

Submit your appeal **within 5 days** from when the disqualification notice was issued.

You will need to prove that you have the correct number of signatures from qualified voters before the deadline.

Find more information in [1 VAC 20-50-30](#).

Things to remember about petitions:

Petition Pages must...

- be on the form from the Department of Elections, and you cannot alter it in any way.
- be either letter or legal size. Both are available on the [Department of Elections website](#).
- be one page printed on the front and back. You can make as many copies as you need.
- contain the signature, printed full name, and full residence address of each qualified voter and the date the voter signed. The last four (4) digits of the qualified voter's Social Security number are helpful, but not required.

The petition circulator...

- must be a legal resident of the United States and must sign the affidavit for each page in front of a notary.
- cannot be a minor.
- can be an individual who was convicted of a felony only if their voting rights are restored.
- cannot be the circulator of the page on which they sign the petition.

When collecting your petition signatures, it is helpful to remember that...

- Because people who are not registered to vote often sign petitions for candidates, we recommended that you collect at least 1 ½ times the number of signatures required.
- [1VAC20-50-20](#) lists material omissions for petition signatures and pages. If your petition has a material omission, it may render the page or signature invalid.

Petition Signature Requirements

Office you seek	Size of locality (if relevant)	Number of petition signatures you need from qualified voters
For a candidate for... a constitutional office...	Any county or city	125 signatures

Can I withdraw my candidacy?



Find in Virginia Code § [24.2-612.2](#). ELECT offers [ELECT-612.2](#) to help facilitate the candidate withdrawal process.



A withdrawing candidate should submit his/her withdrawal notice with enough time before absentee voting commences in order to ensure his/her name is removed from the ballot.

If you submit your form after your local ballots are printed, your name will not be removed from the ballot, but you will no longer be a candidate.



Submit your written withdrawal to your [General Registrar](#). Electronic submissions of signed withdrawal notices are permissible.



To be withdrawn from the ballot you must submit a signed written notice declaring your intent to withdraw from the election.

The next two requirements relate to Campaign Finance accounts and reporting.

4 Fill out and submit [Statement of Organization for a Candidate](#).



Find in Virginia Code Title 24.2 [Chapter 9.3](#).



Within 10 days of one of the following:

- you accept a contribution.
- you spend any funds.
- you pay a filing fee.
- you file a Certificate of Candidate Qualification.
- you appoint a campaign treasurer, campaign committee, or campaign depository.



Submit two copies when electronically filing:

- [With the Department of Elections according to the instructions in COMET](#)
- [With the General Registrar in the locality where you live after filing with the Department of Elections.](#)

Submit one copy when paper filing:

- [With the General Registrar in the locality where you live after filing with the Department of Elections.](#)



If you do not submit this form you may have to pay penalties.

Learn about the [Campaign Finance Disclosure Act](#).

5 Submit Campaign Finance Reports



Find in Virginia Code Title 24.2 [Chapter 9.3](#).



Candidate committees active in 2020, submit reports according to the appropriate [2020 reporting schedule](#).



Submit copies to the [Department of Elections through COMET](#)

Qualified Independent Candidate that Wishes to Reflect Nomination by a Third Party.



Find in Virginia Code § [24.2-613](#). Party ID does not appear on the ballot for local office elections. The nomination by a third party will provide the candidate with his/her party’s ballot position placement as determined by the State Board of Elections (see § 24.2-613(C)).



File starting **August 14, 2020**.

File ending **December 4, 2020 at 5 pm**.

Use this table to learn what, when, and where to file.

	What do I need to file?	Where do I file this letter?	When does filing open?	What is the deadline to file?
1.	<p>A letter signed by the State Chair stating the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group has been in existence for at least six months prior to the filing of its nominee. The group has a state central committee composed of registered voters from each of Virginia’s 11 congressional districts in continual existence for the six months prior to the filing of its nominee. The group has a party plan and bylaws. 	With the Department of Elections.	Wednesday August 14, 2020.	December 4, 2020 at 5 pm.
2.	<p>A letter signed by the State Chair and signed by the candidate stating the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair certifies the candidate is the nominee of the party. The candidate accepts the nomination of the party. 	With the Department of Elections.	Wednesday August 14, 2020.	December 4, 2020 at 5 pm.



Submit these letters to the Department of Elections. Electronic submission of these letters is permissible (ea@elections.virginia.gov).



The Department of Elections recommends that the Independent candidate provide this information to the State Chair of his/her party. This presumably will assure that the party will provide the nominee with what s/he needs to file with the Department of Elections.

General Disclaimer

The electronic version of this Candidate Bulletin can be found on the Department of Elections website: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/candidatepac-info/candidate-bulletins/index.html>

Candidates are responsible for complying with all current applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

This Candidate Bulletin provides an overview of Virginia electoral requirements only. It does not purport to provide legal advice or binding statements of official policy. Rather, the Candidate Bulletin describes election law found in the Code of Virginia. Applicable laws and regulations are subject to change in content and interpretation.