

# 2024 Presidential Candidate Ballot Access in South Dakota



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Secretary of State

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## Recognized Political Parties in South Dakota

Currently, South Dakota has four recognized political parties which may participate in the primary election: **Democratic Party, Libertarian Party, No Labels 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 state party. The contact information is below and available on our [website](#).

### South Dakota Democratic Party

PO Box 1485  
Sioux Falls, SD 57101  
Phone: 605-271-5405  
[info@sddp.org](mailto:info@sddp.org) [www.sddp.org](http://www.sddp.org)

### South Dakota Libertarian Party

202 Nevada St  
PO Box 569  
Wakonda, SD 57073  
Phone: 605-660-3852  
[info@lpsouthdakota.org](mailto:info@lpsouthdakota.org)  
<http://www.lpsouthdakota.org/>

### South Dakota Republican Party

PO Box 1099  
Pierre, SD 57501  
Phone: 605-610-1479  
[info@southdakotagop.com](mailto:info@southdakotagop.com)  
[www.sdgop.com](http://www.sdgop.com)

### No Labels Party

More information will become available once the party provides it.

## General Information About South Dakota's Elections

- Write-in votes are not allowed (SDCL [12-20-21.2](#)).
- Presidential letters of intent may be submitted at any time.
- There are no SD campaign finance reporting requirements for federal candidates. Federal candidates file with the Federal Election Commission (FEC).
- South Dakota does not assess a filing fee for presidential candidates.
- South Dakota does not have a presidential preference primary election.
- South Dakota has three electoral votes.
- In South Dakota, the elector's names go on the ballot. (see below)

#### For Presidential Electors

You may vote for **one** slate or leave it blank.

- |                       |                                 |             |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <b>Doe &amp; Roe Electors</b>   | Party Label |
|                       | John Hall                       |             |
|                       | Jane Smith                      |             |
|                       | Pat Jones                       |             |
| <br>                  |                                 |             |
| <input type="radio"/> | <b>Lee &amp; Jones Electors</b> | Party Label |
|                       | Jill Doe                        |             |
|                       | John Doe                        |             |
|                       | Shannon McGee                   |             |
| <br>                  |                                 |             |
| <input type="radio"/> | <b>Hill &amp; Hall Electors</b> | Party Label |
|                       | Bill Smith                      |             |
|                       | June Johnson                    |             |
|                       | Kim Olson                       |             |

# How Recognized Political Parties Choose Their Presidential Candidate

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 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.

**12-5-3.8. Certification of candidates or slates for primary--Placement on ballot--Selection process without primary.** 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.

**12-5-3.14. Notice by candidates or supporters of intention to enter presidential primary.** 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.

**12-5-3.16 Certification of names of national convention nominees for President and vice-president--Alternate certification.** The chairperson of the national convention of each political party recognized pursuant to § [12-1-3](#) or [12-5-1](#) shall certify the names of the convention nominees for President and vice-president of each political party to the secretary of state immediately following the convention. If the national certification is not received or is inconclusive, the names shall be certified by the state chairperson of that party at the request of the secretary of state.

## What happens at the party state convention?

**12-5-21 Nomination of state candidates not voted on at primary--Presidential electors and national committee members.** The state convention shall nominate candidates for lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer, commissioner of school and public lands, and public utilities commissioner and in the years when a President of the United States is to be elected, presidential electors and national committeeman and national committeewoman of the party.

**12-5-22 Majority required for nomination by convention--Certification to secretary of state.** Nominations by a state convention shall be made by a majority vote of the votes cast and shall be certified to the secretary of state by the officers of the convention, within three days of the close of the convention. No certification may be received by the secretary of state later than the second Tuesday in August.

## Information for 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. The number of signatures required may not be less than one percent of the total combined vote cast for Governor at the last certified gubernatorial election within the state. (SDCL [12-7-7](#)). (2022 vote cast for governor was 350,166)

The petitions must contain signatures of 3,502 registered South Dakota voters. Petitions may be circulated beginning on January 1, 2024, and filed between January 1, 2024 and August 6, 2024, with the Secretary of State.

The petition and the certification form are available from the Secretary of State's website.

[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.

## How New Political Parties Choose Their Presidential Candidate

A political party may become a recognized party by filing the appropriate new party formation petitions containing 3,502 signatures of registered South Dakota voters (SDCL [12-5-1](#)). These petitions must be filed by March 26, 2024. Each recognized party would adopt its own procedures on how to select delegates to its national convention and would have its political party name listed on the general election ballot.

[5:02:08:06](#). Form of declaration for new political party.

More information on forming a new party may be found on our [website](#).

# Dates to Follow for the 2024 Presidential Election

## January 1, 2024

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

## March 26, 2024

- Deadline for a new political party to file petitions of 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 letter of intent. (SDCL [12-5-3.14](#))
- Deadline for political parties new and recognized 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 4, 2024

- 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.
- No Labels—we will update after provide their bylaws.
- The South Dakota Republican Party only allows members of their own party to vote in the Republican primary election.

## August 6, 2024

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

## November 5, 2024

- General Election Day

Please also view our [2024 Election Calendar](#) for more election dates and deadlines.