

Presidential Election Calendar

January 1, 2020

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

March 31, 2020

- 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 2, 2020

- 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.
- The Libertarian Party of South Dakota does allow voters registered as no party affiliation/independent to vote in their primary election.

August 4, 2020

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

November 3, 2020

- General Election Day

2020 Presidential Candidate Ballot Access in South Dakota



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Primary Election Candidates

South Dakota has three recognized political parties which may participate in the primary election--the Democratic Party, Libertarian 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
dan@southdakotagop.com
www.southdakotagop.com

South Dakota Democratic Party
PO Box 1485
Sioux Falls, SD 57101
Phone: 605-271-5405
info@sddp.org
www.sddp.org

South Dakota Libertarian Party
609 Kent Street
Harrisburg, SD 57032
Phone: 605-203-1061
info@lpsouthdakota.org
<http://lpsouthdakota.org>

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. central time. 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 submitted if mailed by registered mail by five p.m. central time on the last Tuesday in March. If a political party does not choose to have a primary selection of its delegates and alternates to the national convention, the party shall define the selection process of its delegates and alternates in the party bylaws."

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 3,392 signatures of registered South Dakota voters (SDCL 12-5-1). These petitions must be filed by March 31, 2020. 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 and their presidential electors 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 with the candidates nominating petitions. (SDCL 12-7-7).

The petitions must contain signatures of 3,392 registered South Dakota voters. Petitions may be circulated beginning on January 1, 2020, and filed between January 1, 2020 and August 4, 2020, with the Secretary of State.

The petition and the certification form 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

- **Write-in votes are not allowed (SDCL 12-20-21.2).**
- 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.
- South Dakota has three electoral votes.