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CHAPTER 17

NOMINATION BY PETITION

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§ 491. Nomination authorized

The nomination of a candidate for any state or county office may be made by nomination petition.

1. Political designation restricted. A person who seeks nomination by petition may not use as his political designation the name of a political party which is entitled to nominate candidates by primary election.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

§ 492. Requirements

A nomination petition is governed by the following provisions:

1. Content. It may contain as many separate papers as necessary. It may contain the consent required by section 493. It must contain the name of only one candidate, his place of residence, the office sought, and his political designation expressed in not more than 3 words. When 2 United States Senators or 2 county commissioners are to be nominated, it must contain the term of office sought by the candidate.

A. Exception. The names of presidential electors must be placed on the petition as a slate. The names of the candidates for president and vice-president may be placed on a petition for the nomination of presidential electors.

2. By whom signed. It may be signed only by voters of the electoral division which is to make the nomination. Other signatures are void.

3. How signed. It must be signed personally by the voter in the same manner as his name appears on the voting list.

4. Residence added. After his name, the voter must personally add his place of residence and his street address. Ditto marks are permitted.

5. Number of signatures required. It must be signed by a number of voters equal to at least 1% of the number of votes cast for Governor at the last gubernatorial election in the electoral division which is to make the nomination, but in no case less than 25.

6. When signed. It may not be signed before January 1st of the election year in which it is to be used.

7. Signatures restricted. A voter may sign only as many nomination petitions for each office as there are vacancies to be filled. The signing of a primary petition under section 445 does not prohibit a voter from signing a nomination petition.

8. Petition certified. A signer of a nomination petition or the person who circulates it shall certify his belief that the signatures on it are genuine and that the signers are residents of the electoral division for which the nomination is proposed. The person who certifies a nomination petition may do so by making oath to the above statements on the petition or on a certificate attached to it.

9. Checked by registrar. A nomination petition must be submitted to the registrar of each municipality concerned before being filed. The registrar shall certify forthwith on the petition which signatures on it are those of voters of that municipality.

10. When filed. It must be filed with the Secretary of State on or before August 15th of the election year in which it is to be used.

11. Petition void. A nomination petition which does not meet the requirements of this section is void.

A. Exception. If a voter fails to comply with this section in signing the petition his name may not be counted, but the petition is otherwise valid.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

§ 493. Candidate's consent to be filed

The written consent of each candidate, as described in section 446, must be filed with his nomination petition.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

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§ 494. Review of petition

On receipt of a nomination petition, the Secretary of State shall review it. If it is incomplete or incorrect on its face, he shall advise the candidate or the person who certified it and allow him to correct it in accordance with the facts.

1. Limitation. Additional signatures may not be submitted after the date on which the petition must be filed.

1961, c. 360, § 1.