

Write-in Candidates

Write-in candidates are not allowed in presidential, municipal, or primary elections. [ACA §§7-5-525, 7-8-302, 14-43-202]

Federal, State, and District Offices [ACA §§7-5-205, 7-6-102]:

- Must file a written notice of write-in candidacy with the county board of election commissioners of each county in which the candidate seeks election and the Secretary of State no later than the last day of the party filing period.
- Must file a political practices pledge and an affidavit of eligibility for the office with the Secretary of State at the same time of filing the notice of write-in candidacy.

County and Township Offices [ACA §§7-5-205, 7-6-102]:

- Must file a written notice of write-in candidacy with the county board of election commissioners and the county clerk no later than the last day of the party filing period.
- Must file a political practices pledge and an affidavit of eligibility for the office with the county clerk at the same time of filing the notice of write-in candidacy.

A write-in candidate for federal, state, district, county, and township office seeking election at the November 6, 2012 General Election must file no later than March 1, 2012.

School Board [ACA §6-14-111]:

- Must file a political practices pledge, an affidavit of eligibility, and a notice of write-in candidacy.
- The political practices pledge, affidavit of eligibility, and notice of write-in candidacy must be filed with the county clerk of the county in which the school district is domiciled for administrative purposes during a one-week period ending at 12:00 noon seventy (70) days before the annual school election.

A write-in candidate for school board seeking election at the September 18, 2012 Annual School Election must file during a one-week period ending at 12:00 noon on July 10, 2012.

A write-in candidate for school board seeking election at the September 17, 2013 Annual School Election must file during a one-week period ending at 12:00 noon on July 9, 2013.

The notice of write-in candidacy must identify the position sought, position number, and other identifying information, if applicable.

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 The notice must be withdrawn and a new notice designating a different position filed before the filing deadline.

Nonpartisan Judicial Offices [ACA §7-10-103]:

- Candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals and circuit judge must give written notice of their intention to be a write-in candidate to the Secretary of State and to the county board of election commissioners.
- Candidates for district judge must give written notice of their intention to be a write-in candidate to the county clerk and to the county board of election commissioners.
- A political practices pledge and the notice of write-in candidacy must be filed not later than eighty (80) days before the nonpartisan judicial general election.

A write-in candidate for nonpartisan judicial office seeking election at the May 22, 2012 Nonpartisan Judicial General Election must file no later than March 3, 2012.

Special Elections to Fill Vacancies [ACA §§7-11-101, 7-11-102, 7-11-302]

All special elections and other elections to fill a vacancy in an office shall be called by proclamation, ordinance, resolution, order, or other authorized document of the appropriate constituted authority.

The calling document shall set forth the date of the special primary election and special primary runoff election, if any, the date of the election, and the date for certifying the election. The calling document shall provide deadlines, if applicable, for filing as a party candidate, for party conventions to select nominees, for parties to issue certificates of nomination or certified lists of nominees, as the case may be, for candidates to file certifications of nomination, for filing as an independent candidate, for circulating petitions for independent candidacy, for filing as a write-in candidate, and for drawing for ballot position.