

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, 2016.** The name will appear on the ballot in the exact form indicated in the declaration of candidacy ([SDCL 12-16-1](#)).

2. Petitions may not be circulated before January 1, 2016. Party nominating petitions may be filed no earlier than January 1 and no later than March 29, 2016. Nominating petitions for independent candidates may be filed no earlier than January 1 and no later than April 26, 2016. 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.

3. Signatures of registered voters must be obtained between the date of the candidate's signed declaration of candidacy and the date of the circulator's verification.

4. A petition circulator must be a resident of the state of South Dakota who is at least eighteen years of age.

5. 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 candidate may not serve as the notary public.

6. 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](#)).

7. All petition signers for political party candidates must be registered voters of that party.

8. Signers must sign their names as they are registered to vote or as they usually sign their names.

9. The signer's legibly printed name must also appear.

10. Each signature line must show a complete residence address. This can be street and house number or rural route and box number in addition to the city or town. Zip codes are optional.

If the signer is a resident of a second or third class municipality, a post office box number may be used in lieu of a street address. Second and third class municipalities are those with less than 5,000 population. They would include all municipalities except the following which are first class municipalities:

Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Box Elder, Brandon, Brookings, Huron, Madison, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Sturgis, Vermillion, Watertown and Yankton.

11. Each signature line must show the month and day it was signed.

12. 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 filed. 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. If photocopies are made of the originally signed petition sheet for circulation, the original petition sheet must be submitted with the photocopied sheets.

17. 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.

18. Petitions for legislative, judicial, water development district, state and federal offices are filed with the Secretary of State.

19. Petitions for county offices are filed with the appropriate county auditor.

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.

Offices to be filled in the 2016 Elections

The following nominations are made in the closed party Primary elections (*Democratic Party has opened up their Primary to Independent voters*) held on June 7, 2016:

- **U.S. Senator** – 6 year term
- **U.S. Representative** – 2 year term
- **105 Legislators** (35 Senate, 70 House) – 2 year term
- **County Commissioners** - 4 year term
- **States Attorney** – 4 year term
- **County Coroner** – 4 year term
- **County Treasurer** – 4 year term
- **Delegates** to recognized State Political Party Conventions
 - Political Party bylaws determine how their respective County Precinct Committeemen and Precinct Committeewomen are selected
- **Delegates** to Republican Party National Convention
- **Delegates** to Democratic Party National Convention

In those areas of the state which have the following types of districts, nominations are made in a nonpartisan Primary election:

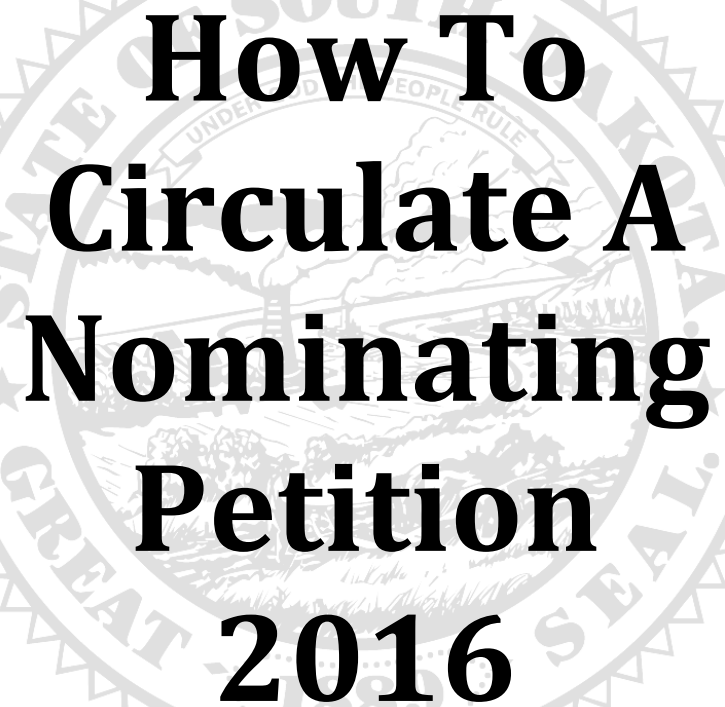
- **Water Development District Directors** – 4 year term
 - If three or more candidate petitions are received then they will be voted on in the Primary election
 - If two or less candidate petitions are received then those names will automatically go on the General election (ballot furnished in same manner as above)
- **Heartland Consumers Power District Directors** – 6 year term

The following will be nominated at the 2016 state conventions of each political party:

- **Public Utilities Commissioner** – 6 year term
- **3 Presidential Electors**

In those areas of the state which have the following type of district, nominations are made in a nonpartisan General election:

- **Conservation District Supervisor** – 4 year term
 - Petitions are filed by July 1, 2015 with the County Auditor if the District covers one county. If the District covers multiple counties then the petition is filed with the Secretary of State.



How To Circulate A Nominating Petition 2016

Statewide, Legislative or County Candidates

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South Dakota Secretary of State

Kea Warne, Deputy Secretary of State, Election Services

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