

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 2020

Statewide, Legislative or County Candidates

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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, 2020. The CANDIDATE MAY NOT SERVE AS THE NOTARY PUBLIC** (SDCL [12-6-8](#)).
2. Petitions may not be circulated before January 1, 2020. Party nominating petitions may be filed no earlier than January 1 and no later than 5:00 p.m. local time March 31, 2020. Nominating petitions for independent candidates may be filed no earlier than 5:00 p.m. local time January 1 and no later than 5:00 p.m. local time April 28, 2020. 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](#) ; [12-1-33](#); [12-1-34](#)).
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 (refer to #11 below), 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](#)).
8. Each petition signer must be a 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 2020 Primary and General Elections

Office	Term	Signature Requirement	Deadline
U.S. Representative*	2 Years	Democratic - 1,615 Independent - 3,393 Republican - 1,730 Libertarian - 50 Newly recognized political party - 250	File petitions with the Secretary of State by March 31, 2020 . Independent** candidates have until April 28, 2020 to file.
U.S. Senator*	6 Years		
Legislators*	2 Years	Signature requirements vary per legislative district - See separate chart	
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 separate chart or contact your county auditor.	
States Attorney*	4 Years		
County Coroner*	4 Years		
County Treasurer / County Finance Officer*	4 Years		

The following nominations are made in the General election

Conservation District Supervisor	4 Years	15 Signatures	File petitions by July 1, 2020 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 August 4, 2020 , with the Secretary of State to be placed on the retention ballot	

The following will be nominated at the 2020 state conventions of each political party

Public Utilities Commissioner	6 Years	Independent** - 3,393 signatures	Recognized political party candidates are nominated at convention. Independent candidates file with the Secretary of State by April 28, 2020 .
3 Presidential Electors	1 Year	Recognized political party candidates are nominated at convention.	

The following nominations are made in the Primary election

Delegates to State Party Conventions	(Only if designated to be elected at a Primary Election in the party's bylaws; SDCL 12-5-3.11)
Delegates and Alternates to National Party Conventions	
Precinct Committeeman and Committeewoman	

*Only voters registered within your same political party may sign your petition.

**Independent candidates may collect signatures from any registered voter.