This information in this fact sheet pertains only to the North Carolina ballot. Other states have different requirements for persons seeking entry on primary or general election ballots.

Below are qualifications required of a presidential candidate in the 2024 general election as well as instructions for how to participate in a presidential primary, participate as an unaffiliated candidate, and participate as a write-in candidate.

1) Qualifications

An individual seeking election to be the President of the United States must be:

- a natural born United States citizen;
- 35 years of age or older; and,
- a resident of the United States for at least 14 years.

2) To Enter the 2024 Contest

Key dates for the 2024 contest are as follows:

- State Board meeting to nominate presidential primary candidates: Tuesday, January 2, 2024
- Presidential Preference Primary: Tuesday, March 5, 2024
- General Election: Tuesday, November 5, 2024

A person may seek the office in one of three ways:

- by participating in a partisan primary, described below in 3);
- by filing a petition to be an unaffiliated candidate, described below in 4); or,
- by filing a petition as a write-in candidate, referenced below in 5).

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1 United States Constitution Art. II § 1
3) Qualifying for participation in a party primary

There are two ways to qualify for placement on North Carolina’s presidential primary ballot: nomination by the State Board of Elections (State Board) or nomination via petition. Both processes entail affiliation with a political party recognized by the State of North Carolina.

**Nomination by the State Board**²

No later than 90 days before the primary, the chair of each recognized political party shall submit to the State Board a list of its presidential candidates to be placed on the presidential preference primary ballot. For the 2024 election, this deadline is December 6, 2023. The list must be comprised of candidates whose candidacy is generally advocated and recognized in the news media throughout the United States or North Carolina.

The State Board of Elections will then meet in Raleigh on the first Tuesday in January preceding the primary to nominate as presidential primary candidates all candidates affiliated with a political party who have been submitted to the State Board of Elections. For the 2024 election, this meeting will be on January 2, 2024. Additionally, the State Board of Elections, by vote of at least three of its members in the affirmative, may nominate as a presidential primary candidate any other person affiliated with a political party that it finds is generally advocated and recognized in the news media throughout the United States or in North Carolina.

**Nomination by petition**³

Any person seeking the endorsement by a national political party may submit a petition signed by 10,000 voters who, at the time of signing the petition, are registered and qualified voters in North Carolina and are affiliated with the same political party as the person for whom the petitions are filed.⁴ The form and style of petition are prescribed by the State Board of Elections.

The petition signature pages must be separated according to the county of each signer’s residence. (For example, signatures collected from voters of Brunswick County shall be on pages that are kept separate from pages of signatures collected from New Hanover County). These signature pages must then be presented to the relevant county board of elections for verification no later than ten days prior to the petition filing deadline. For

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² [N.C.G.S. § 163-213.4](https://www.ncrecht.com/ncg/163-213.4.html)
³ [N.C.G.S. § 163-213.5](https://www.ncrecht.com/ncg/163-213.5.html)
⁴ In North Carolina, voters are either affiliated (by voter registration) with political parties recognized by the state or they are considered “unaffiliated.” Please see below for information about running as an unaffiliated candidate.
the 2024 election, the signature pages must be presented to the county boards of elections no later than **December 22, 2024**.

The chairs of the boards of elections for each county where signatures were obtained will promptly certify the relevant signature pages and return them to the candidate for filing with the State Board. The candidate shall file the certified petition signature pages at the State Board office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday preceding the State Board meeting to nominate presidential candidates. For the 2024 election, this deadline is **Tuesday, January 2, 2024**, because the deadline falls on a state holiday. The State Board will then determine the sufficiency of the petitions and will notify each petitioner of its determination.

4) **Qualifying as an unaffiliated candidate for the general election**

A candidate who wishes to run unaffiliated (without party) should review the fact sheet, “To file as an Unaffiliated Candidate in 2024” on the petition page of this agency’s website: [https://www.ncsbe.gov/petition-info](https://www.ncsbe.gov/petition-info). See the caption “Petition Fact Sheets” on the right side of the page. An unaffiliated candidate for president must satisfy the petition requirements for **statewide office** described in the fact sheet and follow those same procedures.

There are two important deadlines described in the unaffiliated candidate fact sheet:

- Signature pages must be filed with the State Board of Elections by **noon on March 5, 2024**.
- The chair of each county board of elections must complete the verification and return the petition and a signed certificate of the results of his or her examination of the signatures to the State Board of Elections no later than **April 8, 2024**.

5) **Qualifying as a write-in candidate for the general election**

A write-in option on the general election ballot for the presidential contest is provided only if at least one person is certified as a write-in candidate for that office. Note that when there is a write-in space on the ballot, voters may write in any name; however, only a write-in candidate certified by this process could qualify to win the election.

A candidate who wishes to run as a write-in should review the fact sheet, “To file as a Write-in Candidate in 2024” on the petition page of this agency’s website: [https://www.ncsbe.gov/petition-info](https://www.ncsbe.gov/petition-info). See the caption “Petition Fact Sheets” on the right side of the page. To be certified as a write-in candidate for president, the

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5 See N.C.G.S. § 103-5 (“Acts to be done on Sunday or holidays”).
6 Unaffiliated candidate: § 163-122.
7 Write-in candidate: § 163-123.
candidate must satisfy the petition requirements for **statewide office** described in the fact sheet and follow those same procedures.

There are two important deadlines described in the write-in candidate fact sheet:

- Signature pages must be filed with the appropriate county board of elections no later than **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2024.**
- The petition (comprising all of the verified signature pages) and a declaration of intent must then be filed with the State Board by **noon on Wednesday, August 7, 2024.**

6) **What other steps must be taken by a presidential candidate?**

Presidential electors who would be authorized to cast votes in the nation’s **electoral college** must be nominated.\(^8\)

- The state party nominates the electors for its nominee at its convention, unless otherwise provided by its plan of organization under **163-1(c).** An unaffiliated candidate nominates his or her own electors. There must be one elector from each congressional district in the state, and two from the state at-large (15 total). The state party or unaffiliated candidate must file this list of electors with the **North Carolina Secretary of State’s office** no later than 12:00 noon on the first Friday in August. In 2024, this date is **Friday, August 2, 2024.**

- A presidential candidate who has qualified for the general election ballot as an unaffiliated candidate must also provide the name of the candidate for vice president on the presidential ticket to the State Board, no later than noon on the first Friday in August. In 2024, this date is **Friday, August 2, 2024.**

7) **What are the campaign reporting requirements?**\(^9\)

Please contact the Federal Election Commission (FEC) for filing requirements. The FEC has a toll-free phone number, 1-800-424-9530, or visit [http://www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov).

\((G.S. §163-278.30; Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, P.L. 92-225, as amended (Title 2, U.S.C. Section 439))\)

8) **Related questions**

**How does North Carolina select delegates for the Presidential Primary?**

Delegates are selected in accordance with of G.S. § 163-213.8.

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\(^8\) [N.C.G.S. § 163-209](http://www.fec.gov).

\(^9\) Campaign Reporting: [§ 163-278.30](http://www.fec.gov).
What is the U.S. Electoral College, and how does it work?
Please visit the National Archives web page dedicated to the [Electoral College](https://www.archives.gov/education/our-collections/presidential-presidents/electoral-college).

What are the party rules for political parties recognized in North Carolina that apply to candidates who wish to be nominated?
Persons interested in political party rules applicable to presidential elections and their nominees should contact the political party organizations at the state or national level.