

Section 1: An Act to Lengthen the Petition Timeframe for Ballot Access for Minor Party Candidates

Section 2: Amendments to NM Stat § 1-8-2

1-8-2. Nomination by minor political party; convention; designated nominees.

A. If the rules of a minor political party require nomination by political convention:

(1) the chair and secretary of the state political convention shall certify to the secretary of state the names of their party's nominees for United States senator, United States representative, all elective state offices, legislative offices elected from multicounty districts, all elective judicial officers in the judicial department and all offices representing a district composed of more than one county; and

(2) the chair and secretary of the county political convention shall certify to the county clerk the names of their party's nominees for elected county offices and for legislative offices elected from a district located wholly within one county or that is composed of only one county.

B. The names certified to the secretary of state shall be filed on the ~~twenty-third~~ seventy-fifth day following the primary election in the year of the general election and shall be accompanied by a nominating petition containing the signatures of voters totaling not less than one percent of the total number of votes cast for governor at the last preceding general election at which a governor was elected:

(1) in the state for statewide offices; provided that if there are fewer members of the minor party registered to vote in the state for statewide offices or registered to vote in the district for offices other than statewide offices than the number of signatures required for that office, a nominating petition shall contain the signatures of voters totaling not less than the required number of signatures of voters for independent candidates for the same office; and provided further that for the public education commission, a nominating petition shall be signed by at least two-thirds of the number of signatures that would otherwise be required, and for a judicial office, a nominating petition shall be signed by two-thirds of the number of signatures that would otherwise be required; and

(2) in the district for offices other than statewide offices.

The petition shall contain a statement that the voters signing the petition are residents of the area to be represented by the office for which the person being nominated is a candidate.

C. The names certified to the county clerk shall be filed on the ~~twenty-third~~ seventy-fifth day following the primary election in the year of the general election and shall be accompanied by a

nominating petition containing the signatures of voters totaling not less than one percent of the total number of votes cast for governor at the last preceding general election at which a governor was elected:

Section 3. If any provision of this act is found to be invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.