

Independent Candidate Ballot Access

Those not qualifying through a political party may obtain ballot access by submitting a petition to the secretary of state, if seeking a state or federal office, or to the probate judge if seeking a county office. There is no qualifying fee.

For ballot access in the 2016 General Election, the petition must be filed no later than **the date of the primary, March 1st, 2016**.

For ballot access in special elections, please contact the Secretary of State or the Probate Judge for the petition deadline.

Federal Candidates

Signatures ...

A congressional candidate must submit a petition with enough signatures to meet or to exceed **three percent** of the qualified electors who cast ballots for the office of governor in the last General Election for the district in which he/she is running [**§17-9-3 (a) (3), Code of Alabama, 1975**]. For the number of signatures needed in each district, call the Office of Secretary of State's Elections Division at (334) 242-7210. Candidates seeking a U.S. Senate seat would need the number of signatures for statewide candidacy.

State or County Candidates

Signatures ...

The number of signatures on the petition must equal or exceed at least **three percent** of the qualified electors who cast ballots for the office of governor in the last General Election in the county, district, or other political subdivision for which he/she is seeking ballot access. If seeking ballot access for a statewide office, the petition must equal or exceed **three percent** of the total vote cast for governor in the last General Election, 2014. A petition for statewide ballot access in the 2016 election year must have at least **35,412** verified signatures of registered voters. Call the Elections Division for a list with the number of signatures needed for county offices.

FCPA...

Independent candidates should be aware of their obligation to file an Appointment of Principal Campaign Committee Form at the time they submit their petition or within five days of exceeding the monetary threshold amount set forth by the FCPA. The monetary threshold amount is \$1,000 for all elective offices.

ETHICS...

Independent candidates must file a Statement of Economic Interests with the appropriate election official simultaneously upon becoming a candidate. For information on filing the Statement of Economic Interests, call the Alabama Ethics Commission (334) 242-2997.

Prepared by the Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of State, State of Alabama. This document is not a substitute for the Code of Alabama. This document is provided as a guide and is not intended to be an authoritative statement of law. For further information, please consult the Code of Alabama. Last revised 6/10/2015.

