

## **WHAT IS A NOMINATING PETITION?**

- ◆ A formal written application requesting a certain number of Connecticut registered voters to place name(s) on the state's election ballot by signing such application. This is usually referred to by many as Third Party or Independent Candidates.

## **WHO MAY APPLY FOR A NOMINATING PETITION?**

- ◆ Any Connecticut registered voter (registered with a party or not).

## **HOW DO I APPLY FOR A NOMINATING PETITION?**

- ◆ Upon request, the Secretary of the State will forward an Application for Nominating Petition via U.S. Postal Service, or such Application may be down-loaded from our website ([sots@ct.gov](mailto:sots@ct.gov)). Once the application is returned to this office properly completed, a nominating petition will then be issued.

## **HOW SOON MAY I COLLECT SIGNATURES?**

- ◆ You may begin to collect signatures on the first business day of January in the year the office you are seeking will be on the ballot.

## **HOW MANY SIGNATURES MUST I COLLECT?**

- ◆ Each petition shall be signed by a number of qualified electors equal to the lesser of (1) One percent of the votes cast for the same office(s) at the last preceding election, or (2) seven thousand five hundred. In regards to newly-created offices, the number of qualified electors is prescribed in § 9-380.

## **CAN I APPEAR ON THE BALLOT UNDER A PARTY NAME?**

- ◆ Yes. On a form ED-601, Application for Reservation of Party Designation and Formation of Party Designation Committee. On this form you must indicate a party name that cannot be more than three words or twenty-five letters and must have the signatures of twenty-five Connecticut registered voters. This statement must include the names of two individuals who will be responsible for filing with this office a Statement of Endorsement.

## **WHAT IS A STATEMENT OF ENDORSEMENT?**

- ◆ A Statement of Endorsement is a written document signed by the two individuals on the Application for Reservation of Party Designation, indicating that they are endorsing such candidate(s) to appear on the ballot under the party name specified.

## **CAN I APPEAR ON THE BALLOT AS A REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRATIC?**

- ◆ No. The name of such party cannot incorporate the name of any major party. It cannot absorb a minor party which is entitled to nominate candidates for any office which will appear on the same ballot. It shall not be the same as any party name for which a reservation with the Secretary is currently in effect or it cannot be the words "none", or incorporate the words "unaffiliated", or "unenrolled".

## **IF I AM A CANDIDATE; MAY I CIRCULATE AND SIGN MY OWN PETITION?**

- ◆ Yes. Each circulator of nominating petition page shall be a United States citizen, at least eighteen years of age and shall not be on parole for conviction of a felony.

## **I JUST RECEIVED MY PARTIES ENDORSEMENT; CAN I ALSO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT AS A NOMINATING PETITION CANDIDATE?**

- ◆ The nomination of a candidate by a major party shall disqualify such candidate from appearing on the ballot by nominating petition unless (1) the petition is circulated by an existing minor party and (2) the minor party is otherwise qualified to nominate candidates on the same ballot, and (3) a candidate of the existing minor party received at least 15,000 votes for the office of Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State Comptroller, or Attorney General in the previous state election for any such office.

## **WHEN IS THE LAST DAY TO RETURN MY COMPLETED PETITIONS?**

- ◆ Not later than 4:00 p.m. on the 90<sup>th</sup> day preceding the day of the regular election.

## **WHERE SHALL I RETURN MY COMPLETED PETITIONS?**

- ◆ You may return your petitions to either the Secretary of the State or to the town clerk in which the signer resides.