

**Independent Candidates General Filing Procedures (except President, Vice President, Municipal & Judicial Candidates) [ACA §§7-6-102, 7-7-103]:**

- Must file a political practices pledge, an affidavit of eligibility and a notice of candidacy identifying the elective office sought, position number, if any, and stating the name and title proposed for the ballot.
- The political practices pledge, affidavit of eligibility, and notice of candidacy must be filed during the party filing period.
- A petition may be circulated no earlier than ninety (90) days before the May 1 deadline for filing petitions unless the number of days is reduced by proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document for a special election under Ark. Code Ann. §7-11-101 et seq., in which case the number of signatures required on the petition is reduced proportionately.
- The petition must be filed by 12:00 noon on May 1 of the year in which the election is to be held.

**Presidential and Vice Presidential Offices [ACA §7-8-302]:**

- The petition must be filed with the Secretary of State by noon on the first Monday of August of the year of the election and signed by not less than one thousand (1,000) qualified electors of the state.

**U.S. Senate or State Offices [ACA § 7-7-103]:**

- The petition must be filed with the Secretary of State and be signed by not less than three percent (3%) of the qualified electors of the state, based upon the total number of votes cast statewide for Governor in 2010, or 10,000 signatures of qualified electors, whichever is the lesser.

**U.S. House or District Offices (State Senator, State Representative) [ACA § 7-7-103]:**

- The petition must be filed with the Secretary of State and be signed by not less than three percent (3%) of the qualified electors in the district in which the candidate seeks office, based upon the total number of votes cast for Governor in that district in 2010, but in no event shall more than 2,000 signatures be required.

### **County and Township Offices** [ACA § 7-7-103]:

- The petition must be filed with the county clerk and be signed by not less than three percent (3%) of the qualified electors in the county or township, as the case may be, in which the candidate seeks office, based upon the total number of votes cast for Governor in that county or township, as the case may be, in 2010, but in no event shall more than 2,000 signatures be required.
- The total number of qualified electors may be obtained from the county clerk.

**Except for presidential, vice presidential, municipal, and judicial candidates, an independent candidate seeking election at the November 6, 2012 General Election may circulate a petition no earlier than February 1, 2012.**

**The candidate must file a political practices pledge, affidavit of eligibility, and notice of candidacy during regular office hours between 12:00 noon on February 23, 2012 and 12:00 noon on March 1, 2012.**

**The petition must be filed by 12:00 noon on May 1, 2012.**

**The petition must state the same position and position number, if any, as stated on the candidate's political practices pledge, affidavit of eligibility, and notice of candidacy.**

**The position sought cannot be changed once identified on the notice of candidacy. The notice must be withdrawn and a new notice of candidacy designating a different position filed before the filing deadline.**

**The petition must request that the name of the person be placed on the ballot for election to the office identified on the petition, and each elector signing the petition must be a registered voter.**

## **Municipal Offices:**

### **Mayor-Council Form of Government** *[ACA §§7-6-102, 14-42-205, 14-42-206, 14-43-312, 14-44-103, 14-45-102]*

- Must file a petition, political practices pledge, and an affidavit of eligibility with the county clerk not more than one hundred two (102) nor less than eighty-one (81) days before the general election by noon. **NOTE:** For municipalities situated in multiple counties, the candidate shall file with the county clerk of the county with the highest population of the municipality, and the county clerk shall certify the candidate to the other counties.
- The petition must be signed by not fewer than thirty (30) electors of the ward or city in which the election is to be held when running as an independent municipal candidate in cities of the first class.
- The petition must be signed by not fewer than ten (10) electors of the ward or city in which the election is to be held when running as an independent municipal candidate in cities of the second class or incorporated towns.

### **City Manager Form of Government** *[ACA §14-47-110]*

- Must file a nominating petition with the city clerk or recorder not more than one hundred two (102) nor less than eighty-one (81) days before the election by 12:00 noon.
- Petition must be signed by not less than fifty (50) qualified electors of the municipality.

**A municipal candidate in a mayor-council form of government seeking election at the November 6, 2012 General Election must file a petition, a political practices pledge, and an affidavit of eligibility between July 27, 2012 and 12:00 noon on August 17, 2012.**

**The petition must identify the office sought and position number, if any.**

**The position sought cannot be changed once identified on the petition. The petition must be withdrawn and a new petition designating a different position filed before the filing deadline.**