



# President & Vice President General Election

## 2024 Candidate Qualification Guide



Colorado Secretary of State  
Elections Division  
Ballot Access Unit  
303-894-2200 x6333  
[ballot.access@coloradosos.gov](mailto:ballot.access@coloradosos.gov)

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## INTRODUCTION

This document contains an overview of the requirements for accessing the ballot as a presidential or vice-presidential candidate in Colorado.

Use this guide as a reference tool only. Always refer to the United States Constitution, Colorado Constitution, and Colorado Revised Statutes for applicable laws.

## BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

<b>Age</b>	35 years [Article II, Section 1(5), U.S. Constitution]
<b>US Citizen</b>	Natural-born [Article II, Section 1(5), U.S. Constitution]
<b>Residence</b>	14-year resident of U.S. [Article II, Section 1(5), U.S. Constitution]
<b>Length of Term</b>	4 years [Article II, Section 1(1), U.S. Constitution]
<b>Number of Terms</b>	2 terms [Amendment XXII, Section 1, U.S. Constitution]

## BECOME A CANDIDATE

All candidates for president or vice president should contact the Federal Election Commission for campaign finance information and other requirements not addressed at the state level.

Federal Election Commission  
1050 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20463  
1-800-424-9530  
Website: [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov)

## BALLOT ACCESS OPTIONS

### PARTY NOMINATION

#### Step 1: Eligibility for nomination

Candidates must meet the basic [qualifications for office](#).

A candidate must meet the qualifications for office outlined in Article II, Section 1(5) of the U.S. Constitution and meet the requirements established by their political party.

#### Step 2: Contact your political party

A major party or minor party (recognized by Colorado) presidential candidate should contact their political party for information about obtaining the party's presidential nomination.

[Political Party Information](#)

#### Step 3: Party submits nominating documents

Following the national party nominating convention, the party will submit to our office a certificate of nomination with the names of the presidential and vice-presidential nominees and the names of ten presidential electors. [Article II, Section 1(2) of U.S. Constitution & 1-4-302(1), C.R.S. & 1-4-701, C.R.S.] Minor parties should also submit candidate acceptance of nominations for the presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

The certificate of nomination and minor party candidate acceptance of nominations must be received by our office no later than 60 days before the general election (**September 6, 2024**). [1-4-701(3), C.R.S.]

These documents can be mailed, hand delivered, or emailed to:

Colorado Secretary of State – Elections Division  
Attention: Ballot Access  
1700 Broadway, Suite 550  
Denver, CO 80290  
Email: [ballot.access@coloradosos.gov](mailto:ballot.access@coloradosos.gov)

#### **Step 4: Submit audio recording**

Candidate audio recordings for president and vice president must be submitted to the Secretary of State's office no later than 60 days before the election (**September 6, 2024**). The audio recording must state the candidate's name exactly as it appears on the certificate of nomination or candidate acceptance of nomination form, as this is how the candidate's name will appear on the ballot. [SOS Election Rule 4.6.1]

[Audio Recording Instructions](#)

#### **Step 5: Names placed on general election ballot**

### UNAFFILIATED/INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE – PETITION NOMINATION

#### **Step 1: Eligibility for nomination and petition circulation**

Candidates must meet the basic [qualifications for office](#).

A candidate must meet the qualifications for office outlined in Article II, Section 1(5) of the U.S. Constitution.

In order to be eligible to circulate a petition, a person must be a citizen of the United States and at least 18 years of age. [1-4-905(1), C.R.S.]

#### **Step 2: Petition signature requirements**

A petition must contain at least 1,500 signatures in each of the 8 congressional district (12,000 total) from registered Colorado voters who have not signed a petition for any other candidate for the same office. [1-4-802(1)(c)(I) & 1-4-904(1), (2)(b), C.R.S.]

#### **Step 3: Receive petition format approval**

Petition formats must be approved by the Secretary of State's office prior to circulation. [1-4-903, C.R.S.]

The Secretary of State's Office cannot create a petition template until the candidate provides the [Presidential Electors' Acceptance of Nomination](#) form to our office with the ten presidential electors that will represent the candidate. The names of the electors will be printed on the petition.

Contact the Secretary of State's office at 303-894-2200 x6333 or [ballot.access@coloradosos.gov](mailto:ballot.access@coloradosos.gov) to learn about the petition format approval process.

#### **Step 4: Start circulating petition**

Once your petition format is approved, you can begin circulating the petition on the 173rd day before the general election (**May 16, 2024**). [1-4-802(1)(d)(I), C.R.S.]

**Step 5: Submit petition, candidate acceptance forms, and presidential electors’ acceptance form**

The completed petition must be filed no later than **3 p.m.** on the 117th day before the general election (**July 11, 2024**). [1-4-802(1)(f)(I), C.R.S.]

1. Complete the [Unaffiliated Candidate Acceptance of Petition Nomination for President](#) and [Unaffiliated Candidate Acceptance of Petition Nomination for Vice President](#) forms and have them notarized. [1-4-906, C.R.S.]

The forms must state the candidate’s name the way it will appear on the ballot. Candidate names cannot contain any title or degree designating the business or profession of the candidate. [1-4-906 & 1-5-407(4), C.R.S.]

2. Submit the notarized acceptance of petition nomination forms with the completed petition. [1-4-906 & 1-4-303(1), C.R.S.]
3. Hand deliver petition and acceptance forms to:

Colorado Secretary of State – Elections Division  
Attention: Ballot Access  
1700 Broadway, Suite 550  
Denver CO, 80290

\*Please contact the Secretary of State’s office at 303-894-2200 x6333 or [ballot.access@coloradosos.gov](mailto:ballot.access@coloradosos.gov) for more information on procedures for submitting petitions.

**Step 6: Signature verification, cure, and notice of sufficiency or insufficiency**

Petition signatures will be verified by the Secretary of State’s office. If found to be sufficient, the petition will be deemed valid, unless a protest is made in writing within five days after the statement of sufficiency is issued. [1-4-908 & 1-4-909, C.R.S.]

During the petition review, the Secretary of State’s office will notify candidates of any errors or insufficiencies in the circulator affidavits. Upon receipt of such notification, candidates have five calendar days to cure the errors by submitting a new circulator affidavit that corrects the mistakes. [1-4-912(2), C.R.S.]

During the petition review, the Secretary of State’s office will notify candidates of any signer signatures that do not match the signatures in the voter registration records. Upon receipt of such notification, candidates have three calendar days to cure the mismatched signatures by submitting a form provided by our office that is completed by the signer and a copy of the signer’s identification. [1-4-908, C.R.S.]

**Step 7: Submit audio recording**

Candidate audio recordings for president and vice president must be submitted to the Secretary of State’s office no later than 117 days before the general election (**July 11, 2024**).

The audio recording must state the candidate’s name exactly as it appears on the candidate acceptance form, as this is how the candidate’s name will appear on the ballot.

[SOS Election Rule 4.6.1]

[Audio Recording Instructions](#)

## Step 8: Names placed on general election ballot

### WRITE-IN

#### Step 1: Eligibility for write-in

Candidates must meet the basic [qualifications for office](#).

A candidate must meet the qualifications for office outlined in Article II, Section 1(5) of the U.S. Constitution.

#### Step 2: Submit affidavit of intent

Candidates for president and vice president must **each** file a write-in affidavit with the Secretary of State in order to appear on the write-in list as qualified joint candidates.

1. Complete the [Presidential Affidavit of Intent for Write-In](#) and [Vice Presidential Affidavit of Intent for Write-In](#) forms.

Write-in affidavits must be filed no later than the close of business on the 110th day before the general election (**July 18, 2024**). [1-4-1101(1) & 1-4-1102(1), C.R.S.]

2. Mail, hand deliver, or email write-in affidavits to:

Colorado Secretary of State – Elections Division  
Attention: Ballot Access  
1700 Broadway, Suite 550  
Denver CO, 80290  
Email: [ballot.access@coloradosos.gov](mailto:ballot.access@coloradosos.gov)

#### Step 3: Submit electors’ acceptance form

1. Complete the [Presidential Electors’ Acceptance of Nomination](#) form, which must be signed by the ten electors.
2. Mail, hand deliver, or email the electors’ acceptance form to:

Colorado Secretary of State – Elections Division  
Attention: Ballot Access  
1700 Broadway, Suite 550  
Denver CO, 80290  
Email: [ballot.access@coloradosos.gov](mailto:ballot.access@coloradosos.gov)

#### Step 4: Names placed on eligible write-in list for the general election

##### AUDIO RECORDING INSTRUCTIONS

#### Why do I need to submit an audio recording?

In order to meet the required standards for accessible voting equipment, all county clerks in the state of Colorado must produce an audio ballot. The audio recording must contain the correct pronunciation of each candidate's name.

#### How do I submit my audio recording?

Our office has set up a voicemail box specifically for this purpose.

- Dial 303-894-2200.
- Dial extension 6314.
- After the voice prompt, clearly state your:
  - Name (as it will appear on the ballot; it must match the name you provided on your candidate acceptance form)
  - Office and jurisdiction if applicable (for example, State House District 5)
  - Party affiliation (not required for the nonpartisan office of RTD and judgeships)
- Press “#” when your message is complete.
- Follow the prompts to review/edit or complete/send your recording.

##### USEFUL LINKS

[Political party contact information](#)

[Ballot access forms](#)

[Federal Election Commission \(FEC\)](#)

##### CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions about accessing the ballot: 303-894-2200 x6333  
[ballot.access@coloradosos.gov](mailto:ballot.access@coloradosos.gov)

Questions about campaign finance: 1-800-424-9520  
[info@fec.gov](mailto:info@fec.gov)

Colorado Secretary of State's website: [www.coloradosos.gov](http://www.coloradosos.gov)