

INITIATED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PETITION

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED qualified voters of the state of South Dakota, petition that the following section or sections and article or articles of the South Dakota Constitution be (repealed) (amended) and that this proposal be submitted to the voters of the state of South Dakota at the general election on November 8, 2022 for their approval or rejection.

Title: An amendment to the South Dakota Constitution establishing top-two primary elections.

Attorney General Explanation: Currently, to appear on the general election ballot, candidates for major political parties for the following offices must participate in a partisan primary election: Governor, State Legislature, U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and elected county offices. Only registered members of the candidate's chosen party may vote for that candidate unless the political party has opened the primary to voters not affiliated with the party.

Candidates affiliated with a minor party may be chosen by primary or party convention.

Unaffiliated candidates (independents) do not participate in the primary election; they appear on the general election ballot by filing proper nominating petitions.

For the above offices, this amendment requires one primary election wherein all candidates run against each other in their respective races, including major party, minor party, and independent candidates. All registered voters may vote for any candidate. The two candidates receiving the most votes advance to the general election. If there is more than one candidate to be elected to an office, the number of candidates advancing to the general election will be twice the number to be elected. Primary elections may be held for other offices.

This amendment requires legislative action.

Section 1. That Article VII of the Constitution of South Dakota be amended by adding NEW SECTION to read:

§ 11. A primary election shall be held prior to the general election to nominate candidates for the office of Governor, the Legislature, all county elective offices, and the United States Senate and House of Representatives. The primary election for such candidates shall be open to all registered voters. The two candidates who receive the most votes in the primary are the nominees for each office. If more than one candidate is to be elected to an office, the number of nominees shall be twice the number to be elected.

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The Legislature shall provide by law any provisions necessary to implement this section.

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S.D. SEC. OF STATE

INSTRUCTIONS TO SIGNERS:

1. Signers of this petition must individually sign their names in the form in which they are registered to vote or as they usually sign their names.
2. Before the petition is filed, each signer or the circulator must add the residence address of the signer and the date of signing. If the signer is a resident of a second or third class municipality, a post office box may be used for the residence address.
3. Before the petition is filed, each signer or the circulator must print the name of the signer in the space provided and add the county of voter registration.
4. Abbreviations of common usage may be used. Ditto marks may not be used.
5. Failure to provide all information requested may invalidate the signature.

NAME	RESIDENCE	DATE/COUNTY
SIGN 1 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 2 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 3 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 4 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 5 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 6 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 7 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION
SIGN 8 PRINT	STREET AND NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER CITY OR TOWN	DATE OF SIGNING COUNTY OF REGISTRATION

Filed this 19th day of July 2021
Steve Barnett
SECRETARY OF STATE