

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 tree, a river, and a plow. The text "STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA" is arched across the top, and "GREAT SEAL" is arched across the bottom. The year "1889" is at the bottom center. The words "UNION" and "PEOPLES RULE" are also visible within the seal's design.

# How To Circulate A Nominating Petition 2018

**Statewide, Legislative or County Candidates**

*Shantel Krebs*

**South Dakota Secretary of State**

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## CIRCULATING A NOMINATING PETITION

1. The declaration of candidacy at the top of the petition form must be completed prior to circulation for signatures ([SDCL 12-6-8](#)). **The declaration of candidacy cannot be signed prior to January 1, 2018.** The name will appear on the ballot in the exact form indicated in the declaration of candidacy ([SDCL 12-16-1](#)). **The CANDIDATE MAY NOT SERVE AS THE NOTARY PUBLIC** ([SDCL 12-6-8](#)).
2. Petitions may not be circulated before January 1, 2018. Party nominating petitions may be filed no earlier than January 1 and no later than March 27, 2018. Nominating petitions for independent candidates may be filed no earlier than January 1 and no later than April 24, 2018. Petitions which are mailed by **REGISTERED MAIL** prior to 5:00 p.m. on the last day to file will be considered timely filed. Certified mail received after the deadline will **NOT** be considered timely filed. ([SDCL 12-6-4](#) & [12-7-1](#)). It is prudent to submit any petition to the filing authority **with ample time prior to the deadline to allow you to collect additional signatures** if there are not sufficient valid signatures presented on your initial petition.
3. The **NOTARY public MAY NOT** be a **SIGNER** if they **NOTARIZE the circulator's verification.** ([SDCL 18-1-12.2](#))
4. Signatures of registered voters must be obtained on or between the date of the candidate's signed declaration of candidacy and the date of the circulator's verification.
5. A **petition circulator** must be a resident of the state of South Dakota who is at least eighteen years of age. They are not required to be a registered voter.
6. No registered sex offender may circulate a petition except when circulating a nominating petition on his or her own behalf or if they are in the employ of, and under the immediate supervision of, another person and where circumstances preclude any contact with children ([SDCL 12-1-32 to 34](#)).
7. The petition circulator must personally witness each signature on the petition being circulated. The petition's verification must be completed following circulation and must include the circulator's printed name, address\*, city, state and be signed under oath before a South Dakota notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths ([SDCL 18-3-1](#)). **The NOTARY PUBLIC THAT NOTARIZES THE CIRCULATOR'S VERIFICATION MAY NOT BE THE CIRCULATOR** ([SDCL 18-1-12.2](#)). \* A PO Box may be used as outlined in #11
8. Each petition signer must be registered voter, active or inactive, in the state of South Dakota in the jurisdiction for which the petition is circulated ([SDCL 12-4-34](#) & [12-6-8](#)).
9. All petition signers for political party candidates must be registered voters of that party ([SDCL 12-5-1.4](#)). Independent candidates may collect signatures from any registered voter.
10. Signers must sign their names as they are registered to vote or as they usually sign their names. The signer's legibly printed name must also appear.
11. Each signature line must show a complete residence address. This can be street and house number or rural route and box number (only if a resident of a second or third class municipality, which are those with less than 5,000 populations) in addition to the city or town. Zip codes are optional. A signer in a first class municipality may not use a PO Box. This would include the following municipalities: *Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Box Elder, Brandon, Brookings, Harrisburg, Huron, Madison, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Sturgis, Vermillion, Watertown and Yankton.*
12. Each signature line must show the month and day it was signed. Numbers to designate the month are permissible. Abbreviations commonly used are also acceptable.
13. The county of the signer's voter registration must be included.
14. The date, address, county of registration, and printed name may be added by the circulator prior to the petition being submitted. Ditto marks may not be used.
15. A voter may sign as many petitions for a particular office as there are positions to be filled ([SDCL 12-6-8](#)).
16. A person may not conduct petition signature gathering within 100 feet of a polling place ([SDCL 12-18-3](#)).
17. If photocopies are made of an original signed petition sheet for circulation, at least one original petition sheet must be submitted with the photocopied sheets.
18. Each petition sheet must be a self-contained sheet with the heading, declaration of candidacy, instructions to signers, signature lines and circulator's verification on a single sheet printed front and back side.
19. The **NOTARY** public must be a **South Dakota** Notary public.

**NOTARY public Reminder:** Make sure your notary signs, lists the complete date of signing and commission expiration date (Month/Day/Year), and affixes their seal.

## Offices to be filled in the 2018 Primary and General Elections

Office	Term	Signature Requirement	Deadline
U.S. Representative*	2 Years	<b>Democratic</b> - 706 <b>Independent</b> - 2,775 <b>Republican</b> - 1,955 <b>Constitution</b> - 250	File petitions with the Secretary of State by <b>March 27, 2018</b> . Independent candidates have until <b>April 24, 2018</b> to file.
Governor*	4 Years	<b>Libertarian</b> - 250 <b>Newly recognized political party</b> - 250	
Legislators*	2 Years	Signature requirements vary per legislative district - See page 4	
Water Development District Directors	4 Years	25 Signatures	
Heartland Consumer Power District Directors	6 Years	50 Signatures	
County Commissioner*	4 Years	Signature requirements vary per county. See page 5 or contact your county auditor.	
County Auditor*	4 Years		
County Sheriff*	4 Years		
County Register of Deeds*	4 Years		
Conservation District Supervisor	4 Years	25 Signatures	File petitions by <b>July 1, 2018</b> with the County Auditor if the District covers one county. If the District covers multiple counties, then file the petition with the Secretary of State.
Retention Election - South Dakota Supreme Court Justice	8 Years	File a request, by <b>August 7, 2018</b> , with the Secretary of State to be placed on the retention ballot	
<b>The following will be nominated at the 2018 state conventions of each political party</b>			
Lieutenant Governor	4 Years	If Independent then Certified with Governor candidate	
Public Utilities Commissioner	6 Years	Independent - 2,775 signatures	Recognized political party candidates are nominated at convention. Independent candidates file with the Secretary of State by <b>April 24, 2018</b> .
Attorney General	4 Years		
Secretary of State	4 Years		
State Auditor	4 Years		
State Treasurer	4 Years		
Commissioner of School and Public Lands	4 Years		
<b>The following nominations are made in the Primary election</b>			
Delegates to State Party Conventions	2 Years	Only if designated to be elected at a Primary Election in the party's bylaws	
Precinct Committeeman and Committeewoman	2 Years		
*Only voters registered within your same political party may sign your petition. *Independent candidates may collect from any registered voter.			

## 2018 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE Signature Requirements

- **Constitution and Libertarian** signature counts follow new party signature counts per SDCL 12-6-7.
- **Republican and Democratic:** 50 signatures or 1% of the vote for their party's Gubernatorial candidate in the district in the 2014 election, whichever is less (SDCL 12-6-7.1)
- **Independent:** signatures equal to 1% of the total vote for Governor in 2014 within the District (SDCL 12-7-1)
- **(VC) : Legislative District contains a County that uses Vote Centers**

Legislative District	Constitution	Democratic	Libertarian	Republican	Independent	New Political Party
1 (VC)	5	50	5	50	50	5
2 (VC)	5	50	5	50	50	5
3 (VC)	5	50	5	50	50	5
4 (VC)	5	50	5	50	50	5
5	5	19	5	50	78	5
6	5	20	5	50	93	5
7 (VC)	5	50	5	50	50	5
8	5	23	5	50	91	5
9	5	18	5	45	65	5
10	5	18	5	50	71	5
11	5	22	5	50	92	5
12	5	22	5	50	79	5
13	5	26	5	50	91	5
14	5	26	5	50	92	5
15	5	16	5	23	41	5
16	5	18	5	50	81	5
17	5	21	5	45	71	5
18 (VC)	5	50	5	50	50	5
19	5	18	5	50	90	5
20	5	18	5	50	81	5
21	5	19	5	50	81	5
22	5	21	5	50	78	5
23 (VC)	5	50	5	50	50	5
24 (VC)	5	50	5	50	50	5
25	5	19	5	50	88	5
26 (Senate)	5	26	5	39	68	5
26A (House)	5	16	5	11	29	5
26B (House)	5	11	5	28	40	5
27	5	25	5	29	57	5
28 (Senate)	5	19	5	50	74	5
28A (House)	5	13	5	16	30	5
28B (House)	5	7	5	36	44	5
29	5	13	5	50	76	5
30	5	21	5	50	105	5
31	5	20	5	50	89	5
32	5	22	5	50	89	5
33	5	18	5	50	82	5
34	5	22	5	50	92	5
35	5	14	5	42	58	5

### VOTE CENTER COUNTIES

Below are Legislative Districts that contain a County that uses Vote Centers. As a result, signature requirements are calculated differently per SDCL 12-6-7. In 2016, the Vote Center (VC) counties within these Legislative Districts printed ballots by *Ballot Style*. In 2018, these same counties intend to print their ballots by *Ballot Style*.

Legislative Districts 1, 2, 3: VC county is Brown

Legislative District 23: VC county is Potter

Legislative Districts 4 & 7: VC county is Brookings

Legislative District 24: VC counties are Sully and Hughes

Legislative District 18: VC county is Yankton

SDCL 12-6-7...If a county uses vote centers *and* does not print ballots by precinct, signature requirements for both partisan and independent candidates are:

- (1) Fifty signatures for a legislative candidate whose district either in whole or in part includes that county;
- (2) Thirty signatures for a county candidate;
- (3) Fifteen signatures for county commissioner district candidates;
- (4) Five signatures for a new party legislative candidate whose district either in whole or in part includes that county;
- (5) Five signatures for a new party county candidate; or
- (6) Three signatures for a new party county commissioner district candidate

**2018 COUNTY OFFICES Signature Requirements**

- **Constitution and Libertarian** follow new party signature counts per SDCL 12-6-7.
- **(AL)**: denotes the 15 Counties that elect Commissioners **At Large**. **(AL)** Counties follow the signature requirement numbers below.
- **Call AUDITOR**: These counties elect Commissioners by district. **The County Auditor will have to calculate the signature requirements for those Commissioner races that have no number listed below.** All other county offices would follow the numbers below.
- **Republican and Democratic**: 50 signatures or 1% of the vote for their party's Governorial candidate in the county in the 2014 election, whichever is less (SDCL 12-6-7.1)
- **Independent**: signatures equal to 1% of the total vote for Governor in 2014 in their county (SDCL 12-7-1)
- **(VC)**: **Vote Center County** (see bottom of page for signature calculation explanation)

COUNTY	Constitution		Democratic		Libertarian		Republican		Independent		New Political Party	
	Commissioner	Other Candidates	Commissioner	Other Candidates	Commissioner	Other Candidates	Commissioner	Other Candidates	Commissioner	Other Candidates	Commissioner	Other Candidates
Aurora	3	5	Call AUDITOR	4	3	5	Call AUDITOR	8	Call AUDITOR	12	3	5
Beadle	3	5	Call AUDITOR	15	3	5	Call AUDITOR	40	Call AUDITOR	57	3	5
Bennett (AL)	5	5	3	3	5	5	7	7	10	10	5	5
Bon Homme	3	5	Call AUDITOR	6	3	5	Call AUDITOR	18	Call AUDITOR	24	3	5
Brookings (AL, VC)	5	5	30	30	5	5	30	30	30	30	5	5
Brown (AL, VC)	5	5	30	30	5	5	30	30	30	30	5	5
Brule	3	5	Call AUDITOR	4	3	5	Call AUDITOR	14	Call AUDITOR	18	3	5
Buffalo	3	5	Call AUDITOR	3	3	5	Call AUDITOR	2	Call AUDITOR	5	3	5
Butte	3	5	Call AUDITOR	6	3	5	Call AUDITOR	25	Call AUDITOR	33	3	5
Campbell	3	5	Call AUDITOR	1	3	5	Call AUDITOR	6	Call AUDITOR	7	3	5
Charles Mix	3	5	Call AUDITOR	9	3	5	Call AUDITOR	22	Call AUDITOR	32	3	5
Clark	3	5	Call AUDITOR	4	3	5	Call AUDITOR	12	Call AUDITOR	16	3	5
Clay (AL)	5	5	14	14	5	5	22	22	38	38	5	5
Codington	3	5	Call AUDITOR	22	3	5	Call AUDITOR	50	Call AUDITOR	92	3	5
Corson	3	5	Call AUDITOR	4	3	5	Call AUDITOR	5	Call AUDITOR	10	3	5
Custer (AL)	5	5	8	8	5	5	28	28	38	38	5	5
Davison	3	5	Call AUDITOR	13	3	5	Call AUDITOR	46	Call AUDITOR	61	3	5
Day	3	5	Call AUDITOR	11	3	5	Call AUDITOR	13	Call AUDITOR	25	3	5
Deuel	3	5	Call AUDITOR	5	3	5	Call AUDITOR	13	Call AUDITOR	18	3	5
Dewey	3	5	Call AUDITOR	7	3	5	Call AUDITOR	8	Call AUDITOR	15	3	5
Douglas	3	5	Call AUDITOR	2	3	5	Call AUDITOR	12	Call AUDITOR	14	3	5
Edmunds	3	5	Call AUDITOR	4	3	5	Call AUDITOR	13	Call AUDITOR	18	3	5
Fall River (AL)	5	5	7	7	5	5	22	22	30	30	5	5
Faulk (AL)	5	5	2	2	5	5	8	8	9	9	5	5
Grant	3	5	Call AUDITOR	9	3	5	Call AUDITOR	20	Call AUDITOR	29	3	5
Gregory	3	5	Call AUDITOR	4	3	5	Call AUDITOR	14	Call AUDITOR	19	3	5
Haakon	3	5	Call AUDITOR	1	3	5	Call AUDITOR	8	Call AUDITOR	9	3	5
Hamlin	3	5	Call AUDITOR	5	3	5	Call AUDITOR	17	Call AUDITOR	23	3	5
Hand	3	5	Call AUDITOR	3	3	5	Call AUDITOR	12	Call AUDITOR	15	3	5
Hanson	3	5	Call AUDITOR	3	3	5	Call AUDITOR	11	Call AUDITOR	14	3	5
Harding	3	5	Call AUDITOR	1	3	5	Call AUDITOR	6	Call AUDITOR	7	3	5
Hughes (AL, VC)	5	5	30	30	5	5	30	30	30	30	5	5
Hutchinson	3	5	Call AUDITOR	5	3	5	Call AUDITOR	23	Call AUDITOR	28	3	5
Hyde (VC)	3	5	15	30	3	5	15	30	15	30	3	5
Jackson	3	5	Call AUDITOR	3	3	5	Call AUDITOR	7	Call AUDITOR	10	3	5
Jerauld	3	5	Call AUDITOR	2	3	5	Call AUDITOR	7	Call AUDITOR	9	3	5
Jones	3	5	Call AUDITOR	1	3	5	Call AUDITOR	4	Call AUDITOR	5	3	5
Kingsbury	3	5	Call AUDITOR	6	3	5	Call AUDITOR	15	Call AUDITOR	22	3	5
Lake (AL)	5	5	13	13	5	5	35	35	49	49	5	5
Lawrence (AL)	5	5	20	20	5	5	50	50	89	89	5	5
Lincoln	3	5	Call AUDITOR	35	3	5	Call AUDITOR	50	Call AUDITOR	169	3	5
Lyman (AL)	5	5	4	4	5	5	9	9	13	13	5	5
Marshall	3	5	Call AUDITOR	10	3	5	Call AUDITOR	8	Call AUDITOR	18	3	5
McCook	3	5	Call AUDITOR	5	3	5	Call AUDITOR	16	Call AUDITOR	21	3	5
McPherson	3	5	Call AUDITOR	2	3	5	Call AUDITOR	9	Call AUDITOR	11	3	5
Meade	3	5	Call AUDITOR	14	3	5	Call AUDITOR	50	Call AUDITOR	84	3	5
Mellette	3	5	Call AUDITOR	3	3	5	Call AUDITOR	5	Call AUDITOR	7	3	5
Miner (AL)	5	5	3	3	5	5	7	7	9	9	5	5
Minnehaha (AL)	5	5	50	50	5	5	50	50	543	543	5	5
Moody	3	5	Call AUDITOR	7	3	5	Call AUDITOR	17	Call AUDITOR	24	3	5
Oglala Lakota	3	5	Call AUDITOR	19	3	5	Call AUDITOR	6	Call AUDITOR	27	3	5
Pennington	3	5	Call AUDITOR	50	3	5	Call AUDITOR	50	Call AUDITOR	335	3	5
Perkins	3	5	Call AUDITOR	2	3	5	Call AUDITOR	11	Call AUDITOR	14	3	5
Potter (VC)	3	5	15	30	3	5	15	30	15	30	3	5
Roberts	3	5	Call AUDITOR	14	3	5	Call AUDITOR	18	Call AUDITOR	33	3	5
Sanborn	3	5	Call AUDITOR	3	3	5	Call AUDITOR	7	Call AUDITOR	9	3	5
Spink	3	5	Call AUDITOR	7	3	5	Call AUDITOR	19	Call AUDITOR	26	3	5
Stanley	3	5	Call AUDITOR	3	3	5	Call AUDITOR	11	Call AUDITOR	13	3	5
Sully (VC)	3	5	15	30	3	5	15	30	15	30	3	5
Todd	3	5	Call AUDITOR	14	3	5	Call AUDITOR	7	Call AUDITOR	22	3	5
Tripp	3	5	Call AUDITOR	4	3	5	Call AUDITOR	18	Call AUDITOR	22	3	5
Turner	3	5	Call AUDITOR	8	3	5	Call AUDITOR	24	Call AUDITOR	33	3	5
Union	3	5	Call AUDITOR	11	3	5	Call AUDITOR	38	Call AUDITOR	52	3	5
Walworth	3	5	Call AUDITOR	4	3	5	Call AUDITOR	15	Call AUDITOR	20	3	5
Yankton (AL, VC)	5	5	30	30	5	5	30	30	30	30	5	5
Ziebach (AL)	5	5	3	3	5	5	4	4	7	7	5	5

**SIGNATURE CALCULATION EXPLANATION FOR VOTE CENTER COUNTIES:**

- If a county uses Vote Centers, below is how they calculate signature requirements per SDCL 12-6-7:
  - ...If a county uses vote centers and does not print ballots by precinct, signature requirements for both partisan and independent candidates are:
    - (1) Fifty signatures for a legislative candidate whose district either in whole or in part includes that county;
    - (2) Thirty signatures for a county candidate;
    - (3) Fifteen signatures for county commissioner district candidates;
    - (4) Five signatures for a new party legislative candidate whose district either in whole or in part includes that county;
    - (5) Five signatures for a new party county candidate; or
    - (6) Three signatures for a new party county commissioner district candidate