

State of Maine Candidate's Guide to Ballot Access for the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary

Petitions are available from the Department of the Secretary of State, Division of Elections, located at the Burton M. Cross State Office Building, 4th floor, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta, Maine. You may pick up the petitions in person, have another person obtain them for you or have the petitions mailed to you.

Candidates seeking to participate in Maine's Presidential Primary must file a petition containing at least 2,000 and not more than 2,500 signatures from Maine registered voters enrolled in the party named in the petition. Candidates may begin circulating petitions as soon as the party for which they are running has filed the Party Certification of Presidential Primary Contest under 21-A MRS, §441(1). Signed petitions must be certified with the municipality before being presented to the Secretary of State. The deadline to file a petition for municipal certification is 5 p.m. on November 20, 2023. The deadline to file certified petitions with the Secretary of State is 5 p.m. on December 1, 2023.


Other Points Pertinent to Presidential Primary Petitions

- All markings on petition forms must be typed or printed in ink, except where an original signature is required.
- A separate petition form should be used for each municipality in which signatures are submitted. (This is for ease of municipal verification of voters; a petition form signed by voters from multiple municipalities will not be invalidated on that basis.)
- The **circulator** of a petition does not have to be a Maine resident or Maine registered voter. The circulator must personally witness every signature that is made to the petition and be able to take an oath to that effect.
- A voter may sign petitions for more than one candidate. However, a voter may sign each candidate's petition only once.
- To ensure that the registrar will be able to certify a voter's signature, the voter should sign a petition in the same manner as appears on the voter's voter registration card. However, immaterial irregularities will not invalidate a signature as long as the registrar can determine that the signer is the voter on the municipality's list. Immaterial irregularities include, but are not limited to, misspelling, inclusion or omission of initials and substitution of initials or nicknames for given names.

Primary (Party) Petition Filing Checklist

- Collect at least 2,000 signatures. Signers must be Maine registered voters and enrolled in the party named in the petition.
- Have each petition verified by its circulator – the "Circulator's Oath" must be completed on each petition – see page 3 for further details.
- Have all signatures certified by the applicable registrar of voters prior to filing with the Secretary of State – see page 4 for further details.
- Sign the "Candidate's Consent" section of the *Presidential Primary Candidate's Consent* form before a Notary Public or other person authorized by law to administer oaths or affirmations – see page 4 for further details.
- Present the petitions and the completed *Presidential Primary Candidate's Consent* form to the Secretary of State for review on or before **5 p.m., December 1, 2023**.

Sample of Presidential Primary Petition

	STATE OF MAINE Presidential Primary Petition March 5, 2024	DATE FILED With Secretary of State
	① _____ Party	
Legal name of candidate as it will appear on the ballot: <i>(See Title 21-A, §601(2)(H) for requirements.)</i>		
② _____ (Last name and suffix, if any)	_____ (First name)	_____ (Middle name or initial)
Voting Residence Address of Candidate		
_____ ③ _____ (City/Town)	_____ (State)	
Mailing Address of Candidate (if different from above): _____ ④ _____		
<p>Petition must be submitted to municipal registrar for certification prior to filing with Secretary of State. Deadline for submitting petitions to municipal registrar for certification: 5 p.m., November 20, 2023 Deadline for filing petitions and Candidate's Consent with Secretary of State: 5 p.m., December 1, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Every voter must sign the petition in the circulator's presence.• <u>Registered voters physically unable to sign</u>, who have filed an alternative signature statement per 21-A MRS §153-A, may direct another Maine registered voter to sign the petition in their presence. The authorized individual must sign their name, the assisted voter's name, attest to signing on the voter's behalf, and complete all information on both lines (for the voter and the assistant).• For more information, please contact the Division of Elections at (207) 624-7650.		

Completing Presidential Primary Petitions

Instructions for Candidate Information Section

1. Write the name of the qualified party in which the candidate is enrolled.
2. Write the candidate's legal name on the petition in one of the following forms:
 - a. last name (and suffix, if any), first name, middle name
 - b. last name (and suffix, if any), first name, middle initial
 - c. last name (and suffix, if any), first initial, middle name
 - d. last name (and suffix, if any), first name

The name should be completed as it will appear on the ballot and must be in one of the forms listed above, as required by 21-A MRS §601(2)(H). The candidate must also sign the Candidate's Consent in the same manner. A candidate's name listed on the ballot must be the candidate's legal name. See 21-A MRS §601(2)(B-1).

3. Write the residence address (town or city and state) where the candidate is registered to vote.
4. Write the mailing address of the candidate, if different.

Note: The information required on the petition must be completed prior to circulation. A petition may be rejected if it is missing required information when filed with the Secretary of State.

Instructions for Collection of Signatures

For Registrar use only	SIGNATURE OF VOTER (Not Printed Name)	PRINTED NAME OF VOTER	DATE SIGNED	ACTUAL STREET ADDRESS (Not P.O. Box)	MUNICIPALITY (Where Registered)
1.					
2.					
3.					

1. The petition may be signed only by voters who are registered voters in the State of Maine and who are enrolled in the party named in the petition. The voter must sign his or her name personally, except that a voter who is physically unable to sign the petition and who is registered to vote as provided in 21-A MRS §153-A(3), may direct another Maine registered voter to sign the petition in the voter's presence. The individual assisting the voter who is physically unable to sign, must sign the voter's name on one line and then sign the individual's own name on another line and attest that the individual is signing on the voter's behalf. The assistant must complete the rest of the information on both lines (for the voter and the assistant).

2. The printed name of the voter, the date signed, the street address and the municipality may be completed by either the voter or the circulator. Ditto marks are permitted only for street address and municipality of registration.

Instructions for the Circulator's Oath

Circulator's Oath

I hereby make oath that I am the Circulator of this petition; that I personally witnessed all of the signatures to this petition; and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, each signature is that of the person whose name it purports to be, and each person is enrolled in the party named on this petition, and is a resident of the electoral division named in the petition. If any voter was unable to sign due to a physical disability, I hereby verify, that the voter authorized another voter to sign at the voter's direction and in the voter's presence.

Signature of Circulator _____ *Printed Name of Circulator* _____

Signature of Notary _____ *Printed Name of Notary* _____

Subscribed to and sworn before me on this date: _____ Date my Notary Commission expires: _____
(Date must be completed by Notary)

Circulator's Oath: After the circulator has gathered all of the signatures on a particular petition form, the circulator must take an oath before a notary public or other person authorized by law to administer oaths or affirmations that:

- The circulator **personally witnessed** all of the signatures to the petition;
- To the best of the circulator's knowledge and belief, each signature is that of the person whose name it purports to be;
- Each signer is a registered voter of the electoral district named on the petition and enrolled in the party designated on the petition; and
- If a voter was unable to sign due to a physical disability, that the voter authorized another voter to sign at the voter's direction and in the voter's presence.

The circulator must take the oath for each petition form circulated. **Once the circulator has taken the oath before a notary, no signatures may be added to that petition form.**

Instructions for the Registrar's Certification

Registrar's Certification

Municipality _____ TOTAL VALID _____ TOTAL INVALID _____

I hereby certify that the names of all the petitioners listed as valid appear on the voting list as registered voters in this municipality, in the electoral division named in the petition, and are enrolled in the party named on this petition.

DATE & TIME PETITION RECEIVED:

Signature of Registrar: _____

Date petition certified: _____

Registrar's Certification: The registrar of voters or municipal clerk must certify that each person whose signature appears on the petition is registered to vote in that municipality, and is enrolled in the party designated on the petition.

Instructions for the Candidate's Consent

**State of Maine
Presidential Primary Candidate's Consent**

_____ Party

Legal name of candidate as it will appear on the ballot: *(See Title 21-A, §601(2)(H) for requirements for listing candidates' names on the ballot.)*

_____ (Last name and suffix, if any) _____ (First name) _____ (Middle name or initial)

Phonetic pronunciation of name for accessible audio ballot _____

Voting Residence Address of Candidate: _____ (City/Town) _____ (State)

Qualifications of President of the United States (U.S. Constitution, Article II, Section 1)

- Be a natural born U.S. Citizen
- Have been a resident of the United States for at least 14 years
- Be at least 35 years of age

Candidate's Consent

I hereby declare my intent to be a candidate for the Office of President of the United States and participate in the Presidential Primary for the party named above to be held on March 5, 2024, in the State of Maine. I further declare that my residence is in the municipality and state listed above; that I am enrolled in the party named on this consent; that I meet the qualifications to hold this office as listed above; and that this declaration is true.

_____ (Signature of Candidate)

Subscribed to and sworn before me on this date: _____ (Date) _____ (Signature of Notary Public)

(Printed Name of Notary Public)

Filing deadline for Candidate's Consent and Presidential Primary Nomination petitions to be received by the Division of Elections is 5 p.m., Friday, December 1, 2023.

The candidate must sign the *Presidential Primary Candidate's Consent* form and take an oath before a notary public or other person authorized by law to administer oaths or affirmations. The Candidate's Consent form contains a statement declaring intent to be a candidate for the Office of President and participate in the Maine Presidential Primary, a declaration of the candidate's voting residence and party designation, and a statement that the candidate meets the qualifications to hold the office.