Major Political Party

Under Oregon election law ORS 249.078 presidential candidates are placed on the primary election ballot: If the Secretary of State determines the candidate’s candidacy is generally advocated for or recognized in the national news media. The Secretary of State has sole discretion in this determination.

On January 31, 2020 Secretary of State Bev Clarno released a preliminary list of candidates to appear on the 2020 Republican and Democratic Presidential Primary ballots for May Primary election.

Republican Candidates: Donald Trump, Joe Walsh, Bill Weld.

Democratic Candidates: Michael Bennet, Joe Biden, Michael Bloomberg, Pete Buttigieg, Tulsi Gabbard, Amy Klobuchar, Deval Patrick, Bernie Sanders, Tom Steyer, Elizabeth Warren and Andrew Yang.

Individuals who are not selected by the Secretary can still be a candidate for President of the United States under ORS 249.078(1)(b) by submitting a nominating petition. Individuals must collect 5,000 signatures from active members of the candidates’ major party. 1,000 signatures must be obtained from each of the five congressional districts.

1. You must complete the SEL 101, Candidate Filing for Major Political Party or Nonpartisan form and return it to the Elections Division indicating you are filing by Prospective Petition.

2. The Elections Division will review the SEL 101 for required information and if complete will provide you with the approved signature sheet to use for gathering signatures.

3. The signature sheets must be circulated by county and only active voters of the candidate’s political party in that county can sign that specific sheet. Once you have collected the required number of signatures, submit the signature sheets to our office along with a completed Petition Submission – Candidate, Voters’ Pamphlet (SEL 338).

You may begin this process at any time. However, you must allow sufficient time for signature collection and for the verification process to be completed prior to 5 pm on the filing deadline, March 10, 2020. To ensure we have time to complete signature verification, you would need to submit signatures to us no later than February 25, 2020.

Campaign Finance

There are no campaign finance reporting requirement in Oregon for candidates who file for a federal office, but you may have requirements through the Federal Elections Commission. Their website is www.fec.gov.

Voters’ Pamphlet

The Oregon Voters’ Pamphlet is a publication produced and distributed by the Elections Division. It contains information about candidates, measures and political parties, as well as information about the election process. To appear in the voters’ pamphlet, you must file a statement online using ORESTAR available at oregonvotes.gov and either:

→ pay a $3,500 filing fee OR

→ submit a completed voters’ pamphlet petition containing 500 signatures. Approval to collect signature in lieu of the filing fee is required prior to gathering signatures.

The signatures collected for a candidate filing petition cannot be used for a voters’ pamphlet petition. They are two separate petitions.