



Political Party Primary/Major Party Qualifications

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To determine parties' requirement or eligibility to hold a primary, states place certain restrictions on which parties may participate. States will generally do this in one of three ways:

- 1) Distinguishing between major and minor parties and only allowing major parties to participate. For example, Colorado defines a "major party" as having obtained 10% of the vote for Governor. A separate statute states that only major parties are entitled to hold a primary.
- 2) Putting certain qualifications on what it means to be a "party" in the context of election statutes. For example, South Dakota defines a political party as having received 2.5% of the vote for any statewide office in one of the last two elections. They do not further distinguish between major and minor parties.
- 3) Explicitly setting qualifications for which parties may or must hold a primary. For example, Maine directly states that a party is entitled to a primary if they receive 5% of the votes for governor or president or have 5,000 registered voters.

This document provides information on the qualifications parties must meet to participate in a primary election. These qualifications include:

- if there is a vote threshold a party must meet in an election,
- if there is a voter affiliation threshold,
- if there is a petition and signature requirement, and
- if there are other methods a party may qualify to hold a primary.

Below is one final table containing all primary qualifications and statutory text.

Votes cast for a race as a qualification for a primary

State	Voter threshold
Alabama	20% of the votes cast at a general election.
Arizona	5% of the votes for governor or president.
Arkansas	3% of the votes for governor or president.
California	2% of the vote for a statewide race.
Colorado	10% of the vote for governor.
Connecticut	20% of the vote for governor.
Georgia	20% of the vote for governor.
	Or 20% of the vote for president nationally.
Hawaii	10% of the vote for any statewide office.
	Or
	10% of the vote in at least half of the congressional districts.
	Or
	4% of the votes cast for all state senate or all state representatives.
	Or 2% of the vote for all state senate and state representative offices combined.
Idaho	Votes for any state or national candidate equal to 3% of the votes cast for governor or president.
Illinois	5% of the vote for governor.
Indiana	10% of the vote for secretary of state.
Iowa	2% of the vote for governor or president.

Kansas	5% of the vote for governor.
Kentucky	20% of the vote for president.
Maine	5% of the votes for governor or president.
Maryland	Must receive the highest or second highest number of votes for governor.
Massachusetts	3% of the vote for any statewide office.
Michigan	5% of the vote for secretary of state.
Minnesota	8% of the vote for any statewide office, president or US senator at one of the last two elections.
Missouri	2% of the vote for any statewide office at one of the last two elections.
Montana	5% of the vote for governor at one of the last two elections
Nebraska	5% of the vote for any statewide race.
	Or
	5% of the vote from a combination of districts that encompasses the entire state
New Hampshire	4% of the vote for governor or US senator.
New Jersey	10% of the vote for all assembly races combined.
New Mexico	5% of the vote for governor or president and at least .33% of registered voters.
New York	2% of the vote or 130,000 votes, whichever is greater, for governor or president.
North Carolina	2% of the vote for governor or president.
North Dakota	5% of the vote for any statewide office or president.
Ohio	3% of the vote for governor or president.
Oklahoma	To remain recognized as a party must receive 2.5% if the vote for any statewide office at one of the last two elections.
Pennsylvania	Polled in at least 10 counties with no less than 2% of the vote for any candidate and must receive at least 2% of the vote for the largest race in the state.
Rhode Island	5% of the vote cast for governor or president.
South Dakota	2.5% of the vote for any statewide office at one of the last two elections
Tennessee	5% of the vote for governor.
Texas	No specific requirement or definition to be a “political party”.

	A party may hold a primary if they received at least 2% of the vote for governor.
	A party is required to hold a primary if they received over 20% of the vote for governor.
Utah	2% of the total vote for any candidate equal to 2% or more of the total votes cast for all candidates for the US House of Representatives at one of the last two elections.
Vermont	5% of the vote for any state office and town committees in at least 30 towns.
Virginia	10% of the vote for any statewide office at one of the last two elections.
Washington	Major political parties are those who obtain 5% of the total vote for president.
West Virginia	1% of the vote for governor.
Wisconsin	1% of the vote for any statewide office.
Wyoming	Major political parties are those who obtain 10% of the vote for US House of Representatives, governor or secretary of state.

Voter affiliation threshold as a qualification for a primary

State	Affiliation threshold
Alaska	5,000 registered voters (number is adjusted for population changes)
Arizona	.66% of registered voters.
California	.33% of registered voters.
Connecticut	20% of registered voters.
Delaware	5% of registered voters.
Florida	5% of registered voters.
Louisiana	1,000 registered voters.
Maine	5,000 voters are enrolled in the party.
Massachusetts	1% of registered voters.
Nebraska	10,000 registered voters.
Nevada	10% of registered voters.
Oregon	5% of registered voters.

Petition signatures as a qualification for a primary

State	Signature Threshold
Arkansas	10,000 signatures from registered voters.
California	Petition signed by voters equal to at least 10% of the entire vote at that last gubernatorial election.
Idaho	Signatures equal to 2% of the vote for president.
Minnesota	Obtain signatures equal to 5% of those who voted in the last election.
Nevada	Signatures from voters equal to 10% of the vote for offices in Congress.
North Carolina	Obtain signatures equal to .25% of the votes cast for governor with 200 signatures from 3 congressional districts.
North Dakota	Signatures from 7,000 voters.
Oklahoma	Signatures equal to 3% of the vote for governor.
Rhode Island	Signatures equal to 5% of the entire vote cast for governor or president.
South Carolina	Signatures from 10,000 registered voters.
Utah	File a petition with at least 2,000 registered voters.
Wisconsin	10,000 signatures with at least 1,000 signatures from 3 congressional districts.

Number of candidates in an election as a qualification for a primary

State	Candidate Threshold
Idaho	3 candidates for state or national office in the previous general election.
Minnesota	Having at least 45 candidates for state representative, 23 candidates for state senator, 4 candidates for the house of representatives and one candidate for each statewide office in the last election.
North Carolina	The party must have had a nominee for president in 35 states.
South Carolina	Certify candidates in at least one of the last two general elections.

Qualifications for a political party to hold a primary

Note: The line separator in the statutory text indicates where the requirement or option of a party to hold a primary is and the definition of a party or major party. Many states directly say which parties qualify so there is only one statute in those cases.

State	Party Primary/Major Party Qualifications	Statutory Text
Alabama	20% of the votes cast at a general election.	<p>A primary election, including a separate and special presidential preference primary election, within the meaning of this chapter, is an election held by the qualified voters who are members of any political party, for the purpose of nominating a candidate or candidates for public or party office. Ala. Code § 17-13-1.</p> <p>An assemblage or organization of electors which, at the general election for state and county officers then next preceding the primary, casts more than 20 percent of the entire vote cast in any county is hereby declared to be a political party within the meaning of this chapter within such county; and an assemblage or organization of electors which, at the general election for state officers then next preceding the primary, casts more than 20 percent of the entire vote cast in the state is hereby declared to be a political party within the meaning of this chapter for such state. Ala. Code § 17-13-40.</p>
Alaska*	5,000 registered voters (number is adjusted for population changes)	(27) “political party” means an organized group of voters that represents a political program and has at least 5,000 registered voters in the state; beginning with the results of the 2030 decennial federal census, following each decennial federal census, the division shall by regulation adjust this number by the percentage of the change to the population of the state since the 2020 decennial federal census, rounded to the nearest 500. Alaska Stat. § 15.80.010.
Arizona	5% of the votes for governor or president. Or .66% of registered voters.	A. A political organization that at the last preceding general election cast for governor or presidential electors or for county attorney or for mayor, whichever applies, not less than five per cent of the total votes cast for governor or presidential electors, in the state or in such county, city or town, is entitled to representation as a political party on the official ballot for state officers or for officers of such county or local subdivision.

		<p>B. In lieu of subsection A, a political organization is entitled to continued representation as a political party on the official ballot for state, county, city or town officers if, on October 1 of the year immediately preceding the year in which the general election for state or county officers and for city or town officers one hundred fifty-five days immediately preceding the primary election in such jurisdiction, such party has registered electors in the party equal to at least two-thirds of one percent of the total registered electors in such jurisdiction. Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 16-804.</p>
Arkansas	<p>3% of the votes for governor or president.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>10,000 signatures from registered voters.</p>	<p>(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, nominees of any political party for United States Senate, United States House of Representatives, or state, district, county, township, or applicable municipal office to be voted upon at a general election shall be certified as having received a majority of the votes cast for the office, or as an unopposed candidate, at a primary election held by the political party in the manner provided by law.</p> <p>(b) A new political party established by petition shall nominate any candidate by convention for the first general election after certification of a sufficient petition. Ark. Stat. Ann. § 7-7-102.</p> <p>(28)(A) "Political party" means any group of voters that at the last preceding general election polled for its candidate for Governor in the state or nominees for presidential electors at least three percent (3%) of the entire vote cast for the office.</p> <p>(B) A group of electors shall not assume a name or designation that is so similar in the opinion of the Secretary of State to that of an existing political party as to confuse or mislead the voters at an election.</p> <p>(C) When any political party fails to obtain three percent (3%) of the total votes cast at an election for the office of Governor or nominees for presidential electors, it shall cease to be a political party. Ark. Stat. Ann. § 7-1-101.</p> <p>(a)(1) A group desiring to form a new political party shall do so by filing a petition with the Secretary of State.</p> <p>(2) The petition shall contain at the time of filing the signatures of a minimum of ten thousand (10,000) registered voters in the state. Ark. Stat. Ann. § 7-7-205.</p>

California	<p>2% of the vote for a statewide race.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>.33% of registered voters.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Signatures equal to at least 10% of the entire vote at that last gubernatorial election.</p>	<p>A party is qualified to participate in a primary election under any of the following conditions:</p> <p>(a)(1) At the last preceding gubernatorial primary election, the sum of the votes cast for all of the candidates for an office voted on throughout the state who disclosed a preference for that party on the ballot was at least 2 percent of the entire vote of the state for that office.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a party may inform the Secretary of State that it declines to have the votes cast for a candidate who has disclosed that party as the candidate's party preference on the ballot counted toward the 2-percent qualification threshold. If the party wishes to have votes for a candidate not counted in support of its qualification under paragraph (1), the party shall notify the secretary in writing of that candidate's name by the seventh day before the gubernatorial primary election.</p> <p>(b)(1) On or before the 135th day before a primary election, it appears to the Secretary of State, as a result of examining and totaling the statement of voters and their declared political preference transmitted to the Secretary of State by the county elections officials, that voters equal in number to at least 0.33 percent of the total number of voters registered on the 154th day before the primary election have declared their preference for that party.</p> <p>(2) A person whose party preference is designated as "Unknown" pursuant to Section 2154 or 2267 shall not be counted for purposes of determining the total number of voters registered on the specified day preceding the election under paragraph (1).</p> <p>(c) On or before the 135th day before a primary election, there is filed with the Secretary of State a petition signed by voters, equal in number to at least 10 percent of the entire vote of the state at the last preceding gubernatorial election, declaring that they represent a proposed party, the name of which shall be stated in the petition, which proposed party those voters desire to have participate in that primary election. This petition shall be circulated, signed, and verified, and the signatures of the voters on it shall be certified to and transmitted to the Secretary of State by the county elections officials substantially as provided for initiative petitions. Each page of the petition shall bear a caption in 18-point boldface type, which caption shall be the name of the proposed party followed by the words "Petition to participate in the primary election." Cal. Election Code § 5100.</p>
Colorado	<p>10% of the vote for governor.</p>	<p>(1) Except as provided in section 1-4-104.5, a primary election shall be held on the last Tuesday in June of even-numbered years to nominate candidates of political parties to be voted for at the succeeding general election. Except as provided by section 1-4-1304(1.5),</p>

		<p>only a major political party, as defined in section 1-1-104(22), is entitled to nominate candidates in a primary election. Colo. Rev. Stat. § 1-4-101.</p> <p>(22) “Major political party” means any political party that at the last preceding gubernatorial election was represented on the official ballot either by political party candidates or by individual nominees and whose candidate at the last preceding gubernatorial election received at least ten percent of the total gubernatorial votes cast.</p> <p>(23) “Minor political party” means a political party other than a major political party that satisfies one of the conditions set forth in section 1-4-1303(1) or has submitted a sufficient petition in accordance with section 1-4-1302. Colo. Rev. Stat. § 1-1-104.</p>
Connecticut	<p>20% of the vote for governor.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>20% of registered voters.</p>	<p>The provisions of sections 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, shall apply to the nomination by a major party of any candidate for an elective office, including an office established after the last-preceding election, and to the selection in any municipality by a major party of town committee members or delegates to conventions. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-381.</p> <p>(5) “Major party” means (A) a political party or organization whose candidate for Governor at the last-preceding election for Governor received, under the designation of that political party or organization, at least twenty per cent of the whole number of votes cast for all candidates for Governor, or (B) a political party having, at the last-preceding election for Governor, a number of enrolled members on the active registry list equal to at least twenty per cent of the total number of enrolled members of all political parties on the active registry list in the state;</p> <p>(6) “Minor party” means a political party or organization which is not a major party and whose candidate for the office in question received at the last-preceding regular election for such office, under the designation of that political party or organization, at least one per cent of the whole number of votes cast for all candidates for such office at such election. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-372.</p>
Delaware	5% of registered voters.	The nominations of candidates by all major political parties for all offices to be decided at a general election shall be conducted by direct primary. All such primaries shall be conducted

		<p>by the Department under the applicable provisions of this title. Del. Code Ann. tit. 15, § 3101A.</p> <p>(15) “Party” or “political party” means any political organization which elects a state committee and officers of a state committee, by a state convention composed of delegates elected from each representative district in which the party has registered members, and which nominates candidates for electors of President and Vice-President, or nominates candidates for offices to be decided at the general election. All political parties shall be divided into 2 classes:</p> <p>a. “Major political party” means any political party which, as of December 31 of the year immediately preceding any general election year, has registered in the name of that party voters equal to at least 5 percent of the total number of voters registered in the State.</p> <p>b. “Minor political party” means any political party which does not qualify as a major political party. Del. Code Ann. tit. 15, § 101.</p>
Florida	5% of registered voters.	<p>(20) “Minor political party” is any group as specified in s. 103.095 which on January 1 preceding a primary election does not have registered as members 5 percent of the total registered electors of the state. Fla. Stat. § 97.021.</p>
Georgia	<p>20% of the vote for governor.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>20% of the vote for president nationally.</p>	<p>(a) A political party shall nominate its candidates for public office in a primary. Except for substitute nominations as provided in Code Section 21-2-134 and nomination of presidential electors, all nominees of a political party for public office shall be nominated in the primary preceding the general election in which the candidates' names will be listed on the ballot.</p> <p>(b) The primary held for such purposes shall be conducted by the superintendent in the same manner as prescribed by law and by rules and regulations of the State Election Board and the superintendent for general elections. Primaries of all political parties shall be conducted jointly. Ga. Code § 21-2-151.</p> <p>(25) “Political party” or “party” means any political organization which at the preceding:</p> <p>(A) Gubernatorial election nominated a candidate for Governor and whose candidate for Governor at such election polled at least 20 percent of the total vote cast in the state for Governor; or</p>

		(B) Presidential election nominated a candidate for President of the United States and whose candidates for presidential electors at such election polled at least 20 percent of the total vote cast in the nation for that office. Ga. Code § 21-2-2.
Hawaii	<p>10% of the vote for any statewide office.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>10% of the vote in at least half of the congressional districts.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>4% of the votes cast for all state senate or all state representatives.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>2% of the vote for all state senate and state representative offices combined.</p>	<p>(a) The term “political party” means any party which has qualified as a political party under sections 11-62 and 11-64 and has not been disqualified by this section. A political party shall be an association of voters united for the purpose of promoting a common political end or carrying out a particular line of political policy and which maintains a general organization throughout the State, including a regularly constituted central committee and county committees in each county other than Kalawao.</p> <p>(b) Any party which does not meet the following requirements or the requirements set forth in sections 11-62 to 11-64, shall be subject to disqualification:</p> <p>(1) A party must have had candidates running for election at the last general election for any of the offices listed in paragraph (2) whose terms had expired. This does not include those offices which were vacant because the incumbent had died or resigned before the end of the incumbent's term; and</p> <p>(2) The party received at least ten per cent of all votes cast:</p> <p>(A) For any of the offices voted upon by all the voters in the State; or</p> <p>(B) In at least fifty per cent of the congressional districts; or</p> <p>(3) The party received at least four per cent of all the votes cast for all the offices of state senator statewide; or</p> <p>(4) The party received at least four per cent of all the votes cast for all the offices of state representative statewide; or</p> <p>(5) The party received at least two per cent of all the votes cast for all the offices of state senate and all the offices of state representative combined statewide. Hawaii Rev. Stat. § 11-61.</p>
Idaho	<p>3 candidates for state or national office in the previous general election.</p> <p>Or</p>	<p>(1) A “political party” within the meaning of this act, is an organization of electors under a given name. A political party shall be deemed created and qualified to participate in elections in any of the following three (3) ways:</p> <p>(a) By having three (3) or more candidates for state or national office listed under the party name at the last general election, provided that those individuals seeking the office of president, vice president and president elector shall be considered one candidate, or</p>

	<p>Votes for any state or national candidate equal to 3% of the votes cast for governor or president.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Signatures equal to 2% of the vote for president.</p>	<p>(b) By polling at the last general election for any one of its candidates for state or national office at least three per cent (3%) of the aggregate vote cast for governor or for presidential electors.</p> <p>(c) By an affiliation of electors who shall have signed a petition which shall:</p> <p>(A) State the name of the proposed party in not more than six (6) words;</p> <p>(B) State that the subscribers thereto desire to place the proposed party on the ballot;</p> <p>(C) Have attached thereto a sheet or sheets containing the signatures of at least a number of qualified electors equal to two per cent (2%) of the aggregate vote cast for presidential electors in the state at the previous general election at which presidential electors were chosen;</p> <p>(D) Be filed with the secretary of state on or before August 30 of even numbered years;</p> <p>(E) The format of the signature petition sheets shall be prescribed by the secretary of state and shall be patterned after, but not limited to, such sheets as used for state initiative and referendum measures;</p> <p>(F) The petitions and signatures so submitted shall be verified in the manner prescribed in section 34-1807, Idaho Code.</p> <p>(G) The petition shall be circulated no earlier than August 30 of the year preceding the general election. Idaho Code § 34-501.</p>
Illinois	<p>5% of the vote for governor.</p>	<p>The term “political party”, as hereinafter used in this Article 10, shall mean any “established political party”, as hereinafter defined and shall also mean any political group which shall hereafter undertake to form an established political party in the manner provided for in this Article 10: Provided, that no political organization or group shall be qualified as a political party hereunder, or given a place on a ballot, which organization or group is associated, directly or indirectly, with Communist, Fascist, Nazi or other un-American principles and engages in activities or propaganda designed to teach subservience to the political principles and ideals of foreign nations or the overthrow by violence of the established constitutional form of government of the United States and the State of Illinois.</p> <p>A political party which, at the last general election for State and county officers, polled for its candidate for Governor more than 5% of the entire vote cast for Governor, is hereby declared to be an “established political party” as to the State and as to any district or political subdivision thereof.</p>

		A political party which, at the last election in any congressional district, legislative district, county, township, municipality or other political subdivision or district in the State, polled more than 5% of the entire vote cast within such territorial area or political subdivision, as the case may be, has voted as a unit for the election of officers to serve the respective territorial area of such district or political subdivision, is hereby declared to be an “established political party” within the meaning of this Article as to such district or political subdivision. Ill. Rev. Stat. ch. 10, § 5/10-2.
Indiana	10% of the vote for secretary of state.	Each political party whose nominee received at least ten percent (10%) of the votes cast in the state for secretary of state at the last election shall hold a primary election under this chapter to select nominees to be voted for at the general election. Ind. Code § 3-10-1-2.
Iowa	2% of the vote for governor or president.	<p>Candidates of all political parties for all offices which are filled at a regular biennial election by direct vote of the people shall be nominated at a primary election at the time and in the manner directed in this chapter. Iowa Code § 43.3.</p> <p>b. “Political party” shall mean a party which, at the last preceding general election, cast for its candidate for president of the United States or for governor, as the case may be, at least two percent of the total vote cast for all candidates for that office at that election. It shall be the responsibility of the state commissioner to determine whether any organization claiming to be a political party qualifies as such under this paragraph. Iowa Code § 43.2.</p>
Kansas	5% of the vote for governor	<p>(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) all candidates for national, state, county and township offices shall be nominated by: (1) A primary election held in accordance with article 2 of chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto; or (2) independent nomination petitions signed and filed as provided by existing statutes.</p> <p>(b) Candidates for any of such offices who are members of any political party whose candidate for governor did not poll at least 5% of the total vote cast for all candidates for governor in the preceding general election shall not be entitled to nomination by primary election but shall be nominated by a delegate or mass convention according to article 3 of chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.</p> <p>(c) No candidate for any national, state, county or township office shall file for office as a partisan candidate in a primary election and also file for office as an independent candidate</p>

		<p>for any national, state, county or township office in the general election immediately following.</p> <p>(d) The provisions of article 2 of chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, shall not apply to the justices of the supreme court or to judges of the district court in judicial districts which have approved the proposition of nonpartisan selection of district court judges, as provided in K.S.A. 20-2901, and amendments thereto, nor to special elections to fill vacancies. Kan. Stat. Ann. § 25-202.</p>
Kentucky	20% of the vote for president.	<p>(1) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section and in KRS 118.115, every political party shall nominate all of its candidates for elective offices to be voted for at any regular election at a primary held as provided in this chapter, and the governing authority of any political party shall have no power to nominate any candidate for any elective office or to provide any method of nominating candidates for any elective office other than by a primary as provided in this chapter. Ky. Rev. Stat. § 118.105.</p> <p>(1) A “political party” is an affiliation or organization of electors representing a political policy and having a constituted authority for its government and regulation, and whose candidate received at least twenty percent (20%) of the total vote cast at the last preceding election at which presidential electors were voted for. Ky. Rev. Stat. § 118.015.</p>
Louisiana	1,000 registered voters.	<p>B. (1) A political party shall be recognized if ninety days prior to the opening of the qualifying period for any election at least one thousand registered voters in the state are registered as being affiliated with such political party; such political party has filed a notarized registration statement as described in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection with the secretary of state; and the political party has paid a registration fee of one thousand dollars to the secretary of state upon filing the registration statement. The political party designation of a candidate shall not be listed on the ballot unless the political party was recognized prior to the close of qualifying for the office the candidate is seeking. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 18:441.</p>
Maine	<p>5% of the votes for governor or president.</p> <p>Or</p>	<p>1. Primary election. A party qualifies to participate in a primary election if its designation was listed on the ballot of either of the 2 preceding general elections and if:</p> <p>A. The party held municipal caucuses as prescribed by Article 21 in at least one municipality in a minimum of 14 counties in the State during the election year in which the designation</p>

	5,000 registered voters.	<p>was listed on the ballot and any interim election year and fulfills this same requirement during the year of the primary election;</p> <p>B. The party held a state convention as prescribed by Article III during the election year in which the designation was listed on the ballot and any interim election year; and</p> <p>C. Repealed. Laws 2009, c. 426, § 1.</p> <p>D. Deleted. Laws 1999, c. 450, § 1.</p> <p>E. The party's candidate for Governor or for President received at least 5% of the total votes cast in the State for Governor or for President in the last preceding gubernatorial or presidential election or at least 5,000 voters were enrolled in the party as of the last general election, except that a qualified party does not have to meet the requirements of this paragraph until the 2nd general election after it has qualified and thereafter. Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 21-A, § 301.</p> <p>22. Major party. "Major party" means a political party polling the greatest or the next greatest number of votes cast for Governor at the last gubernatorial election.</p> <p>24. Minor party. "Minor party" means a political party other than a major party. Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 21-A, § 1</p>
Maryland	Must receive the highest or second highest number of votes for governor.	<p>(a) A principal political party, as determined by the statement of registration issued by the State Board:</p> <p>(1) shall use the primary election to:</p> <p>(i) nominate its candidates for public office; and</p> <p>(ii) elect all members of the local central committees of the political party; and</p> <p>(2) may use the primary election in the year of a presidential election to elect delegates to a national presidential nominating convention. Md. Election Code Ann. § 8-202.</p> <p>(dd) "Majority party" means the political party to which the incumbent Governor belongs, if the incumbent Governor is a member of a principal political party. If the incumbent Governor is not a member of one of the two principal political parties, "majority party"</p>

		<p>means the principal political party whose candidate for Governor received the highest number of votes of any party candidate at the last preceding general election.</p> <p>(jj) "Principal minority party" means the principal political party whose candidate for Governor received the second highest number of votes of any party candidate at the last preceding general election.</p> <p>(kk) "Principal political parties" means the majority party and the principal minority party.</p> <p>Md. Election Code Ann. § 1-101</p>
Massachusetts	<p>3% of the vote for any statewide office.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>1% of registered voters.</p>	<p>"Political party" shall apply to a party which at the preceding biennial state election polled for any office to be filled by all the voters of the commonwealth at least three percent of the entire vote cast in the commonwealth for such office, or which shall have enrolled, according to the first count submitted under section thirty-eight A of chapter fifty-three, a number of voters with its political designation equal to or greater than one percent of the entire number of voters registered in the commonwealth according to said count. Such parties shall be eligible to conduct primary elections at the next following biennial state election. With reference to municipal elections and primaries and caucuses for the nomination of city and town officers, "political party" shall include a municipal party. Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 50, § 1.</p>
Michigan	<p>5% of the vote for secretary of state.</p>	<p>Sec. 686a. (1) If a political party entitled to a position on the ballot failed to have at least 1 candidate who polled at least 5% of the total vote cast for all candidates for secretary of state at the last preceding election at which a secretary of state was elected, candidates for that political party shall be nominated as provided in section 532.1 County caucuses and state conventions for such political parties shall be held not later than the August primary. Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.686a.</p> <p>Sec. 10. (1) "Major political party" means a political party qualified to have its name listed on the general election ballot whose candidate for governor received 25% or more of the popular vote cast in the preceding gubernatorial election. If only 1 political party received 25% or more of the popular vote cast for governor in the preceding gubernatorial election, then the political party with the second highest vote is considered a major political party.</p>

		(3) "Minor political party" means a political party qualified to have its name listed on the general election ballot but that does not qualify as a major political party. Mich. Comp. Laws § 169.210.
Minnesota	<p>8% of the vote for any statewide office, president or US senator at one of the last two elections.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>At least 45 candidates for state representative, 23 candidates for state senator, 4 candidates for the house of representatives and one candidate for each statewide office in the last election.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Signatures equal to 5% of those who voted in the last election.</p>	<p>Subd. 4. State partisan primary ballot; party columns. The state partisan primary ballot shall be headed by the words "State Partisan Primary Ballot." The ballot shall be printed on white paper. There must be at least three vertical columns on the ballot and each major political party shall have a separate column headed by the words "..... Party," giving the party name. Above the party names, the following statement shall be printed.... Minn. Stat. § 204D.08</p> <p>Subd. 7. Major political party. (a) "Major political party" means a political party that maintains a party organization in the state; has complied with the party's constitution and rules; is in compliance with the requirements of sections 202A.12 and 202A.13; files with the secretary of state no later than December 1 of each odd-numbered year a certification that the party has met the foregoing requirements, including a list of the dates and locations of each convention held; and meets all other qualification requirements of this subdivision.</p> <p>(b) A political party qualifies as a major political party by:</p> <p>(1) presenting at least one candidate for election to the office of:</p> <p>(i) governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, or attorney general at the last preceding state general election for those offices; or</p> <p>(ii) presidential elector or U.S. senator at the last preceding state general election for presidential electors; and</p> <p>whose candidate received votes in each county in that election and received votes from not less than eight percent of the total number of individuals who voted in that election;</p> <p>(2) presenting at least 45 candidates for election to the office of state representative, 23 candidates for election to the office of state senator, four candidates for election to the office of representative in Congress, and one candidate for election to each of the following offices: governor and lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, and state auditor, at the last preceding state general election for those offices; or</p>

		<p>(3) presenting to the secretary of state at any time before the close of filing for the state partisan primary ballot a petition for a place on the state partisan primary ballot, which petition contains valid signatures of a number of the party members equal to at least five percent of the total number of individuals who voted in the preceding state general election. A signature is valid only if signed no more than one year prior to the date the petition was filed.</p> <p>(c) A political party whose candidate receives a sufficient number of votes at a state general election described in paragraph (b), clause (1), or a political party that presents candidates at an election as required by paragraph (b), clause (2), becomes a major political party as of January 1 following that election. A political party that complies with paragraph (a) retains its major party status for at least two state general elections even if the party fails to present a candidate who receives the number and percentage of votes required under paragraph (b), clause (1), or fails to present candidates as required by paragraph (b), clause (2), at subsequent state general elections.</p> <p>(d) A major political party whose candidates fail to receive the number and percentage of votes required under paragraph (b), clause (1), and that fails to present candidates as required by paragraph (b), clause (2), at each of two consecutive state general elections described by paragraph (b), clause (1) or (2), respectively, loses major party status as of December 31 following the later of the two consecutive state general elections.</p> <p>(e) A major political party that does not submit the certification required by this subdivision loses major party status on December 31 of the year in which the party did not file the certification.</p> <p>(f) The secretary of state must notify the chair of the major political party, the commissioner of revenue, and the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board if the political party's status is changed pursuant to this section.</p> <p>Subd. 23. Minor political party. (a) "Minor political party" means a political party that has adopted a state constitution, designated a state party chair, held a state convention in the last two years, filed with the secretary of state no later than December 31 following the most recent state general election a certification that the party has met the foregoing requirements, and met the requirements of paragraph (b) or (e), as applicable.</p>
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		<p>(b) To be considered a minor party in all elections statewide, the political party must have presented at least one candidate:</p> <p>(1) for election to the office of governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, or attorney general, at the last preceding state general election for those offices; or</p> <p>(2) for election to the office of presidential elector or U.S. senator at the preceding state general election for presidential electors; and</p> <p>(3) who received votes in each county that in the aggregate equal at least one percent of the total number of individuals who voted in the election, or its members must have presented to the secretary of state at any time before the close of filing for the state partisan primary ballot a nominating petition in a form prescribed by the secretary of state containing the valid signatures of party members in a number equal to at least one percent of the total number of individuals who voted in the preceding state general election. A signature is valid only if signed no more than one year prior to the date the petition was filed.</p> <p>(c) A political party whose candidate receives a sufficient number of votes at a state general election described in paragraph (b) becomes a minor political party as of January 1 following that election and retains its minor party status for at least two state general elections even if the party fails to present a candidate who receives the number and percentage of votes required under paragraph (b) at subsequent state general elections.</p> <p>(d) A minor political party whose candidates fail to receive the number and percentage of votes required under paragraph (b) at each of two consecutive state general elections described by paragraph (b) loses minor party status as of December 31 following the later of the two consecutive state general elections.</p> <p>(e) A minor party that qualifies to be a major party loses its status as a minor party at the time it becomes a major party. Votes received by the candidates of a major party must be counted in determining whether the party received sufficient votes to qualify as a minor party, notwithstanding that the party does not receive sufficient votes to retain its major party status. To be considered a minor party in an election in a legislative district, the political party must have presented at least one candidate for a legislative office in that district who received votes from at least ten percent of the total number of individuals who voted for that office, or its members must have presented to the secretary of state a nominating petition in a form prescribed by the secretary of state containing the valid</p>
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		<p>signatures of party members in a number equal to at least ten percent of the total number of individuals who voted in the preceding state general election for that legislative office. A signature is valid only if signed no more than one year prior to the date the petition was filed.</p> <p>Minn. Stat. § 200.02.</p>
Mississippi	No requirement found.	
Missouri	2% of the vote for any statewide office at one of the last two elections	<p>(11) “Established political party” for the state, a political party which, at either of the last two general elections, polled for its candidate for any statewide office more than two percent of the entire vote cast for the office. “Established political party” for any district or political subdivision shall mean a political party which polled more than two percent of the entire vote cast at either of the last two elections in which the district or political subdivision voted as a unit for the election of officers or representatives to serve its area.</p> <p>(14) “Major political party”, the political party whose candidates received the highest or second highest number of votes at the last general election. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.013.</p>
Montana	5% of the vote for governor at one of the last two elections.	<p>(1) Each political party that had a candidate for a statewide office in either of the last two general elections who received a total vote that was 5% or more of the total votes cast for the most recent successful candidate for governor shall nominate its candidates for public office, except for presidential electors, by a primary election as provided in this chapter.</p> <p>(2) After certification of a petition by the secretary of state under 13-10-610(1), a political party that does not qualify to hold a primary election under subsection (1) shall nominate its candidates for public office by primary election. However, this section may not be construed to prohibit an election administrator from not preparing a primary election ballot pursuant to 13-10-209. Mont. Code Ann. § 13-10-601.</p> <p>(3) “Minor party” means a political party that does not qualify to hold a primary election under 13-10-601(1). Mont. Code Ann. § 13-37-601</p>
Nebraska	5% of the vote for any statewide race. Or	<p>No person shall be allowed to file a candidate filing form as a partisan candidate or to have his or her name placed upon a primary election ballot of a political party if subsection (2) of section 32-720 applies to the political party. For any other political party, no person shall be allowed to file a candidate filing form as a partisan candidate or to have his or her name</p>

	<p>5% of the vote from a combination of districts that encompasses the entire state</p> <p>Or</p> <p>10,000 registered voters.</p>	<p>placed upon a primary election ballot of a political party unless (1) he or she is a registered voter of the political party if required pursuant to section 32-702 and (2)(a) the political party has at least ten thousand persons affiliated as indicated by voter registration records in Nebraska or (b) at one of the two immediately preceding statewide general elections, (i) a candidate nominated by the political party polled at least five percent of the entire vote in the state in a statewide race or (ii) a combination of candidates nominated by the political party for a combination of districts that encompass all of the voters of the entire state polled at least five percent of the vote in each of their respective districts. A candidate filing form filed in violation of this section shall be void. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 32-610.</p>
Nevada	<p>10% of registered voters.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Signatures from voters equal to 10% of the vote for offices in Congress.</p>	<p>2. Candidates for partisan office of a major political party and candidates for nonpartisan office must be nominated at the primary election.</p> <p>3. Candidates for partisan office of a minor political party must be nominated in the manner prescribed pursuant to NRS 293.171 to 293.174, inclusive. Nev. Rev. Stat. § 293.175.</p> <p>1. To qualify as a major political party, any organization must, under a common name:</p> <p>(a) On January 1 preceding any primary election, have been designated as a political party on the applications to register to vote of at least 10 percent of the total number of registered voters in this State; or</p> <p>(b) File a petition with the Secretary of State not later than the last Friday in February before any primary election signed by a number of registered voters equal to or more than 10 percent of the total number of votes cast at the last preceding general election for the offices of Representative in Congress. Nev. Rev. Stat. § 293.128.</p>
New Hampshire	<p>4% of the vote for governor or US senator.</p>	<p>“Party” shall mean any political organization which at the preceding state general election received at least 4 percent of the total number of votes cast for any one of the following: the office of governor or the offices of United States senators. N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 652:11.</p>
New Jersey	<p>10% of the vote for all assembly races combined.</p>	<p>A political party may nominate candidates for public office at primary elections provided for in this Title, elect committees for the party within the State, county or municipality, as the case may be, and in every other respect may exercise the rights and shall be subject to the restrictions herein provided for political parties; except that no political party which fails to poll at any primary election for a general election at least ten per centum (10%) of the votes cast in the State for members of the General Assembly at the next preceding general</p>

		election, held for the election of all of the members of the General Assembly, shall be entitled to have a party column on the official ballot at the general election for which the primary election has been held. In such case the names of the candidates so nominated at the primary election shall be printed in the column or columns designated "Nomination by Petition" on the official ballot under the respective titles of office for which the nominations have been made, followed by the designation of the political party of which the candidates are members. N.J. Rev. Stat. § 19:5-1
New Mexico	5% of the vote for governor or president and at least .33% of registered voters.	<p>A. The Primary Election Law [1-8-10 to 1-8-52 NMSA 1978] applies to major political party nominations for all offices that are to be filled at the general election with the exception of presidential electors.</p> <p>B. The Primary Election Law does not apply to the election of persons to fill municipal, school district or special district offices, nor does it apply to special elections to fill vacancies in any office filled at the general election. No bond issue or other question shall be voted upon at any primary election. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 1-8-17.</p> <p>A. "major political party" means any qualified political party, any of whose candidates received as many as five percent of the total number of votes cast at the last preceding general election for the office of governor or president of the United States, as the case may be, and whose membership totals not less than one-third of one percent of the statewide registered voter file on the day of the governor's primary election proclamation; and</p> <p>B. "minor political party" means any qualified political party that is not qualified as a major political party pursuant to Subsection A of this section. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 1-7-7.</p>
New York	2% of the vote or 130,000 votes, whichever is greater, for governor or president.	<p>9. The terms "primary" or "primary election" mean only the mandated election at which enrolled members of a party may vote for the purpose of nominating party candidates and electing party officers. N.Y. Election Law § 1-104.</p> <p>3. The term "party" means any political organization which, excluding blank and void ballots, at the last preceding election for governor received, at least two percent of the total votes cast for its candidate for governor, or one hundred thirty thousand votes, whichever is greater, in the year in which a governor is elected and at least two percent of the total votes</p>

		cast for its candidate for president, or one hundred thirty thousand votes, whichever is greater, in a year when a president is elected. N.Y. Election Law § 1-104.
North Carolina	<p>2% of the vote for governor or president.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Signatures equal to .25% of the votes cast for governor with 200 signatures from 3 congressional districts.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>The party must have had a nominee for president in 35 states.</p>	<p>(a) Definition.--A political party within the meaning of the election laws of this State shall be one of the following:</p> <p>(1) Any group of voters which, at the last preceding general State election, polled for its candidate for Governor, or for presidential electors, at least two percent (2%) of the entire vote cast in the State for Governor or for presidential electors.</p> <p>(2) Any group of voters which shall have filed with the State Board of Elections petitions for the formulation of a new political party which are signed by registered and qualified voters in this State equal in number to one-quarter of one percent (0.25%) of the total number of voters who voted in the most recent general election for Governor. Also the petition must be signed by at least 200 registered voters from each of three congressional districts in North Carolina. To be effective, the petitioners must file their petitions with the State Board of Elections before 12:00 noon on the first day of June preceding the day on which is to be held the first general State election in which the new political party desires to participate. The State Board of Elections shall forthwith determine the sufficiency of petitions filed with it and shall immediately communicate its determination to the State chair of the proposed new political party.</p> <p>(3) Any group of voters which shall have filed with the State Board of Elections documentation that the group of voters had a candidate nominated by that group on the general election ballot of at least seventy percent (70%) of the states in the prior Presidential election. To be effective, the group must file their documentation with the State Board of Elections before 12:00 noon on the first day of June preceding the day on which is to be held the first general State election in which the new political party desires to participate. The State Board of Elections shall forthwith verify the documentation filed with it and shall immediately communicate its determination to the State chair of the proposed new political party. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-96.</p>
North Dakota	5% of the vote for any statewide office or president.	Any party that had printed on the ballot at the last preceding presidential election the names of a set of presidential electors pledged to the election of the party's candidates for president and vice president or a candidate for governor and those candidates for presidential electors or governor received at least five percent of the total vote cast for

	<p>Or</p> <p>Signatures from 7,000 voters.</p>	<p>presidential electors or the office of governor within this state at that election; any party that had printed on the ballot at the last preceding nonpresidential election a candidate for attorney general or secretary of state, and the candidate received at least five percent of the total vote cast for the office the candidate was seeking at the election; or any party that has organized according to all the requirements of chapter 16.1-03 must be provided with a separate section on primary election ballots.</p> <p>Any other political organization is entitled to endorse candidates or have candidates petition to be included on the primary ballot in a separate section of the consolidated primary election ballot, if a petition signed by at least seven thousand qualified electors of this state is filed with the secretary of state before four p.m. of the sixty-fourth day before a primary or special election, naming the political organization, stating the platform principles of the party, and requesting the names of its candidates to be included on the state's primary ballot in a separate section. Political organizations that are granted ballot access under this section are allowed ballot access only for those offices for which the organization has identified candidates. Regardless of the means by which the petition is delivered, the original must be in the possession of the secretary of state before four p.m. on the sixty-fourth day prior to a primary or special election. Candidates of that party are entitled to the same rights and privileges as those of other parties. Petitions circulated according to this section must be filed with the secretary of state in accordance with section 1-01-50.</p> <p>A political organization that had printed on the ballot at the last preceding presidential election the names of a set of presidential electors pledged to the election of the party's candidates for president and vice president or a candidate for governor and those candidates for presidential electors or governor received at least five percent of the total vote cast for presidential electors or the office of governor within this state at that election, and any political organization that has printed on the ballot at the last preceding nonpresidential election a candidate for attorney general or secretary of state, and the candidate received at least five percent of the total vote cast for the office the candidate was seeking at the election are entitled to organize according to the requirements of chapter 16.1-03. N.D. Cent. Code § 16.1-11-30.</p>
Ohio	3% of the vote for governor or president.	(A)(1) A political party within the meaning of Title XXXV of the Revised Code is any group of voters that meets either of the following requirements:

		<p>(a) Except as otherwise provided in this division, at the most recent regular state election, the group polled for its candidate for governor in the state or nominees for presidential electors at least three per cent of the entire vote cast for that office. A group that meets the requirements of this division remains a political party for a period of four years after meeting those requirements. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3517.01.</p> <p>(1) “Major political party” means any political party organized under the laws of this state whose candidate for governor or nominees for presidential electors received not less than twenty per cent of the total vote cast for such office at the most recent regular state election.</p> <p>(2) “Minor political party” means any political party organized under the laws of this state that meets either of the following requirements:</p> <p>(a) Except as otherwise provided in this division, the political party's candidate for governor or nominees for presidential electors received less than twenty per cent but not less than three per cent of the total vote cast for such office at the most recent regular state election. A political party that meets the requirements of this division remains a political party for a period of four years after meeting those requirements.</p> <p>(b) The political party has filed with the secretary of state, subsequent to its failure to meet the requirements of division (F)(2)(a) of this section, a petition that meets the requirements of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code.</p> <p>A newly formed political party shall be known as a minor political party until the time of the first election for governor or president which occurs not less than twelve months subsequent to the formation of such party, after which election the status of such party shall be determined by the vote for the office of governor or president. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3501.01.</p>
Oklahoma	Signatures equal to 3% of the vote for governor.	<p>A Primary Election shall be held on the third Tuesday in June of each even-numbered year, at which time each political party recognized by the laws of this state shall nominate its candidates for the offices to be filled at the next succeeding General Election unless otherwise provided by law. No candidate's name shall be printed upon the General Election</p>

	<p>To remain recognized as a party must receive 2.5% of the vote for any statewide office at one of the last two elections.</p>	<p>ballot unless such candidate shall have been nominated as herein provided, unless otherwise provided by law; provided further that this provision shall not exclude the right of a nonpartisan candidate to have his or her name printed upon the General Election ballots. No county, municipality or school district shall schedule an election on any date during the twenty (20) days immediately preceding the date of any such primary election. Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 1-102.</p> <p>A group of persons may form a recognized political party at any time except during the period between March 1 and November 15 of any even-numbered year if the following procedure is observed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notice of intent to form a recognized political party must be filed in writing with the Secretary of the State Election Board at any time except during the period between March 1 and November 15 of any even-numbered year; 2. After such notice is filed, petitions seeking recognition of a political party, in a form to be prescribed by the Secretary of the State Election Board, shall be filed with such Secretary, bearing the signatures of registered voters equal to at least three percent (3%) of the total votes cast in the last General Election for Governor. Each page of such petitions must contain the names of registered voters from a single county. Petitions may be circulated a maximum of one (1) year after notice is filed, provided that petitions shall be filed with the Secretary no later than March 1 of an even-numbered year. Such petitions shall not be circulated between March 1 and November 15 of any even-numbered year; and 3. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of such petitions, the State Election Board shall determine the sufficiency of such petitions. If such Board determines there are a sufficient number of valid signatures of registered voters, the party becomes recognized under the laws of the State of Oklahoma with all rights and obligations accruing thereto. Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 1-108. <p>A. Any recognized political party shall continue to be a recognized political party if a candidate of that party for any statewide elected office receives at least two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the total votes cast for the office in either of the preceding two (2) general</p>
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		<p>elections. If such a political party fails to retain recognition, the party may regain recognition only by following the procedure prescribed for formation of new political parties. The State Election Board shall proclaim the fact of a party's failure to receive a sufficient number of votes and shall order that the party cease to be recognized.</p> <p>B. Any recognized political party that ceases to be recognized under provisions of this section shall be designated as a political organization. Such political organization designation shall terminate four (4) years from the date that the political party ceases to be recognized or when the political organization regains recognition as a political party, whichever is earlier. Okla. Stat. tit. 26, § 1-109.</p>
Oregon	5% of registered voters.	<p>(1) An affiliation of electors becomes a major political party in this state and is qualified to make nominations at a primary election when a number of electors equal to at least five percent of the number of electors registered in this state are registered as members of the party not later than the 275th day before the date of a primary election. An affiliation of electors satisfying the requirements of this subsection shall be subject to the provisions of ORS 248.007 on the date the Secretary of State determines the registration requirements are satisfied. Or. Rev. Stat. § 248.006.</p> <p>(6) "Minor political party" means a political party that has qualified as a minor political party under ORS 248.008. Or. Rev. Stat. § 249.002.</p>
Pennsylvania	Polled in at least 10 counties with no less than 2% of the vote for any candidate and must receive at least 2% of the vote for the largest race in the state.	<p>All candidates of political parties, as defined in section 801 of this act,¹ for the offices of United States Senator, Representative in Congress and for all other elective public offices within this State, except that of presidential electors, shall be nominated, and party delegates and alternate delegates, committeemen and officers who, under the provisions of Article VIII of this act² or under the party rules, are required to be elected by the party electors, shall be elected at primaries held in accordance with the provisions of this act, except as otherwise provided in this act. In the years when candidates for the office of President of the United States are to be nominated, every registered and enrolled member of a political party shall have the opportunity at the Spring primary in such years to vote his preference for one person to be the candidate of his political party for President. Pa. Stat. tit. 25, § 2862</p>

		(a) Any party or political body, one of whose candidates at the general election next preceding the primary polled in each of at least ten counties of the State not less than two per centum of the largest entire vote cast in each of said counties for any elected candidate, and polled a total vote in the State equal to at least two per centum of the largest entire vote cast in the State for any elected candidate, is hereby declared to be a political party within the State, and shall nominate all its candidates for any of the offices provided for in this act, and shall elect its delegates and alternate delegates to the National convention as party rules provide. State committee members, and also such party officers, including members of the National committee, as its rules provide, shall be elected by a vote of the party electors, in accordance with the provisions of this act and party rules. Pa. Stat. tit. 25, § 2831.
Rhode Island	<p>5% of the vote cast for governor or president.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Signatures equal to 5% of the entire vote cast for governor or president.</p>	(9) "Political party" or "party" means: (i) any political organization which, at the next preceding general election for the election of general officers, nominated a candidate for governor, and whose candidate for governor at the election polled at least five percent (5%) of the entire vote cast in the state for governor, or (ii) any political organization which at the next preceding general election for the election of a president of the United States nominated a candidate for president and whose candidate for president at the election polled at least five percent (5%) of the entire vote cast in the state for president, or (iii) any political organization which, on petition forms provided to the chairperson of the organization by the state board of elections, obtains the signatures and addresses of that number of registered qualified voters equal to five percent (5%) of the entire vote cast in the state for governor or president in the immediately preceding general election. All the signatures must be obtained no earlier than January 1 of the year in which the political organization desires to place a candidate or candidates on any ballot as a "party" candidate. If the political organization wishes to select its nominees in a primary election, the petitions, bearing the requisite number of valid signatures, shall be presented to the appropriate local boards of canvassers no later than June 1 of the same year. If the petitions are validated by the local boards as containing the requisite number of valid signatures, the political organization shall be deemed to be a political party for all elections held during the year and may select its nominees in a primary election. If the political organization does not wish to

		<p>select its nominees in a primary election, then the petitions need not be returned to local boards of canvassers until August 1 of the same year. An organization qualifying as a political party through the petition process shall qualify as a political party only during the year in which signatures are obtained unless the candidates for governor or president of the United States of the party at a general election held in the year, shall receive five percent (5%) of the vote as provided in this subdivision for either governor or president of the United States. If the candidates do not receive five percent (5%) of the vote, the organization shall no longer qualify as a political party unless and until it shall, in a subsequent year, once again qualify by the submission of petitions. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-1-2.</p>
South Carolina	<p>Signatures from 10,000 registered voters.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Certify candidates in at least one of the last two general elections</p>	<p>Political parties desiring to nominate candidates for offices to be voted on in a general or special election shall, before doing so, have applied to the State Election Commission (Commission) for certification as such. Parties shall nominate candidates of that party on a regular basis, as provided in this title, in order to remain certified. Any certified political party that fails to organize on the precinct level as provided by law, hold county conventions as provided by Sections 7-9-70 and 7-9-80, and hold a state convention as provided by Section 7-9-100; that fails to nominate candidates for national, state, multi-county district, countywide, or less than countywide office by convention or party primary as provided by Sections 7-11-20, 7-11-30, and 7-13-40; and that fails to certify the candidates as provided by Section 7-13-350 in at least one of two consecutive general elections held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November of an even-numbered year, or that fails to nominate and certify candidates in any other election which might be held within the period of time intervening between the two general elections, must be decertified by the State Election Commission. The party must be notified in writing of its decertification at the last address of record. If the notification of decertification is returned as undeliverable, it must be placed on file in the office of the State Election Commission and with the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Any decertified party or any noncertified party, organization, or association may obtain certification as a political party at any time by filing with the Commission a petition for the certification signed by ten thousand or more registered electors residing in this State, giving the name of the party, which must be substantially different from the name of any other party previously certified.</p>

		<p>No petition for certification may be submitted to the Commission later than six months prior to any election in which the political party seeking certification wishes to nominate candidates for public office.</p> <p>At the time a petition is submitted to the Commission for certification, the Commission shall issue a receipt to the person submitting the petition which reflects the date the petition was submitted and the total number of signatures contained therein. Once the petition is received by the Commission, the person submitting the petition shall not submit or add additional signatures.</p> <p>If the Commission determines, after checking the validity of the signatures in the petition, that it does not contain the required signatures of registered electors, the person submitting the petition must be notified and shall not submit any new petition seeking certification as a political party under the same name for one year from the date the petition was rejected. Once a petition for certification has been submitted and rejected by the Commission, the same signatures may not be submitted in any subsequent petition to certify a new political party.</p> <p>Once submitted for verification, a petition for certification may not be returned to the political party, organization, or association seeking certification, but shall become a part of the permanent records of the Commission. S.C. Code Ann. § 7-9-10.</p>
South Dakota	2.5% of the vote for any statewide office at one of the last two elections.	<p>(13) "Political party," beginning with the 2014 general election and each general election thereafter, a party whose candidate for any statewide office received at least two and one-half percent of the total votes cast for that statewide office in either of the two previous general election cycles. S.D. Codified Laws Ann. § 12-1-3.</p>
Tennessee	5% of the vote for governor.	<p>Statewide political parties shall nominate their candidates for the following offices by vote of the members of the party in primary elections at the regular August election:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Governor; (2) Members of the general assembly; (3) United States senator; and (4) Members of the United States house of representatives. Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-13-202. <p>(30) "Statewide political party" means a political party at least one (1) of whose candidates for an office to be elected by voters of the entire state has received a number of votes equal</p>

		<p>to at least five percent (5%) of the total number of votes cast for gubernatorial candidates in the most recent election of governor.</p> <p>(23) "Recognized minor party" means any group or association that has successfully petitioned by filing with the coordinator of elections a petition which shall conform to requirements established by the coordinator of elections, but which must at a minimum bear the signatures of registered voters equal to at least two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the total number of votes cast for gubernatorial candidates in the most recent election of governor, and on each page of the petition, state its purpose, state its name, and contain the names of registered voters from a single county. Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-1-104.</p>
Texas	<p>A party may hold a primary if they received at least 2% of the vote for governor.</p> <p>A party is required to hold a primary if they received over 20% of the vote for governor.</p>	<p>(a) Except as otherwise provided by this code, a political party's nominees in the general election for offices of state and county government and the United States Congress may be nominated by primary election, held as provided by this code, if the party's nominee for governor in the most recent gubernatorial general election received at least two percent but less than 20 percent of the total number of votes received by all candidates for governor in the election. Tex. Election Code Ann. § 172.002.</p> <p>Except as otherwise provided by this code, a political party's nominees in the general election for offices of state and county government and the United States Congress must be nominated by primary election, held as provided by this code, if the party's nominee for governor in the most recent gubernatorial general election received 20 percent or more of the total number of votes received by all candidates for governor in the election. Tex. Election Code Ann. § 172.001.</p>
Utah	<p>2% of the total vote for any candidate equal to 2% or more of the total votes cast for all candidates for the US House of Representatives at one of the last two elections.</p>	<p>(1)(a) Candidates for elective office that are to be filled at the next regular general election shall be nominated in a regular primary election by direct vote of the people in the manner prescribed in this section. The regular primary election is held on the date specified in Section 20A-1-201.5. Nothing in this section shall affect a candidate's ability to qualify for a regular general election's ballot as an unaffiliated candidate under Section 20A-9-501 or to participate in a regular general election as a write-in candidate under Section 20A-9-601.</p> <p>(b) Each registered political party that chooses to have the names of the registered political party's candidates for elective office featured with party affiliation on the ballot at a regular</p>

	<p>Or</p> <p>2,000 signatures from registered voters.</p>	<p>general election shall comply with the requirements of this section and shall nominate the registered political party's candidates for elective office in the manner described in this section. Utah Code Ann. § 20A-9-403.</p> <p>(5) "Registered political party" means an organization of voters that:</p> <p>(a)(i) participated in the last regular general election; and</p> <p>(ii) in at least one of the last two regular general elections, polled a total vote for any of its candidates for any office equal to 2% or more of the total votes cast for all candidates for the United States House of Representatives in the same regular general election; or</p> <p>(b) has complied with the petition and organizing procedures of this chapter. Utah Code Ann. § 20A-8-101.</p> <p>(2) To become a registered political party, an organization of registered voters that is not a continuing political party shall:</p> <p>(a) circulate a petition seeking registered political party status beginning no earlier than the date of the statewide canvass held after the last regular general election and ending before 5 p.m. no later than November 30 of the year before the year in which the next regular general election will be held;</p> <p>(b) file a petition with the lieutenant governor that is signed, with a holographic signature, by at least 2,000 registered voters before 5 p.m. no later than November 30 of the year in which a regular general election will be held; and</p> <p>(c) file, with the petition described in Subsection (2)(b), a document certifying:</p> <p>(i) the identity of one or more registered political parties whose members may vote for the organization's candidates;</p> <p>(ii) whether unaffiliated voters may vote for the organization's candidates; and</p> <p>(iii) whether, for the next election, the organization intends to nominate the organization's candidates in accordance with the provisions of Section 20A-9-406. Utah Code Ann. § 20A-8-103.</p>
Vermont	<p>5% of the vote for any state office and town committees in at least 30 towns.</p>	<p>A primary election shall be held on the second Tuesday in August in each even-numbered year for the nomination of candidates of major political parties for all offices to be voted for</p>

		<p>at the succeeding general election, except candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, their electors, and justices of the peace. Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 17, § 2351.</p> <p>(23) “Political party” is any group of individuals that has organized and filed its certificate of organization with the Secretary of State, pursuant to chapter 45 of this title.</p> <p>(A) A “major political party” is a political party whose candidate for any State office in the most recent general election polled at least five percent of the vote cast for that office.</p> <p>(B) A “minor political party” is any political party that is not a major political party. Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 17, § 2103.</p> <p>(a)(1) Within 10 days after the first meeting of the State committee of a party, the chair and secretary shall file in the office of the Secretary of State a certificate stating that the party has completed its organization for the ensuing two years and has substantially complied with the provisions of this chapter.</p> <p>(2) However, no State committee shall be eligible to file a certificate of organization unless it has town committees organized in at least 30 towns in this State and county committees organized in at least seven counties by January 1 of the year of the general election. Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 17, § 2313.</p>
Virginia	10% of the vote for any statewide office at one of the last two elections.	<p>B. Notwithstanding subsection A, the following provisions shall apply to the determination of the method of making party nominations. A party shall nominate its candidate for election for a General Assembly district where there is only one incumbent of that party for the district by the method designated by that incumbent, or absent any designation by him by the method of nomination determined by the party. A party shall nominate its candidates for election for a General Assembly district where there is more than one incumbent of that party for the district by a primary unless all the incumbents consent to a different method of nomination. A party, whose candidate at the immediately preceding election for a particular office other than the General Assembly (i) was nominated by a primary or filed for a primary but was not opposed and (ii) was elected at the general election, shall nominate a candidate</p>

		<p>for the next election for that office by a primary unless all incumbents of that party for that office consent to a different method. Va. Code § 24.2-509.</p> <p>“Party” or “political party” means an organization of citizens of the Commonwealth which, at either of the two preceding statewide general elections, received at least 10 percent of the total vote cast for any statewide office filled in that election. The organization shall have a state central committee and an office of elected state chairman which have been continually in existence for the six months preceding the filing of a nominee for any office. Va. Code § 24.2-101.</p>
Washington*	5% of the total vote for president.	<p>“Major political party” means a political party whose nominees for president and vice president received at least five percent of the total vote cast at the last presidential election. A political party qualifying as a major political party under this section retains such status until the next presidential election at which the presidential and vice presidential candidates of that party do not achieve at least five percent of the vote. Wash. Rev. Code § 29A.04.086.</p> <p>“Minor political party” means a political organization other than a major political party. Wash. Rev. Code § 29A.04.097</p>
West Virginia	1% of the vote for governor.	<p>(a) At each primary election, the candidate or candidates of each political party for all offices to be filled at the ensuing general election by the voters of the entire state, of each congressional district, of each state senatorial district, of each delegate district, and of each county in the state shall be nominated by the voters of the different political parties, except that no presidential elector shall be nominated at a primary election. W. Va. Code § 3-5-4.</p> <p>Any affiliation of voters representing any principle or organization which, at the last preceding general election, polled for its candidate for governor at least one percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for that office in the state, shall be a political party, within the meaning and for the purpose of this chapter: Provided, That notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the governing body of any municipality may, by ordinance adopted by the affirmative vote of at least three fourths of the members of such governing body by recorded vote, provide that municipal political</p>

		<p>parties or groups within such municipality that do not meet the requirements of this section for classification as a political party may participate in the primary elections of any such municipality. Any such ordinance shall contain provisions implementing the foregoing proviso, which implementing provisions shall conform as nearly as practicable to any general provisions of law relating to municipal primary elections. W. Va. Code § 3-1-8.</p>
Wisconsin	<p>1% of the vote for any statewide office.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>10,000 signatures with at least 1,000 signatures from 3 congressional districts.</p>	<p>(b)1. Except as provided in subd. 2. and s. 5.64(1)(e)2., every recognized political party listed on the official ballot at the last gubernatorial election whose candidate for any statewide office received at least 1 percent of the total votes cast for that office and, if the last general election was also a presidential election, every recognized political party listed on the ballot at that election whose candidate for president received at least 1 percent of the total vote cast for that office shall have a separate primary ballot or one or more separate columns or rows on the primary ballot as prescribed in par. (a) and a separate column on the general election ballot in every ward and election district. An organization which was listed as “independent” at the last general election and whose candidate meets the same qualification shall receive the same ballot status upon petition of the chairperson and secretary of the organization to the commission requesting such status and specifying their party name, which may not duplicate the name of an existing party. A petition under this subdivision may be filed no later than 5 p.m. on April 1 in the year of each general election.</p> <p>(2)(a) Except as provided in par. (b) and s. 5.64(1)(e)2., any political organization may be represented on a separate primary ballot or in one or more separate columns or rows on the primary ballot as prescribed in sub. (1)(a) and in a separate column on the general election ballot in every ward and election district. To qualify for a separate ballot under this paragraph, the political organization shall, not later than 5 p.m. on April 1 in the year of the partisan primary, file with the commission a petition requesting separate ballot status. The petition shall be signed by at least 10,000 electors, including at least 1,000 electors residing in each of at least 3 separate congressional districts. The petition shall conform to the requirements of s. 8.40. No signature obtained before January 1 in the year of filing is valid. When the candidates of a political organization filing a valid petition fulfill the requirements prescribed by law, they shall appear on a separate ballot or one or more separate columns</p>

		or rows on the ballot for the period ending with the following general election. Wis. Stat. § 5.62.
Wyoming	10% of the vote for US House of Representatives, governor or secretary of state.	<p>Major political parties shall participate in the primary election and each shall have a separate party ballot. The primary election of major political parties shall be held at the same time and at the same polling places and shall be conducted by the same election officials. Wyo. Stat. § 22-5-202.</p> <p>(xvii) “Major political party” means a political organization whose candidate for any one (1) of the offices of the United States house of representatives, governor or secretary of state, received not less than ten percent (10%) of the total votes cast for that office in the most recent general election.</p> <p>(xviii) “Minor political party” means a political organization whose candidate for any one (1) of the offices of the United States house of representatives, governor or secretary of state, received not less than two percent (2%) nor more than ten percent (10%) of the total votes cast for that office in the most recent general election. Wyo. Stat. § 22-1-102.</p>