



SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
30 TRINITY STREET  
HARTFORD, CT 06106

# -NOTICE-

## IMPORTANT CHANGES MADE TO NOMINATING PETITION LAW IMPACT ON MINOR PARTY CROSS-ENDORSEMENT ABILITY

Public Act No. 13-180, effective immediately, instituted several important changes to the Connecticut General Statutes concerning the nominating petition process and the ability of a minor party to cross-endorse candidates. Below you will find an outline of the changes that pertain to petitioning and existing minor parties in both state and municipal elections.

1. **Petitioning minor party in a state election.** A candidate for a major or minor party for any office in a state election may also appear on the ballot for the same office by nominating petition if (1) a minor party circulates a nominating petition using the same party designation, (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.
2. **Petitioning minor party in a municipal election.** A candidate for a major or minor party for any office in a municipal election may also appear on the ballot for the same office by nominating petition if (1) a minor party circulates a nominating petition using the same party designation, (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.
3. **Existing minor party in a state election.** A candidate for any office to be voted on in a state election may appear on the ballot as a candidate for more than one major or minor party for the same office provided a candidate from the minor party received at least 15,000 votes in the previous state election for the office of Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State Comptroller, or Attorney General.
4. **Existing minor party in a municipal election.** A candidate for any office to be voted on in a municipal election may appear on the ballot as a candidate for more than one major or minor party for the same office.

## PETITIONING PARTIES

**Sec. 9-453. Petition requirements.** Section 9-453 is repealed.

(1949 Rev., S. 1044; 1953, S. 569d; 1957, P.A. 410, S. 1; 1958 Rev., S. 9-72; 1959, P.A. 476, S. 1; 675, S. 1; 1963, P.A. 17, S. 77; 1971, P.A. 806, S. 1.)

**Sec. 9-453a. Petition form.** Each petition for nomination for elective office shall be on a form prescribed and provided by the Secretary of the State. Such form shall include, at the top of the form and in bold print, the following:

### WARNING

IT IS A CRIME TO SIGN THIS PETITION

IN THE NAME OF ANOTHER PERSON

WITHOUT LEGAL AUTHORITY TO DO SO

AND YOU MAY NOT SIGN THIS PETITION

IF YOU ARE NOT AN ELECTOR.

Such form shall provide lines for the signatures, street addresses, dates of birth and the printing of the names of signators. A signator shall print his name on said line following the signing of the signator's name. Before issuing a petition form, the secretary shall, above the space provided for signatures, type or print the name and address of the candidate, the office sought and the election and the date thereof. The secretary shall give to any person requesting such form one or more petition pages, suitable for duplication, as the secretary deems necessary. If the person is requesting the form on behalf of an indigent candidate or a group of indigent candidates listed on the same nominating petition, the secretary shall give the person the number of original pages that he requests or the number which the secretary deems sufficient. An original petition page may be duplicated by or on behalf of the candidate or candidates listed on the page and signatures may be obtained on such duplicates. The duplicates shall be filed in the same manner and shall be subject to the same requirements as original petition pages.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 2; P.A. 77-168; P.A. 83-391, S. 21, 24; P.A. 93-384, S. 11; P.A. 99-276, S. 13, 15; P.A. 03-241, S. 59.)

**Sec. 9-453b. Issuance of nominating petition forms; restrictions. Application requirements.** The Secretary of the State shall not issue any nominating petition forms for a candidate for an office to be filled at a regular election to be held in any year prior to the first business day of such year. The secretary shall not issue any nominating petition forms unless the person requesting the nominating petition forms makes a written application for such forms, which application shall contain the following: (1) The name or names of the candidates to appear on such nominating petition, compared by the town clerk of the town of residence of each candidate with the candidate's name as it appears on the last-completed registry list of such town, and verified and corrected by such town clerk or in the case of a newly admitted elector whose name does not appear on the last-completed registry list, the town clerk shall compare the candidate's name as it appears on the candidate's application for admission and verify and correct it accordingly; (2) a signed statement by each such candidate that he consents to the placing of his name on such petition, and (3) the party designation, if any. An applicant for petition forms who does not wish to specify a party designation shall so indicate on his application for such forms and his application, if so marked, shall not be amended in this respect. No application made after November 3, 1981, shall contain any party designation unless a reservation of such party designation with the secretary is in effect for all of the offices included in the application or unless the party designation is the same as the name of a minor party which is qualified for a different office or offices on the same ballot as the office or offices included in the application. The secretary shall not issue such forms (A) unless the application for forms on behalf of a candidate for the office of presidential elector is accompanied by the names of the candidates for President and Vice-President whom he represents and includes the consent of such candidates for President and Vice-President; (B) unless the application for forms on behalf of Governor or Lieutenant Governor is accompanied by the name of the candidate for the other office and includes the consent of both such candidates; (C) if petition forms have previously been issued on behalf of the same candidate for the same office unless the candidate files a written statement of withdrawal of his previous candidacy with the secretary; and (D) unless the application meets the requirements of this section.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 3; P.A. 81-447, S. 11; P.A. 84-319, S. 41, 49; P.A. 10-32, S. 26.)

**Sec. 9-453c. When single petition may be used.** The names of any or all candidates under the same party designation for state offices, as defined by section 9-372, and for the office of presidential elector may be included in one nominating petition, but the name of no candidate for any other office shall be included therein, provided the names of any or all candidates under the same party designation for at-large municipal offices to be filled at a municipal election may be included in one nominating petition.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 4.)

**Sec. 9-453d. Number of signatures.** Each petition shall be signed by a number of qualified electors equal to the lesser of (1) one per cent of the votes cast for the same office or offices at the last-preceding election, or the number of qualified electors prescribed by section 9-380 with regard to newly-created offices, or (2) seven thousand five hundred. "Qualified electors" means electors eligible to vote for all the candidates proposed by the petition. "Votes cast for the same office at the last-preceding election" means, in the case of multiple openings for the same office, the total number of electors checked as having voted at the last-preceding election at which such office appeared on the ballot label.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 5; P.A. 74-2; P.A. 85-577, S. 14; P.A. 94-209, S. 3.)

**Sec. 9-453e. Circulator.** Each circulator of a nominating petition page shall be a United States citizen, at least eighteen years of age and a resident of a town in this state and shall not be on parole for conviction of a felony. Any individual proposed as a candidate in any nominating petition may serve as circulator of the pages of such nominating petition.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 6; P.A. 03-241, S. 54; P.A. 04-58, S. 7.)

**Sec. 9-453f. Signature pages.** Before any signatures may be obtained on a petition signatures page, above the space provided for signatures shall be indicated the party designation, if any, the name and address of the candidate, the office sought, the election and the date thereof, and the town and district, if such is the case, in which such petition page is to be circulated. Such indication may not be altered or amended after any person has signed the page. Each page of a nominating petition shall contain the names and street addresses of the signers. No page of a nominating petition shall be certified by the clerks of two or more towns and signatures on any page so certified shall not be counted by the Secretary of the State.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 7; P.A. 81-447, S. 12, 23.)

**Sec. 9-453g. False signing.** Any person who signs a name other than his own to a nominating petition filed under sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or section 9-216 shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or both.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 8.)

**Sec. 9-453h. Withdrawal of signatures.** Any signer of a nominating petition may withdraw his signature therefrom at any time up to the deadline date for filing nominating petition pages pursuant to section 9-453i, prior to the election, by sending a written notice of such withdrawal to the candidate or candidates named in such petition and by sending a copy of such notice to the Secretary of the State by such day. Such written notice and the copy thereof shall be sent by registered or certified mail.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 9; P.A. 85-577, S. 15.)

**Sec. 9-453i. Submission to town clerk or Secretary of the State.** (a) Each page of a nominating petition proposing a candidate for an office to be filled at a regular election shall be submitted to the appropriate town clerk or to the Secretary of the State not later than four o'clock p.m. on the ninetieth day preceding the day of the regular election.

(b) Each page of a nominating petition proposing a candidate for an office to be filled at a special election, except petitions filed under section 9-216, shall be submitted to the appropriate town clerk or to the Secretary of the State not later than four o'clock p.m. on the seventieth day prior to such election, unless (1) such special election is held in conjunction with a regular election and (2) the writ of such special election is issued at least fourteen days before the final day for the filing of primary petitions for municipal offices to be filled at such regular election pursuant to section 9-405, in which case the deadline for submitting such nominating petition pages shall be the same as the deadline for such submission in connection with such regular election as provided in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Each page of a nominating petition proposing a candidate at an election shall be so submitted either (1) to the town clerk of the town in which the signers reside, or (2) to the Secretary of the State, in which case the Secretary of the State shall submit the petition pages to the appropriate town clerk for the purpose of certifying the signatures on such pages.

(d) On such last day for submitting such nominating petition pages, in each town in which an election is to be held, the office of the town clerk shall open not later than one o'clock p.m. and remain open until at least four o'clock p.m., and the town clerk or his assistant town clerk shall be present therein.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 10; P.A. 77-537, S. 1, 5; P.A. 79-339; P.A. 85-577, S. 16; P.A. 03-241, S. 52.)

**Sec. 9-453j. Statement by circulator.** Each page of a nominating petition submitted to the town clerk or the Secretary of the State and filed with the Secretary of the State under the provisions of sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or section 9-216 shall contain a statement as to the residency in this state and eligibility of the circulator and authenticity of the signatures thereon, signed under penalties of false statement, by the person who circulated the same. Such statement shall set forth (1) such circulator's residence address, including the town in this state in which such circulator is a resident, (2) the circulator's date of birth and that the circulator is at least eighteen years of age, (3) that the circulator is a United States citizen and not on parole for conviction of a felony, and (4) that each person whose name appears on such page signed the same in person in the presence of such circulator and that either the circulator knows each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified himself to the circulator. Any false statement committed with respect to such statement shall be deemed to have been committed in the town in which the petition was circulated.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 11; P.A. 77-537, S. 2, 5; P.A. 03-241, S. 55.)

**Sec. 9-453k. Signing and certification of circulator's statement; receipt for pages; certification of signatures.** (a) The town clerk or Secretary of the State shall not accept any page of a nominating petition unless the circulator thereof has signed before him or an appropriate person as provided in section 1-29, the statement as to the residency in this state and eligibility of the circulator and authenticity of the signatures thereon required by section 9-453j.

(b) The town clerk or Secretary of the State or an appropriate person as provided in section 1-29 shall certify on each such page that the circulator thereof signed such statement in his presence and that either he knows the circulator or that the circulator satisfactorily identified himself to the individual certifying.

(c) The town clerk or Secretary of the State shall forthwith give to each circulator submitting a page or pages of a nominating petition a receipt indicating the number of such pages so submitted and the date upon which such pages were submitted.

(d) Such town clerk shall certify on each such page the date upon which it was submitted to the town clerk by the circulator or the Secretary of the State and the number of names of electors on such petition page, which names were on the registry list last-completed or are names of persons admitted as electors since the completion of such list. In the checking of signatures on such nominating petition pages, the town clerk shall reject any name if such name is not the name of an elector as specified above. Such rejection shall be indicated by placing a mark in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State before the name so rejected. The town clerk shall not reject any name for which the street address on the petition is different from the street address on the registry list, if (1) such person is eligible to vote for the candidate or candidates named in the petition, and (2) the person's date of birth, as shown on the petition page, is the same as the date of birth on the person's registration record. Such clerk may place a check mark before each name appearing on such registry list or each name of a person admitted as an elector since the completion of such list, but shall place no other mark on such page except as provided in this section.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 12; P.A. 77-537, S. 3, 5; P.A. 81-447, S. 16, 17, 23; P.A. 82-247, S. 10, 14; P.A. 83-475, S. 33, 43; P.A. 99-276, S. 14, 15; P.A. 03-241, S. 56.)

**Sec. 9-453l. Delegation of signature check to registrars.** Any town clerk may delegate his duty to check the names of signers with names of electors on the registry list pursuant to section 9-453k to the registrars of voters in his town, if the registrars consent, and the registrars shall complete the required certifications with respect thereto on the petition, provided the registrars shall execute a receipt for such pages upon receipt thereof stating the number of pages and provided such checking of names by the registrars shall take place in the office of the town clerk or in the office of the registrars of voters if they have an office. After making the required certifications, the registrars shall deliver the petition pages to the town clerk.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 13.)

**Sec. 9-453m. Signatures, effect of variations.** The use of titles, initials or customary abbreviations of given names by the signer of a nominating petition shall not invalidate such signature if the identity of the signer can be readily established by reference to the signature on the petition and the name of a person as it appears on the last-completed registry list at the address indicated or of a person who has been admitted as an elector since the completion of such list.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 14.)

**Sec. 9-453n. Date for filing with secretary.** Any town clerk receiving any page of a nominating petition under sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or section 9-216 shall complete such certifications as specified herein and shall file each such nominating petition page with the Secretary of the State within two weeks after it was so submitted to him. Any such town clerk who fails to so file such petition pages with the Secretary of the State by the time required shall pay a late filing fee of fifty dollars.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 15; P.A. 77-537, S. 4, 5; P.A. 85-577, S. 17; P.A. 07-194, S. 10.)

**Sec. 9-453o. Rejection of defective pages. Cure for omission by town clerk. Approval of petitions.** (a) The Secretary of the State may not count for purposes of determining compliance with the number of signatures required by section 9-453d the signatures certified by the town clerk on any petition page filed under sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or 9-216 if: (1) The name of the candidate, his address or the party designation, if any, has been omitted from the face of the petition; (2) the page does not contain a statement by the circulator as to the residency in this state and eligibility of the circulator and authenticity of the signatures thereon as required by section 9-453j or upon which such statement of the circulator is incomplete in any respect; or (3) the page does not contain the certifications required by sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, by the town clerk of the town in which the signers reside. The town clerk shall cure any omission on his part by signing any such page at the office of the Secretary of the State and making the necessary amendment or by filing a separate statement in this regard, which amendment shall be dated.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Secretary of the State shall approve every nominating petition which contains sufficient signatures counted and certified on approved pages by the town clerks. In the case of a candidate who petitions under a reserved party designation the secretary shall approve the petition only if it meets the signature requirement and if a statement endorsing such candidate is filed with the secretary by the party designation committee not later than four o'clock p. m. on the sixty-second day before the election. In the case of a candidate who petitions under a party designation which is the same as the name of a minor party the secretary shall approve the petition only if it meets the signature requirement and if a statement endorsing such candidate is filed in the office of the secretary by the chairman or secretary of such minor party not later than four o'clock p. m. on the sixty-second day before the election. No candidate shall be qualified to appear on any ballot by nominating petition unless the candidate's petition is approved by the secretary pursuant to this subsection.

(c) The Secretary of the State may approve a nominating petition received under section 9-453k at any time except such approval shall be withdrawn if sufficient signatures are withdrawn under section 9-453h.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 16; P.A. 81-447, S. 13; P.A. 83-475, S. 34, 43; P.A. 85-577, S. 18; P.A. 03-241, S. 57, P.A. 11-173, S. 23.)

**Sec. 9-453p. Withdrawal of candidacy.** A petitioning candidate may withdraw his candidacy but no such withdrawal shall be valid until the candidate has signed and filed a letter of withdrawal with the Secretary of the State in the case of a state or district office or the office of state senator or state representative from any district, or with the municipal clerk in the case of a municipal office other than state senator or state representative. A copy of each letter of withdrawal filed with the municipal clerk shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State. The Secretary of the State shall forthwith notify the appropriate town clerks of such withdrawal in the case of a state or district office.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 17; P.A. 84-319, S. 42, 49.)

**Sec. 9-453q. Use of party levers for petitioning candidates.** Section 9-453q is repealed.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 21; P.A. 81-447, S. 14, 23; P.A. 87-382, S. 54, 55.)

**Sec. 9-453r. Position of candidates' names on ballot.** (a) A separate row on the ballot shall be used for a petitioning candidate whose name is contained in a petition approved pursuant to section 9-453o, bearing a party designation. A separate row shall be used for the petitioning candidates whose names are contained in petitions approved pursuant to section 9-453o, bearing the same party designation. Within such a separate row, the order of the names of such candidates for the same multiple-opening office shall be determined by the registrars of voters by lot in a ceremony which shall be open to the public. The registrars of voters shall provide at least five days public notice for each such ceremony.

(b) On the horizontal rows below the rows so used for candidates, if any, who are so entitled to a party designation on the voting ballot, shall be placed, in the appropriate office columns, the names of candidates contained in petitions approved pursuant to section 9-453o bearing no party designation. Such candidates shall not be entitled to separate rows. Precedence as to horizontal row between or among such candidates shall be determined, if necessary, by the order in which their applications for petitions were filed with the Secretary of the State from the earliest to the latest; provided that within any such horizontal row the names of as many of such candidates for the same multiple-opening office as such row will accommodate shall be placed before placing the names of other such candidates for such office on the next such row. The order of the names of such candidates for the same multiple-opening office, within and between any such horizontal rows, shall be determined by the registrars of voters by lot in a ceremony which shall be open to the public. The registrars of voters shall provide at least five days public notice

for each such ceremony. Each row in which a candidate's name appears who is not entitled to a party designation shall be labeled "Petitioning Candidates", the print of which shall correspond to that used for party designations.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 22; 1972, P.A. 27, S. 1; P.A. 84-319, S. 43, 49; P.A. 87-382, S. 49, 55; 87-472, S. 13; P.A. 88-49, S. 1, 2.)

**Sec. 9-453s. Vacancies in candidacies. Ballot label.** Vacancies in candidacies occurring after all nominating petitions have been approved under section 9-453o, shall not cause the position of any candidate's name on the ballot to be changed to another position unless a blank row on the ballot results from such vacancy or vacancies in which case the position of candidates appearing on lines under the blank row may change if the consent of all candidates involved in such a change is filed in the Secretary of the State's office prior to the time for printing and filing sample ballots with said secretary. The name of any candidate whose candidacy has been vacated shall not appear on the ballot.

(1971, P.A. 806, S. 23.)

**Sec. 9-453t. Candidate nominated by major or minor party prohibited from appearing on ballot by nominating petition. Exception.** Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes or any special act, the nomination of a candidate by a major or minor party under this chapter, for any office shall disqualify such candidate from appearing on the ballot by nominating petition for the same office, unless (1) such petition is circulated by an existing minor party with the same party designation at the time of such nomination, and (2) the minor party is otherwise qualified to nominate candidates on the same ballot. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any candidate from appearing on the ballot as the nominee of two or more major or minor parties for the same office.

(P.A. 81-447, S. 4, 23; P.A. 07-194, S. 16.)

**Sec. 9-453u. (Formerly Sec. 9-378m). Reservation of party designation.** (a) An application to reserve a party designation with the Secretary of the State and to form a party designation committee may be made at any time after November 3, 1981, by filing in the office of the secretary a written statement signed by at least twenty-five electors who desire to be members of such committee.

(b) The statement shall include the offices for which candidates may petition for nomination under the party designation to be reserved but shall not include an office if no elector who has signed the application is entitled to vote at an election for such office.

(c) The statement shall include the party designation to be reserved which (1) shall consist of not more than three words and not more than twenty-five letters; (2) shall not incorporate the name of any major party; (3) shall not incorporate the name of any minor party which is entitled to nominate candidates for any office which will appear on the same ballot with any office included in the statement; (4) shall not be the same as any party designation for which a reservation with the secretary is currently in effect for any office included in the statement; and (5) shall not be the word "none", or incorporate the words "unaffiliated" or "unenrolled" or any similarly antonymous form of the words "affiliated" or "enrolled".

(d) The statement shall include the names of two persons who are authorized by the party designation committee to execute and file with the secretary statements of endorsement required by section 9-453o and certificates of nomination as required by section 9-460.

(e) The secretary shall examine the statement, and if it complies with the requirements of this section, the secretary shall reserve the party designation for the offices included in the statement and record such reservation in the office of the secretary. The reservation shall continue in effect from the date it is recorded until the day following any regular election at which no candidate appears on the appropriate ballot for that office under that party designation.

(P.A. 81-447, S. 1; P.A. 83-475, S. 24, 43; P.A. 87-472, S. 1, 14; P.A. 02-89, S. 12.)