

Alternative Political Status

12-1-3.1. Alternative political status defined. For the purposes of this title, the term, alternative political status, means that a political party meets the requirements of this section commencing with the 2014 general election and each general or special statewide election thereafter. Any political party that meets the definition of political party as defined in § 12-1-3 and has a total party registration of less than two and a half percent of the total number of registered voters, as recorded at the Office of the Secretary of State on the date of the last general election, shall receive alternative political status. Any party that has a total party registration of two and a half percent or more of the total number of registered voters, as recorded at the Office of the Secretary of State on the date of the last general election, shall no longer be classified as alternative political status, but shall remain a political party for the next two general election cycles.

12-6-4. Petition required to place candidate's name on primary ballot--Time and place of filing. Except as provided by § 12-5-4 and as may be otherwise provided in chapter 12-9, no candidate for any office to be filled, or nomination to be made, at either or both the primary or general election, other than a presidential election, may have that person's name printed upon the official primary election ballot of that person's party, unless a petition has been filed on that person's behalf after December thirty-first and by the last Tuesday of March at five p.m. local time before the date of the primary election. If the petition is mailed by registered mail by the last Tuesday of March at five p.m. local time before the primary election, the petition shall be considered timely submitted. A nominating petition for national convention delegates and alternates as provided in § 12-5-3.11 shall be filed in accordance with the provisions of this section. Nominating petitions for all party and public offices except legislative and judicial offices shall be filed in the office of the county auditor of the county in which the person is a candidate. Nominating petitions for legislative and judicial office whether elected in one or more counties, and all other party and public offices to be voted on in more than one county shall be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State.

12-6-7. Petition composed of several sheets--Signature requirements. A nominating petition may be composed of several sheets, each sheet shall have identical headings printed at the top and shall be a self-contained sheet of paper... **If the party meets the requirement for alternative political status** as defined in § 12-1-3.1, the petition for party office or political public office shall be signed by not less than one percent of the voters who voted for that party's statewide candidate receiving the highest votes at the last gubernatorial election in the county, part of the county, district, or state electing a candidate to fill the office.

12-1-3(12). Definition of terms used in title. Terms used in this title mean:
(12) "Political party," beginning with the 2014 general election and each general election thereafter, a party whose candidate for any statewide office received at least two and one-half percent of the total votes cast for that statewide office in either of the two previous general election cycles;

Political Party Information

The seal of the State of South Dakota is a circular emblem with a serrated outer edge. It features a central landscape scene with a sun, a river, and a plow. The words "STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA" are written around the top inner edge, and "1889" is at the bottom. The motto "UNDER GOD THE PEOPLE RULE" is inscribed in a smaller circle within the seal.

New Party, Alternative Political Party Status and Recognized Party Requirements 2020

South Dakota Secretary of State

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