



SECRETARY OF STATE
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Running For Partisan Statewide Executive Office In 2010

Secretary of State	Attorney General
Agriculture Commissioner	Tax Commissioner
Public Service Commissioner	

Qualifications and Terms of Office

Constitutional Statewide Officers: The above mentioned constitutional statewide officers of North Dakota must be at least 25 years of age, a qualified North Dakota voter, and have resided in North Dakota for the five years preceding the next election. However, to be eligible to hold the office of governor or lieutenant governor, a person must be at least thirty years old on the day of the election ([North Dakota Constitution, Article V, Section 4](#)).

The 4-year term of office for these constitutional statewide officers begins on January 1 following the election. However, the term of office for governor and lieutenant governor begins on December 15 following the election.

The 6-year term of office for Public Service Commissioners begin on January 1 following the date of election.

Running in the Primary Election

Candidates for statewide executive office may choose one of two methods for placing their names on the June 8, 2010, Primary Election ballot. They include:

A. Petition/Certificate of Nomination: Candidates may file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination with the Secretary of State containing signatures equal to 3% of the total votes cast for the candidates for the same office and carrying the same political party affiliation at the last general election. However, no more than 300 signatures are required. If the office sought did not have a candidate with the same political party affiliation in the preceding general election, at least 300 signatures are required ([NDCC § 16.1-11-06](#)).

B. Certificate of Endorsement: Candidates endorsed by established political parties may file a Certificate of Endorsement with the Secretary of State to have their names placed on the June 8, 2010, Primary Election ballot ([NDCC § 16.1-11-06](#)).

A Complete Filing Must Include:

1. A **Petition/Certificate of Nomination (SFN 2704)** containing the signatures of not more than 300 qualified North Dakota electors **OR** a **Certificate of Endorsement (SFN 17196)**;

2. An **Affidavit of Candidacy (SFN 2703)**;
3. A **Statement of Interests (SFN 10172)**.

Circulating a Petition/Certificate of Nomination

A Petition/Certificate of Nomination may not be circulated or signed more than 90 days before the date the petition must be filed with the Secretary of State. Therefore, candidates may not circulate or have a Petition/Certificate of Nomination signed before **January 9, 2010**.

When and Where to File

Candidates may not file earlier than 150 days before or later than 4:00 p.m. on the 60th day before the June 8, 2010, Primary Election.

The filing deadline with the **Secretary of State is 4:00 p.m. on April 9, 2010**. Original filings must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State's office by the filing deadline.

Running as a Write-In Candidate in the Primary Election

A person who intends to be a write-in candidate for statewide executive office in the June 8, 2010, Primary Election shall file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Secretary of State by 4:00 p.m. on the 21st day before the Primary Election. The sworn Certificate of Write-In Candidacy must contain the complete address of the candidate ([16.1-12-02.2](#)).

A Complete Filing Must Include:

1. A **Certificate of Write-In Candidacy (SFN 50599)**;
2. A **Statement of Interests (SFN 10172)**.

When and Where to File

Original Certificates of Write-In Candidacy must be filed by 4:00 p.m. on the 21st day before the June 8, 2010, Primary Election.

The filing deadline with the **Secretary of State is 4:00 p.m. on May 18, 2010**. Original filings must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State's office by the filing deadline.

Options for other National Parties

A party may endorse candidates for statewide office for inclusion on the June 8, 2010, Primary Election Ballot. To do so, the party must establish itself and gain ballot access by the 60th day before the June 8, 2010, Primary Election. That deadline is April 9, 2010.

A party that has failed to establish itself and gain ballot access by the April 9, 2010, deadline, may only nominate candidates for inclusion on the November 2, 2010, General Election ballot as independents ([NDCC § 16.1-11-30](#) and Ch. [16.1-12](#)).

Running in the General Election

Candidates for statewide executive office who receive the highest number of votes within their political party at the June 8, 2010, Primary Election will automatically be placed on the

November 2, 2010, General Election ballot. No person may be deemed nominated as a candidate for any office at any primary election unless the candidate receives a number of votes equal to the number of signatures required, or which would have been required had the candidate not had his or her name placed on the ballot through a Certificate of Endorsement, on a petition to have a candidate's name for that office placed on the primary ballot (NDCC § [16.1-11-36](#)).

Running as an Independent Candidate in the General Election

A party that has failed to establish itself according to Section [16.1-11-30](#) of the North Dakota Century Code by the April 9, 2010, deadline, or any other entity or individual, may nominate candidates for statewide executive office for inclusion on the November 2, 2010, General Election ballot as independents. Independent candidates will be designated on the general election ballot as "independent nominations" and will not carry a specific party designation or affiliation (NDCC Ch. [16.1-12](#)).

A Complete Filing Must Include:

1. A **Petition/Certificate of Nomination (SFN 2704)** containing the signatures of 1,000 qualified North Dakota electors;
2. An **Affidavit of Candidacy (SFN 2703)**;
3. A **Statements of Interests (SFN 10172)**.

Circulating a Petition/Certificate of Nomination

A Petition/Certificate of Nomination may not be circulated or signed more than 150 days before the date the petition must be filed with the Secretary of State. Therefore, candidates may not circulate or have a Petition/Certificate of Nomination signed before **April 6, 2010**, for inclusion on the General Election ballot.

When and Where to File

Independent candidates must file by 4:00 p.m. on the 60th day before the November 2, 2010, General Election.

The filing deadline with the **Secretary of State is 4:00 p.m. September 3, 2010**. Complete filings must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State's office by the filing deadline.

Running as a Write-In Candidate in the General Election

A person who intends to be a write-in candidate for statewide executive office at the November 2, 2010, General Election shall file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Secretary of State by 4:00 p.m. on the 21st day before the General Election. The sworn Certificate of Write-In Candidacy must contain the complete address of the candidate (NDCC Ch. [16.1-12](#)).

A Complete Filing Must Include:

1. A **Certificate of Write-In Candidacy (SFN 50599)**;
2. A **Statement of Interests (SFN 10172)**.

The Filing Deadline

Certificates of Write-In Candidacy must be filed by 4:00 p.m. on the 21st day before the November 2, 2010, General Election.

The filing deadline with the **Secretary of State is 4:00 p.m. on October 12, 2010**. Complete filings must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State's office by the filing deadline.

Campaign Finance and Disclosure

Candidates for statewide executive office are subject to the registration and campaign finance and disclosure requirements found in [Chapter 16.1-08.1](#) of the North Dakota Century Code.

Forms

The state forms (SFN's) listed above are available from the Secretary of State's office and may also be accessed from the Secretary of State's web site and Fax-On-Demand service line.

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