



Information for Political Party Qualification

Montana Secretary of State

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◆ Filing Deadlines ([13-10-601](#), MCA)

- **March 2, 2020** Deadline to submit signed political party qualification [petitions](#) and [affidavits](#) of signature gatherers to [county election administrators](#)
- **March 9, 2020** Deadline for political party candidates to file Declaration and Oath of Candidacy and pay filing fee (unless indigent) to appropriate filing officer

◆ Links:

- [Political Party Qualification Petition](#)
- [Affidavit of Signature Gatherer](#)
- [2020 Election Calendar](#)
- [Title 13 Election Laws](#)

◆ Signature Requirements ([13-10-601](#), MCA)

- According to 13-10-601, MCA, the number of signatures required for political party ballot access is **5,000**, which must include the registered voters in at least 34 House districts equal to 5% or more of the total votes cast for the successful candidate for governor at the last general election in those districts (*or 150 electors in those districts, whichever is less; see table below*).
- There is **no earliest date** to gather political party qualification petition signatures or to submit signed political party qualification petitions to county election administrators. (However, candidate declaration forms cannot be filed with the appropriate filing officer before **January 9, 2020**, or the date by which the party is qualified, whichever is later.)

◆ Other Information

- A current list of qualified political parties is at sosmt.gov/Elections/Parties.
- If the party qualifies for ballot access, the deadline by which party candidates must file their filing form with the required filing fee is **March 9, 2020**. See [13-10-201](#), MCA. A candidate who files as an [indigent](#) candidate is not required to pay the filing fee, but must file petition signatures. See [Filing Information and Petition Signature Requirements for indigent candidate requirements](#).
- Under [13-10-602](#), MCA, a political party and its regularly nominated candidates, members, and officers have the sole and exclusive right to the use of the party name. A candidate for office may not use any word of the name of any other political party or organization other than that by which the candidate is nominated in a manner that indicates or implies the individual is a candidate of the nonnominating party.



Signatures Required for Political Party Qualification

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House District	Votes for Last Successful Candidate for Governor	Petition Signatures Required (5% of Votes Cast for Last Successful Candidate for Governor)	House District	Votes for Last Successful Candidate for Governor	Petition Signatures Required (5% of Votes Cast for Last Successful Candidate for Governor)
1	1,720	86	51	2,160	108
2	1,588	80	52	2,184	110
3	2,271	114	53	2,577	129
4	1,793	90	54	2,600	130
5	3,411	171	55	2,092	105
6	2,340	117	56	2,004	101
7	1,991	100	57	1,813	91
8	1,927	97	58	2,775	139
9	1,526	77	59	2,650	133
10	2,299	115	60	3,260	163
11	1,699	85	61	4,556	228
12	2,528	127	62	4,824	242
13	1,826	92	63	3,078	154
14	2,039	102	64	3,278	164
15	2,138	107	65	4,105	206
16	2,721	137	66	4,110	206
17	2,143	108	67	2,323	117
18	1,780	89	68	2,102	106
19	2,035	102	69	2,179	109
20	2,795	140	70	2,683	135
21	2,690	135	71	2,606	131
22	2,398	120	72	2,272	114
23	2,239	112	73	3,441	173
24	2,383	120	74	3,066	154
25	2,287	115	75	2,786	140
26	1,641	83	76	4,156	208
27	2,269	114	77	3,269	164
28	2,418	121	78	2,092	105
29	1,865	94	79	3,930	197
30	2,031	102	80	2,625	132
31	2,073	104	81	3,481	175
32	2,170	109	82	3,598	180
33	1,615	81	83	3,227	162
34	1,911	96	84	3,146	158
35	1,085	55	85	2,204	111
36	1,220	61	86	2,742	138
37	1,349	68	87	2,040	102
38	1,786	90	88	2,469	124
39	1,613	81	89	3,297	165
40	1,971	99	90	3,766	189
41	1,584	80	91	5,306	266
42	2,149	108	92	2,765	139
43	2,089	105	93	2,287	115
44	2,284	115	94	3,148	158
45	1,777	89	95	3,610	181
46	2,744	138	96	2,996	150
47	2,367	119	97	2,742	138
48	2,725	137	98	3,437	172
49	2,106	106	99	3,530	177
50	2,221	112	100	4,916	246

† The total number of certified signatures required for political party qualification is **5,000**. The number of signatures must include the verified signatures of registered voters in at least 34 legislative districts equal to 5% or more of the total votes cast for the successful candidate for governor at the last general election in those districts or 150 electors in those districts, whichever is less. [13-10-601](#), MCA.