



SECRETARY OF THE STATE
30 TRINITY STREET
HARTFORD, CT 06106

To: All Registrars of Voters and Town Clerks
From: Secretary of the State, Legislation and Elections Administration Division
Date: April 26, 2016
Re: Statewide and Multi-Town District Primary Petitions

Connecticut Public Act No. 03-241, "An Act Concerning Direct Primaries and Amendments to Certain Campaign Finance Statutes", modified the primary system in the State of Connecticut to allow candidates for nomination to State or District Offices to submit primary petitions to the registrars of voters in order to participate in their party's primary for a particular office. If a candidate submits primary petitions and receives the requisite number of signatures, a primary will be held for the particular office in question.

Although Statewide and Multi-Town District primary petitions are available from the Office of the Secretary of the State, the registrars of voters are involved in this process as well. Below you will find a detailed explanation of this petition process.

STATE AND MULTI-TOWN DISTRICT PRIMARY PETITION AVAILABILITY

In 2004, Connecticut Public Act No. 03-241 provides for the availability of Statewide (U.S. Senator) and Multi-Town District (Representative in Congress, State Senator and State Representative) primary petitions.

Primary petitions for U.S. Senator and Representative in Congress are available from the Secretary of the State on April 26, 2016.

Primary petitions for State Senator and State Representative (from Multi-Town Districts) are available from the Secretary of the State beginning on May 24, 2016.

Primary petitions for State Representative from a Single-Town District *are not available* from the Secretary of the State and will still be available *only* from the registrar of voters as they have been in the past.

STATE AND MULTI-TOWN DISTRICT PRIMARY PETITION FILING DEADLINE

All State and Multi-Town District primary petitions are to be filed with the registrar of voters in the town in which such petitions were circulated on June 7, 2016.

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS AVAILABILITY

Registrars of Voters are required to be in their office on June 7, 2016, the last day for filing state, district and municipal primary petitions, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS RESPONSIBILITIES

Once Statewide and Multi-Town District primary petitions are filed with the registrars of voters of the various towns, the registrars of voters must provide each person submitting such petition pages a receipt in duplicate (one for the candidate and one to be sent to the Secretary of the State). We have attached a suggested form for such receipt to this mailing for your convenience.

Upon acceptance of the primary petition pages, the registrar of voters must check the signatures contained on each primary petition page to ensure the signatures are valid. The registrars of voters have seven (7) days to complete this task. Once the petition pages are reviewed and the signatures are verified, the registrar of voters shall forward the petition pages to the Office of the Secretary of the State no later than June 14, 2016.

PLEASE NOTE: registrars of voters shall forward only State and Multi-Town District primary petitions to the Secretary of the State. Single-Town District State Representative and municipal office primary petitions will be filed at the local level as they have been in the past.

Once received, the Office of the Secretary of the State will complete the tabulation of signatures from the various State and Multi-Town District petition pages and determine if there are sufficient signatures throughout the applicable district to qualify such candidate to participate in a primary for the office in question. Once our office has made the determination, the registrars of voters and town clerks will be notified of any primary in their districts.

If you have any additional question, please contact our Office at (860) 509-6100.

Enclosure: (Primary Petition Receipt)

**Registrar's Receipt
of State or District Primary Petition Pages**

I, _____, Registrar of Voters of the _____ Party,
(Name) (Party)

in the Town of _____, acknowledge receipt on _____
(Town) (Date)

at _____ A.M. / P.M. of _____ Primary Petition Signature Pages in behalf
(Time) (Number of Pages)

of the candidacy of _____, for nomination by said party for the
(Name of Candidate)

office of _____, which pages were submitted to me
(State or District Office – including district number)

by _____
(Name and Address of Person Submitting such Pages)

Signature of Registrar of Voters

(Registrar of Voters is required to give to the person submitting primary petition page(s) a receipt (in duplicate) stating the number of pages filed and date and time of filing. The person shall then forward one such copy of the receipt to the Secretary of the State.)