

# Presidential Election Calendar

## January 1, 2016

- Earliest day for independent candidates to circulate and file nominating petitions. (SDCL 12-7-1.1 and 12-7-7)

## March 29, 2016

- Deadline for a new political party to file petitions, declaring organization, with the Secretary of State to participate in the presidential primary election. (SDCL 12-5-1)
- Deadline for new political party presidential candidates to file nominating petitions. (SDCL 12-5-3.14)
- Deadline for political parties to certify slates of national convention delegates to the Secretary of State for inclusion on the presidential primary ballot. (SDCL 12-5-3.8)

## June 7, 2016

- Presidential and State Primary Election Day. (SDCL 12-2-1) South Dakota has a closed presidential and state primary election. The South Dakota Democratic Party does allow voters registered as no party affiliation/independent to vote in their primary election.

## August 2, 2016

- Last day for independent presidential candidates to file nominating petitions with the Secretary of State. (SDCL 12-7-7)

## November 8, 2016

- General Election Day

# 2016 Presidential Candidate Ballot Access in South Dakota



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## Primary Election Candidates

South Dakota has two recognized political parties which may participate in the primary election--the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. These parties have adopted procedures according to law (SDCL 12-5-3.6) for selection of their delegates to the national political party conventions. This information is available from the party central committees. Their addresses and phone numbers are as follows:

South Dakota Republican Party  
PO Box 1099  
Pierre, SD 57501-1099  
Phone 605-224-7347

South Dakota Democratic Party  
PO Box 1485  
Sioux Falls, SD 57101  
Phone 605-271-5405

SDCL 12-5-3.8 provides "If a political party chooses to have a primary for selection of its delegates and alternates to the national convention, the party shall certify the candidate names or the delegate and alternate slates which are to be listed on the primary ballot to the Secretary of State by the last Tuesday in March preceding the primary by five p.m. Only candidates or slates certified may be placed on the ballot by the Secretary of State and the position of the candidates or slates on the primary ballot shall be chosen by lot by the Secretary of State. The certification shall be deemed to be filed if mailed by registered mail by five p.m. on the last Tuesday in March."

SDCL 12-5-3.14 provides "Any candidate, committee, or group supporting a candidate in any presidential primary, shall, by the last Tuesday in March prior to the presidential primary election, notify the Secretary of State of an intention to have the name of the candidate placed on the presidential primary election ballot or submit a slate of candidates or both."

## New Political Parties

A political party may become a recognized party by filing the appropriate new party formation petitions containing 6,936 signatures of registered South Dakota voters (SDCL 12-5-1). These petitions must be filed by March 29, 2016. A recognized party would adopt their own procedures on how to select delegates to their national convention and would have their own party column on the general election ballot.

[5:02:08:06](#). Form of declaration for new political party.

## Independent Candidates

Independent candidates for president may be on the general election ballot by petition. Any person interested in becoming a candidate must file a certification with the Secretary of State indicating the name of the candidate's vice-presidential running mate prior to circulating petitions to put the names of the presidential electors on the general election ballot (SDCL 12-7-7).

The petitions must contain signatures of 2,774 registered South Dakota voters. Petitions may be circulated beginning on January 1, 2016, and filed between January 1, 2016 and August 2, 2016, with the Secretary of State.

Petition and certification forms are prescribed by the State Board of Elections and are available from the Secretary of State's Office.

[5:02:08:05.01](#). Independent candidate declaration of candidacy and certification of running mate.

[5:02:08:20](#). Certificate of nomination for Independent presidential electors.

## General Information

- There are no separate campaign finance reporting requirements at the state level for federal candidates.
- South Dakota does not assess a filing fee for presidential candidates.
- Write-in votes are not allowed.
- South Dakota has three electoral votes.
- There are no requirements on the form of a candidate's name on a presidential primary ballot in South Dakota.