The candidate is ultimately responsible for learning and complying with the law governing petitions.

- The Declaration of Candidacy portion of each petition paper must be completely filled out and signed by the candidate(s) before being circulated. ([R.C. 3513.07](#), [R.C. 3513.09](#), [R.C. 3513.261](#))
- Once the candidate has completed and signed the Declaration of Candidacy, this signed part-petition may be copied prior to obtaining any elector signatures on the part-petitions. However, the signed Declaration of Candidacy must be copied on each part-petition before electors sign the petition. ([R.C. 3513.09](#), [R.C. 3513.261](#))
- Only qualified electors who are eligible to vote on the candidacy may sign a petition. An elector's qualifications are determined as of the date the petition is filed. ([R.C. 3501.38\(A\)](#))
- Each signature, written in ink, must be an original signature of an elector or the elector's duly appointed attorney-in-fact who is acting pursuant to [R.C. 3501.382](#). Generally, signing or affixing a signature to petition requires a person's written, cursive-style legal mark written in that person's own hand unless the elector does not use a cursive-style mark during the course of their regular business or legal affairs. However, a voter with a disability may personally affix their signature through the use of a reasonable accommodation, including the use of assistive technology or an augmentative device such as a signature stamp. ([R.C. 3501.011](#), [R.C. 3501.382\(F\)](#) and related [O.A.G. 2015-012](#))

- Each signer’s residence address and the date of signing must be placed on the petition after the elector’s signature. The voting address written on the petition must be the address appearing in the registration records of the board of elections. ([R.C. 3501.38 \(C\)](#))
- Petitions for a candidate for party nomination must be signed and circulated by persons who are members of the same political party as the candidate. ([R.C. 3513.07](#)) An elector is considered to be a member of a political party if they voted in the primary election of that party within the preceding two calendar years, or if they did not vote in any other party’s primary election within the preceding two calendar years. ([R.C. 3513.05, seventh paragraph](#))
- A candidate may circulate their own petition, although they may not sign their own petition as an elector. For purposes of circulating their own petition, a candidate is exempt from the party affiliation requirements described in the bullet-point above. ([R.C. 3513.191\(C\)\(4\)](#)) A circulator may not sign the same petition paper that they are circulating. A circulator who is not a candidate may, however, sign a petition paper being circulated for the same candidacy by a different circulator.
- A circulator must be at least 18 years of age. ([R.C. 3503.06\(C\)](#)) (The Ohio residency requirement is not currently in place based on the preliminary injunction in *Citizens in Charge v. Husted*, Case: 2:13-CV-00935 (S.D. Ohio 11/13/13); See also, *Citizens in Charge v. Husted*, 810 F. 3d 437 (6th Cir 2016)).
- After circulating the petition, the circulator must sign a statement, under penalty of election falsification, indicating the following:
 - a. The number of signatures contained on the petition;
 - b. That the circulator witnessed the affixing of each signature on the petition;
 - c. That all signers, to the best of the circulator’s knowledge and belief, were qualified to sign;
 - d. That each signature is, to the best of the circulator’s knowledge and belief, the signature of the person whose signature it purports to be; and
 - e. On the circulator’s statement for a declaration of candidacy or nominating petition for a person seeking to become a statewide candidate, the circulator’s name, the address of the circulator’s permanent residence, and the name and address of the person employing the circulator to circulate the petition, if any.
- If a circulator knowingly permits an unqualified person to sign a petition paper or permits a person to write a name other than the person’s own on the petition paper, that petition paper is invalid; otherwise, the signature of a person not qualified to sign shall be rejected but shall not invalidate the other valid signatures on the petition paper. ([R.C. 3501.38\(F\)](#))
- Once a candidate’s petition has been filed with the appropriate election official, it cannot be changed, supplemented, or returned to the candidate. ([R.C. 3501.38\(I\)](#))
- The original petition with the candidate’s original signature must be filed at the same time as all other part-petitions. ([R.C. 3501.38\(K\)](#), [R.C. 3513.09](#))
- Each petition paper must be circulated by one person only and may contain signatures of qualified electors of one county only. When petitions are circulated in a district that

contains more than one county, separate petition papers must be circulated in each county. ([R.C. 3501.38](#), [R.C. 3513.05](#), [R.C. 3513.07](#), [R.C. 3513.261](#))

- No petition will be accepted if it contains more than three times the minimum number of required signatures. ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [R.C. 3513.257](#), [R.C. 3513.259](#))
- All petitions must contain the following statement in boldface capital letters: **“WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE.”** ([R.C. 3501.38\(J\)](#), [R.C. 3599.36](#))

Note: The penalties for a fifth degree felony conviction are six to 12 months in prison and/or a fine of \$2,500.

VIII. Campaign Finance Requirements

All candidates for the offices of President and Vice President, including write-in candidates, are required to comply with all campaign finance laws and to file certain financial statements with the Federal Election Commission.

Candidates are advised to contact the [Federal Election Commission](#) for more information on these requirements before accepting contributions or making expenditures.

IX. The Electoral College

A. Generally ([U.S. Constitution, Art. II, §1 and Amendment XII](#); [3 U.S.C. 1](#))

Each state is allocated a number of presidential electors equal to the sum of its number of U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives. Ohio will have 17 presidential electors in 2024.

The legislature of each state prescribes the method for appointing presidential electors. A political party or independent candidate in every state submits to the state’s chief election official a list of individuals pledged to its candidate for president, equal in number to the state’s electoral vote.

B. In Ohio ([R.C. 3505.10](#), [R.C. 3505.39](#), [R.C. 3505.40](#), [R.C. 3513.11](#) and [R.C. 3513.111](#))

Each major political party in Ohio may hold a state convention at a time and place fixed by the party’s state central committee, but no later than 40 days prior to the general election, for nominating candidates for election as presidential electors. Within five days after that convention, the party chairperson and secretary certify in writing to the Secretary of State’s Office, the names of all persons nominated as candidates for presidential electors.

If a major political party does not hold a state convention, then the executive committee of the party’s state central committee must nominate candidates for election as presidential electors in accordance with party rules. These nominations must occur no later than 40 days prior to the presidential election. Within five days after these candidates are nominated, the chairperson or secretary of the executive committee, or, in the absence of the chairperson or secretary, a designated committee member, must certify in writing to the Secretary of State’s Office the names of all persons so nominated.

A recognized minor party in the state must certify in writing to the Secretary of State's Office the names of persons designated in accordance with the party's rules.

C. Meeting of the Electoral College ([R.C. 3505.39](#), [R.C. 3505.40](#); [3 U.S.C. §7](#))

The Ohio Secretary of State mails to each Ohio presidential elector a certificate of election and notice of the meeting of Ohio's Electoral College. On the Monday following the second Wednesday of December in a presidential election year, each state's presidential electors meet in their respective state capitols and cast their electoral votes, one for President and one for Vice President. A presidential elector must cast his or her electoral vote for the nominees for President and Vice President of the political party that certified him or her as a presidential elector.

The electoral votes of each state are then sealed and transmitted to the President of the U.S. Senate, who, in early January (of 2025), opens and reads them before both houses of Congress. The presidential candidate who receives the absolute majority of electoral votes is declared President; the Vice Presidential candidate who receives the absolute majority of electoral votes is declared Vice President.



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