Wisconsin Elections Commission

212 East Washington Avenue | Third Floor | P.O. Box 7984 | Madison, WI 53707-7984
(608) 266-8005 | elections@wi.gov | elections.wi.gov

Wisconsin Ballot Access Requirements for President and Vice President of the United States

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY – APRIL 7, 2020

In each year of a Presidential Election the state chairperson of each recognized political party in Wisconsin may certify to the Wisconsin Elections Commission that the party will participate in the Presidential Preference Primary. Only those parties whose candidate for governor at the last election received at least 10% of the total vote cast for that office (the Republican and Democratic Parties) may participate. Certification must be made **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, 2019**. Wis. Stat. § 8.12(1)(a). Each party that files this certificate will appear on the April 7, 2020 Presidential Preference ballot. Independent candidates for President do not appear on the Presidential Preference ballot.

The candidates for each of the recognized political parties which have filed the certificate to participate in the Presidential Preference Primary are named by a Presidential Preference Selection Committee. This committee consists of the state chairperson or designee of each of the political party organizations filing a certificate, as well as one national committeeman and one national committeewoman designated by the state chairperson. Other members of this committee are the speaker and the minority leader of the state assembly or their designees, and the president and minority leader of the state senate or their designees. This group selects an additional member to serve as its chairperson.

The Presidential Preference Selection Committee meets on **Tuesday, January 7, 2020**, at the State Capitol in Madison. Wis. Stat. § 8.12(1)(b). This committee has sole discretion to determine which persons are generally advocated or recognized by the news media throughout the United States as candidates for the office of president. The names of these candidates, and any other candidates they select, are certified for ballot placement to the Wisconsin Elections Commission **no later than Friday, January 10, 2020.** Wis. Stat. § 8.12(1)(b). Any person selected by this committee who does not wish to be a candidate at the Presidential Preference Primary must file a disclaimer with the Wisconsin Elections Commission **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2020**. Wis. Stat. § 8.12(1)(d).

Any person seeking the presidential nomination by the national convention of a political party certified to participate in the Presidential Preference Primary who was not selected by the Committee may petition the Wisconsin Elections Commission to have their name appear on the Presidential Preference ballot. The petition can also be filed by any committee organized in this state on behalf of and with consent of the person. The **first day for circulating this petition is January 7, 2020**, and the **last day for filing the petition is no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2020**. Wis. Stat. § 8.12(1)(c). The petition (EL-174) must conform to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 8.40. The petition must contain at least 1,000 and not more than 1,500 signatures of qualified electors in each of the 8 congressional districts of the state for a total of at least 8,000 signatures. All signers on each separate sheet of the petition must reside in the same congressional district.

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners
Ann S. Jacobs, chair | Marge Bostelmann | Julie M. Glancey | Dean Knudson | Robert Spindell | Mark L. Thomsen

Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

GENERAL ELECTION - November 3, 2020

The names of candidates for President and Vice President are placed on the General Election ballot in Wisconsin by one of the following methods:

Political organizations that have attained ballot status are the Democratic, Republican and Constitution parties. The names of candidates for President and Vice President for these parties are placed on the General Election ballot when their names are certified by the state or national chairperson to the Wisconsin Election Commission **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2020.** Wis. Stat. § 8.16(7). Each certified candidate must file a Declaration of Candidacy (EL-162) with the Wisconsin Election Commission **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2020**. Wis. Stat. § 8.21(1).

Political organizations that have not attained ballot status may file a Petition for Ballot Status (EL-171) with the Wisconsin Elections Commission. The **first day for circulating this petition is January 1, 2020**, and the **deadline for filing this petition is 5:00 p.m. on April 1, 2020**. Wis. Stat. § 5.62(2)(a). This petition must contain valid signatures of at least 10,000 Wisconsin electors, including at least 1,000 signatures of electors residing in each of at least 3 different congressional districts. Wis. Stat. § 5.62(2). If the Commission finds the petition to be sufficient, the political organization may have its candidates for President and Vice President printed on the General Election ballot. Also, the party is entitled to a separate ballot for all partisan offices at the August 11, 2020 Partisan Primary and for all other offices at the November 3, 2020 General Election. The names of candidates for President and Vice President are selected by the organization's nominating committee or convention and placed on the General Election ballot when the committee certifies their names to the Wisconsin Elections Commission **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2020**. Each certified candidate must file a Declaration of Candidacy (EL-162) with the Wisconsin Elections Commission **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2020**. Wis. Stat. §§ 8.16(7), 8.21(1).

Independent Candidates for President and Vice President circulate and file nomination papers (EL-167). The **first day for circulating nomination papers is July 1, 2020,** and the **deadline for filing with the Wisconsin Election Commission is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2020.** Wis. Stat. § 8.20(8)(am). The nomination papers must contain at least 2,000 and no more than 4,000 signatures of Wisconsin electors. In addition to filing nomination papers, an independent candidate is required to file a Declaration of Candidacy (EL-162) with the Wisconsin Election Commission **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2020**. Wis. Stats. §§ 8.20(8)(am), 8.21. Independent candidates appear on the November General Election ballot only.

Links to the forms mentioned above appear below. The forms are also included with this memo. If you have further questions, contact the Wisconsin Election Commission, P.O. Box 7984, Madison, WI 53707-7984, or call 608-261-2028. https://elections.wi.gov. Email: elections@wi.gov.

References:
- ELIS-15 Ballot Access Checklist-Independent Presidential Candidates
- EL-162 - Declaration of Candidacy
- EL-167 Nomination Paper for Independent Candidates Pres. and Vice Pres.
- EL-167wr - Presidential Electors List
- EL-171 - Petition for Ballot Status
- EL-174 - Petition for Placement on Presidential Preference Ballot