

SENATE BILL NO. 499—COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

MARCH 23, 2015

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Revises certain deadlines relating to elections.
(BDR 24-1149)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to elections; revising deadlines by which certain signature petitions of minor political parties and independent candidates for office must be submitted and filed; revising deadlines by which signatures of certain signature petitions must be verified; revising deadlines by which certain vacancies in nominations for office must be filled; revising deadlines by which certain challenges to candidacies must be filed; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Under existing law, the names of candidates for a partisan office of a minor political party do not appear on the ballot at a primary election. Instead, if the minor political party has qualified as such, either by receiving a certain percentage of votes at the preceding election or by collecting a certain number of signatures, the party can name one candidate for each partisan office, and the name of each such candidate must appear on the general election ballot. (NRS 293.1715) The names of independent candidates for a partisan office also do not appear on the ballot at a primary election. Instead, a person wishing to run as an independent candidate can be named as such on the general election ballot if he or she files a petition with a certain number of signatures. (NRS 293.200)

This bill changes the deadlines by which those petitions for minor political parties and independent candidates must be filed and the deadlines for verifying the signatures on those petitions.

Under existing law, if a minor political party wishes to place a candidate on the ballot for a general election by collecting a certain number of signatures, it must file the petition with the signatures with the Secretary of State not later than the third Friday in May before the general election. (NRS 293.1715) It must also have submitted the petition with the signatures to the applicable county clerk not later



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than 25 days before that May deadline. (NRS 293.172) A person wishing to run as an independent candidate must file a petition with the requisite number of signatures not later than the second Friday after the first Monday in March, and must have submitted a copy of the petition not later than 25 days before that March deadline. (NRS 293.200) A county clerk who receives those petitions must verify the signatures on the petitions within 25 days. (NRS 293.1276, 293.1277, 293.1279)

Sections 8 and 15.5 of this bill change the deadlines for minor political parties and independent candidates, respectively, to file their petitions with signatures to the third Friday in June before the general election. **Sections 9 and 15.5** of this bill change the deadlines for submitting those petitions to the county clerk to not later than 10 days before the filing deadline. **Sections 2-4** of this bill change the deadline for a county clerk to verify the signatures on each petition from 25 days to 10 days.

Under existing law, certain vacancies in nominations must be filled not later than the fourth Friday in June of an election year. (NRS 293.165, 293.166, 293.368) **Sections 5, 6 and 21** of this bill change that deadline to the fourth Friday in July of an election year.

Existing law requires a challenge to the qualification of a minor political party to place the names of candidates on the ballot to be filed in a district court not later than the third Friday in June of an election year. (NRS 293.174) **Section 10** of this bill changes that deadline to the fourth Friday in June. A challenge to the candidacy of an independent candidate must also be filed in district court not later than the third Friday in June. (NRS 293.200) **Section 15.5** of this bill requires that any challenge to the sufficiency of a petition of an independent candidate must be filed in district court also not later than the fourth Friday in June of an election year.

Under existing law, in certain situations in which only one major political party has candidates for a partisan office and there are no minor political party or independent candidates for the office, a primary election is not held and the names of the candidates of the major political party all appear on the ballot at the general election. (NRS 293.260) **Section 17** of this bill provides that, if a major political party has two or more candidates for an office, there must be a primary election regardless of whether there are any minor political party or independent candidates for the office.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 2. NRS 293.1276 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.1276 1. Within 4 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, after the submission of a petition containing signatures which are required to be verified pursuant to NRS 293.128, ~~[293.172, 293.200,]~~ 295.056, 298.109, 306.035 or 306.110, *and within 2 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, after the submission of a petition containing signatures which are required to be verified pursuant to NRS 293.172 or 293.200,* the county clerk shall determine the total number of signatures affixed to the documents and, in the case of a petition for initiative or referendum proposing a constitutional amendment or statewide measure, shall tally the number of signatures for each petition



1 district contained fully or partially within the county and forward
2 that information to the Secretary of State.

3 2. If the Secretary of State finds that the total number of
4 signatures filed with all the county clerks is less than 100 percent of
5 the required number of registered voters, the Secretary of State shall
6 so notify the person who submitted the petition and the county
7 clerks and no further action may be taken in regard to the petition. If
8 the petition is a petition to recall a county, district or municipal
9 officer, the Secretary of State shall also notify the officer with
10 whom the petition is to be filed.

11 3. After the petition is submitted to the county clerk, it must
12 not be handled by any other person except by an employee of the
13 county clerk's office until it is filed with the Secretary of State.

14 4. The Secretary of State may adopt regulations establishing
15 procedures to carry out the provisions of this section.

16 **Sec. 3.** NRS 293.1277 is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 293.1277 1. If the Secretary of State finds that the total
18 number of signatures submitted to all the county clerks is 100
19 percent or more of the number of registered voters needed to declare
20 the petition sufficient, the Secretary of State shall immediately so
21 notify the county clerks. ~~[Within 9 days, excluding Saturdays,~~
22 ~~Sundays and holidays, after]~~ *After the* notification, each of the
23 county clerks shall determine the number of registered voters who
24 have signed the documents submitted in the county clerk's county
25 and, in the case of a petition for initiative or referendum proposing a
26 constitutional amendment or statewide measure, shall tally the
27 number of signatures for each petition district contained or fully
28 contained within the county clerk's county. *This determination*
29 *must be completed within 9 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays*
30 *and holidays, after the notification pursuant to this subsection*
31 *regarding a petition containing signatures which are required to*
32 *be verified pursuant to NRS 293.128, 295.056, 298.109, 306.035 or*
33 *306.110, and within 3 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and*
34 *holidays, after the notification pursuant to this subsection*
35 *regarding a petition containing signatures which are required to*
36 *be verified pursuant to NRS 293.172 or 293.200. For the purpose of*
37 *verification pursuant to this section, the county clerk shall not*
38 *include in his or her tally of total signatures any signature included*
39 *in the incorrect petition district.*

40 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, if more than
41 500 names have been signed on the documents submitted to a
42 county clerk, the county clerk shall examine the signatures by
43 sampling them at random for verification. The random sample of
44 signatures to be verified must be drawn in such a manner that every
45 signature which has been submitted to the county clerk is given an



1 equal opportunity to be included in the sample. The sample must
2 include an examination of at least 500 or 5 percent of the signatures,
3 whichever is greater. If documents were submitted to the county
4 clerk for more than one petition district wholly contained within that
5 county, a separate random sample must be performed for each
6 petition district.

7 3. If a petition district comprises more than one county and the
8 petition is for an initiative or referendum proposing a constitutional
9 amendment or a statewide measure, and if more than 500 names
10 have been signed on the documents submitted for that petition
11 district, the appropriate county clerks shall examine the signatures
12 by sampling them at random for verification. The random sample of
13 signatures to be verified must be drawn in such a manner that every
14 signature which has been submitted to the county clerks within the
15 petition district is given an equal opportunity to be included in the
16 sample. The sample must include an examination of at least 500 or 5
17 percent of the signatures presented in the petition district, whichever
18 is greater. The Secretary of State shall determine the number of
19 signatures that must be verified by each county clerk within the
20 petition district.

21 4. In determining from the records of registration the number
22 of registered voters who signed the documents, the county clerk may
23 use the signatures contained in the file of applications to register to
24 vote. If the county clerk uses that file, the county clerk shall ensure
25 that every application in the file is examined, including any
26 application in his or her possession which may not yet be entered
27 into the county clerk's records. Except as otherwise provided in
28 subsection 5, the county clerk shall rely only on the appearance of
29 the signature and the address and date included with each signature
30 in making his or her determination.

31 5. If:

32 (a) Pursuant to NRS 293.506, a county clerk establishes a
33 system to allow persons to register to vote by computer; or

34 (b) A person registers to vote pursuant to NRS 293D.230 and
35 signs his or her application to register to vote using a digital
36 signature or an electronic signature,

37 the county clerk may rely on such other indicia as prescribed by
38 the Secretary of State in making his or her determination.

39 6. In the case of a petition for initiative or referendum
40 proposing a constitutional amendment or statewide measure, when
41 the county clerk is determining the number of registered voters who
42 signed the documents from each petition district contained fully or
43 partially within the county clerk's county, he or she must use the
44 statewide voter registration list available pursuant to NRS 293.675.



7. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 9, upon completing the examination, the county clerk shall immediately attach to the documents a certificate properly dated, showing the result of the examination, including the tally of signatures by petition district, if required, and transmit the documents with the certificate to the Secretary of State. In the case of a petition for initiative or referendum proposing a constitutional amendment or statewide measure, if a petition district comprises more than one county, the appropriate county clerks shall comply with the regulations adopted by the Secretary of State pursuant to this section to complete the certificate. A copy of this certificate must be filed in the clerk's office. When the county clerk transmits the certificate to the Secretary of State, the county clerk shall notify the Secretary of State of the number of requests to remove a name received by the county clerk pursuant to NRS 295.055 or 306.015.

8. A person who submits a petition to the county clerk which is required to be verified pursuant to NRS 293.128, 293.172, 293.200, 295.056, 298.109, 306.035 or 306.110 must be allowed to witness the verification of the signatures. A public officer who is the subject of a recall petition must also be allowed to witness the verification of the signatures on the petition.

9. For any petition containing signatures which are required to be verified pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.200, 306.035 or 306.110 for any county, district or municipal office within one county, the county clerk shall not transmit to the Secretary of State the documents containing the signatures of the registered voters.

10. The Secretary of State shall by regulation establish further procedures for carrying out the provisions of this section.

Sec. 4. NRS 293.1279 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.1279 1. If the statistical sampling shows that the number of valid signatures filed is 90 percent or more, but less than the sum of 100 percent of the number of signatures of registered voters needed to declare the petition sufficient plus the total number of requests to remove a name received by the county clerks pursuant to NRS 295.055 or 306.015, the Secretary of State shall order the county clerks to examine the signatures for verification. The county clerks shall examine the signatures for verification until they determine that 100 percent of the number of signatures of registered voters needed to declare the petition sufficient are valid. If the county clerks received a request to remove a name pursuant to NRS 295.055 or 306.015, the county clerks may not determine that 100 percent of the number of signatures of registered voters needed to declare the petition sufficient are valid until they have removed each name as requested pursuant to NRS 295.055 or 306.015.



2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if the statistical sampling shows that the number of valid signatures filed in any county is 90 percent or more but less than the sum of 100 percent of the number of signatures of registered voters needed to constitute 10 percent of the number of voters who voted at the last preceding general election in that county plus the total number of requests to remove a name received by the county clerk in that county pursuant to NRS 295.055 or 306.015, the Secretary of State may order the county clerk in that county to examine every signature for verification. If the county clerk received a request to remove a name pursuant to NRS 295.055 or 306.015, the county clerk may not determine that 100 percent or more of the number of signatures of registered voters needed to constitute 10 percent of the number of voters who voted at the last preceding general election in that county are valid until the county clerk has removed each name as requested pursuant to NRS 295.055 or 306.015. In the case of a petition for initiative or referendum that proposes a constitutional amendment or statewide measure, if the statistical sampling shows that the number of valid signatures in any petition district is 90 percent or more but less than the sum of 100 percent of the number of signatures of registered voters required for that petition district pursuant to NRS 295.012 plus the total number of requests to remove a name received by the county clerk or county clerks, if the petition district comprises more than one county, pursuant to NRS 295.055, the Secretary of State may order a county clerk to examine every signature for verification.

3. ~~[Within 12 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, after]~~ *After the* receipt of such an order, the county clerk or county clerks shall determine from the records of registration what number of registered voters have signed the petition and, if appropriate, tally those signatures by petition district. *This determination must be completed within 12 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, after the receipt of an order regarding a petition containing signatures which are required to be verified pursuant to NRS 293.128, 295.056, 298.109, 306.035 or 306.110, and within 5 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, after the receipt of an order regarding a petition containing signatures which are required to be verified pursuant to NRS 293.172 or 293.200.* If necessary, the board of county commissioners shall allow the county clerk additional assistants for examining the signatures and provide for their compensation. In determining from the records of registration what number of registered voters have signed the petition and in determining in which petition district the voters reside, the county clerk must use the statewide voter registration list. The county clerk may rely on



1 the appearance of the signature and the address and date included
2 with each signature in determining the number of registered voters
3 that signed the petition.

4 4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, upon
5 completing the examination, the county clerk or county clerks shall
6 immediately attach to the documents of the petition an amended
7 certificate, properly dated, showing the result of the examination
8 and shall immediately forward the documents with the amended
9 certificate to the Secretary of State. A copy of the amended
10 certificate must be filed in the county clerk's office. In the case of a
11 petition for initiative or referendum to propose a constitutional
12 amendment or statewide measure, if a petition district comprises
13 more than one county, the county clerks shall comply with the
14 regulations adopted by the Secretary of State pursuant to this section
15 to complete the amended certificate.

16 5. For any petition containing signatures which are required to
17 be verified pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.200, 306.035 or
18 306.110 for any county, district or municipal office within one
19 county, the county clerk shall not forward to the Secretary of State
20 the documents containing the signatures of the registered voters.

21 6. Except for a petition to recall a county, district or municipal
22 officer, the petition shall be deemed filed with the Secretary of State
23 as of the date on which the Secretary of State receives certificates
24 from the county clerks showing the petition to be signed by the
25 requisite number of voters of the State.

26 7. If the amended certificates received from all county clerks
27 by the Secretary of State establish that the petition is still
28 insufficient, the Secretary of State shall immediately so notify the
29 petitioners and the county clerks. If the petition is a petition to recall
30 a county, district or municipal officer, the Secretary of State shall
31 also notify the officer with whom the petition is to be filed.

32 8. The Secretary of State shall adopt regulations to carry out
33 the provisions of this section.

34 **Sec. 5.** NRS 293.165 is hereby amended to read as follows:

35 293.165 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.166, a
36 vacancy occurring in a major or minor political party nomination for
37 a partisan office may be filled by a candidate designated by the
38 party central committee of the county or State, as the case may be,
39 of the major political party or by the executive committee of the
40 minor political party subject to the provisions of subsections 3, 4
41 and 5.

42 2. A vacancy occurring in a nonpartisan office or nomination
43 for a nonpartisan office after the close of filing and before 5 p.m. of
44 the fourth Friday in ~~June~~ **July** of the year in which the general
45 election is held must be filled by the person who receives or



received the next highest vote for the nomination in the primary election if a primary election was held for that nonpartisan office. If no primary election was held for that nonpartisan office or if there was not more than one person who was seeking the nonpartisan nomination in the primary election, a person may become a candidate for the nonpartisan office at the general election if the person files a declaration of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy, and pays the fee required by NRS 293.193, on or after 8 a.m. on the third Monday in June and before 5 p.m. on the fourth Friday in ~~June~~ July.

3. If a vacancy occurs in a major political party nomination for a partisan office after the primary election and before 5 p.m. on the fourth Friday in ~~June~~ July of the year in which the general election is held and:

(a) The vacancy occurs because the nominee dies or is adjudicated insane or mentally incompetent, the vacancy may be filled by a candidate designated by the party central committee of the county or State, as the case may be, of the major political party.

(b) The vacancy occurs for a reason other than the reasons described in paragraph (a), the nominee's name must remain on the ballot for the general election and, if elected, a vacancy exists.

4. No change may be made on the ballot for the general election after 5 p.m. on the fourth Friday in ~~June~~ July of the year in which the general election is held. If, after that time and date:

(a) A nominee dies or is adjudicated insane or mentally incompetent; or

(b) A vacancy in the nomination is otherwise created,
→ the nominee's name must remain on the ballot for the general election and, if elected, a vacancy exists.

5. All designations provided for in this section must be filed on or before 5 p.m. on the fourth Friday in ~~June~~ July of the year in which the general election is held. In each case, the statutory filing fee must be paid and an acceptance of the designation must be filed on or before 5 p.m. on the date the designation is filed.

Sec. 6. NRS 293.166 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.166 1. A vacancy occurring in a party nomination for the office of State Senator, Assemblyman or Assemblywoman from a legislative district comprising more than one county may be filled as follows, subject to the provisions of subsections 2, 3 and 4. The county commissioners of each county, all or part of which is included within the legislative district, shall meet to appoint a person who is of the same political party as the former nominee and who actually, as opposed to constructively, resides in the district to fill the vacancy, with the chair of the board of county commissioners of the county whose population residing within the



1 district is the greatest presiding. Each board of county
2 commissioners shall first meet separately and determine the single
3 candidate it will nominate to fill the vacancy. Then, the boards shall
4 meet jointly and the chairs on behalf of the boards shall cast a
5 proportionate number of votes according to the percent, rounded to
6 the nearest whole percent, which the population of its county is of
7 the population of the entire district. Populations must be determined
8 by the last decennial census or special census conducted by the
9 Bureau of the Census of the United States Department of
10 Commerce. The person who receives a plurality of these votes is
11 appointed to fill the vacancy. If no person receives a plurality of the
12 votes, the boards of county commissioners of the respective counties
13 shall each as a group select one candidate, and the nominee must be
14 chosen by drawing lots among the persons so selected.

15 2. If a vacancy occurs in a party nomination for the office of
16 State Senator, Assemblyman or Assemblywoman from a legislative
17 district comprising more than one county after the primary election
18 and before 5 p.m. on the fourth Friday in ~~June~~ July of the year in
19 which the general election is held and:

20 (a) The vacancy occurs because the nominee dies or is
21 adjudicated insane or mentally incompetent, the vacancy may be
22 filled pursuant to the provisions of subsection 1.

23 (b) The vacancy occurs for a reason other than the reasons
24 described in paragraph (a), the nominee's name must remain on the
25 ballot for the general election and, if elected, a vacancy exists.

26 3. No change may be made on the ballot for the general
27 election after 5 p.m. on the fourth Friday in ~~June~~ July of the year
28 in which the general election is held. If, after that time and date:

29 (a) A nominee dies or is adjudicated insane or mentally
30 incompetent; or

31 (b) A vacancy in the nomination is otherwise created,
32 ➤ the nominee's name must remain on the ballot for the general
33 election and, if elected, a vacancy exists.

34 4. The designation of a nominee pursuant to this section must
35 be filed with the Secretary of State on or before 5 p.m. on the fourth
36 Friday in ~~June~~ July of the year in which the general election is
37 held, and the statutory filing fee must be paid with the designation.

38 **Sec. 7.** (Deleted by amendment.)

39 **Sec. 8.** NRS 293.1715 is hereby amended to read as follows:

40 293.1715 1. The names of the candidates for partisan office
41 of a minor political party must not appear on the ballot for a primary
42 election.

43 2. The names of the candidates for partisan office of a minor
44 political party must be placed on the ballot for the general election if
45 the minor political party is qualified. To qualify as a minor political



party, the minor political party must have filed a certificate of existence and be organized pursuant to NRS 293.171, must have filed a list of its candidates for partisan office pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.1725 with the Secretary of State and:

(a) At the last preceding general election, the minor political party must have polled for any of its candidates for partisan office a number of votes equal to or more than 1 percent of the total number of votes cast for the offices of Representative in Congress;

(b) On January 1 preceding a primary election, the minor political party must have been designated as the political party on the applications to register to vote of at least 1 percent of the total number of registered voters in this State; or

(c) Not later than the third Friday in ~~May~~ June preceding the general election, must file a petition with the Secretary of State which is signed by a number of registered voters equal to at least 1 percent of the total number of votes cast at the last preceding general election for the offices of Representative in Congress.

3. The name of only one candidate of each minor political party for each partisan office may appear on the ballot for a general election.

4. A minor political party must file a copy of the petition required by paragraph (c) of subsection 2 with the Secretary of State before the petition may be circulated for signatures.

Sec. 9. NRS 293.172 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.172 1. A petition filed pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 293.1715 may consist of more than one document. Each document of the petition must:

(a) Bear the name of the minor political party and, if applicable, the candidate and office to which the candidate is to be nominated.

(b) Include the affidavit of the person who circulated the document verifying that the signers are registered voters in this State according to his or her best information and belief and that the signatures are genuine and were signed in his or her presence.

(c) Bear the name of a county and be submitted to the county clerk of that county for verification in the manner prescribed in NRS 293.1276 to 293.1279, inclusive, not later than ~~25~~ 10 working days before the last day to file the petition. A challenge to the form of a document must be made in a district court in the county that is named on the document.

(d) Be signed only by registered voters of the county that is named on the document.

2. If the office to which the candidate is to be nominated is a county office, only the registered voters of that county may sign the petition. If the office to which the candidate is to be nominated is a



1 district office, only the registered voters of that district may sign the
2 petition.

3 3. Each person who signs a petition shall also provide the
4 address of the place where he or she resides, the date that he or she
5 signs and the name of the county in which he or she is registered to
6 vote.

7 4. The county clerk shall not disqualify the signature of a voter
8 who failed to provide all the information required by subsection 3 if
9 the voter is registered in the county named on the document.

10 **Sec. 10.** NRS 293.174 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11 293.174 If the qualification of a minor political party to place
12 the names of candidates on the ballot pursuant to NRS 293.1715 is
13 challenged, all affidavits and documents in support of the challenge
14 must be filed not later than 5 p.m. on the ~~third~~ *fourth* Friday in
15 June. Any judicial proceeding resulting from the challenge must be
16 set for hearing not more than 5 days after the ~~third~~ *fourth* Friday in
17 June. A challenge pursuant to this section must be filed with the
18 First Judicial District Court if the petition was filed with the
19 Secretary of State. *The district court in which the challenge is filed
20 shall give priority to such proceedings over all other matters
21 pending with the court, except for criminal proceedings.*

22 **Sec. 11.** (Deleted by amendment.)

23 **Sec. 12.** (Deleted by amendment.)

24 **Sec. 13.** (Deleted by amendment.)

25 **Sec. 14.** (Deleted by amendment.)

26 **Sec. 15.** (Deleted by amendment.)

27 **Sec. 15.5.** NRS 293.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:

28 293.200 1. An independent candidate for partisan office must
29 file with the appropriate filing officer as set forth in NRS 293.185:

30 (a) A copy of the petition of candidacy that he or she intends to
31 subsequently circulate for signatures. The copy must be filed not
32 earlier than the January 2 preceding the date of the election and not
33 later than ~~25~~ *10* working days before the last day to file the
34 petition pursuant to subsection 4. The copy of the petition must be
35 filed with the appropriate filing officer before the petition may be
36 circulated for signatures.

37 (b) Either of the following:

38 (1) A petition of candidacy signed by a number of registered
39 voters equal to at least 1 percent of the total number of ballots cast
40 in:

41 (I) This State for that office at the last preceding general
42 election in which a person was elected to that office, if the office is a
43 statewide office;



(II) The county for that office at the last preceding general election in which a person was elected to that office, if the office is a county office; or

(III) The district for that office at the last preceding general election in which a person was elected to that office, if the office is a district office.

(2) A petition of candidacy signed by 250 registered voters if the candidate is a candidate for statewide office, or signed by 100 registered voters if the candidate is a candidate for any office other than a statewide office.

2. The petition may consist of more than one document. Each document must bear the name of the county in which it was circulated, and only registered voters of that county may sign the document. If the office is not a statewide office, only the registered voters of the county, district or municipality in question may sign the document. The documents that are circulated for signature in a county must be submitted to that county clerk for verification in the manner prescribed in NRS 293.1276 to 293.1279, inclusive, not later than ~~25~~ 10 working days before the last day to file the petition pursuant to subsection 4. Each person who signs the petition shall add to his or her signature the address of the place at which the person actually resides, the date that he or she signs the petition and the name of the county where he or she is registered to vote. The person who circulates each document of the petition shall sign an affidavit attesting that the signatures on the document are genuine to the best of his or her knowledge and belief and were signed in his or her presence by persons registered to vote in that county.

3. The petition of candidacy may state the principle, if any, which the person qualified represents.

4. Petitions of candidacy must be filed not earlier than the first Monday in March preceding the general election and not later than 5 p.m. on the ~~second~~ *third* Friday ~~[after the first Monday in March.]~~ *in June.*

5. No petition of candidacy may contain the name of more than one candidate for each office to be filled.

6. A person may not file as an independent candidate if he or she is proposing to run as the candidate of a political party.

7. The names of independent candidates must be placed on the general election ballot and must not appear on the primary election ballot.

8. If *the sufficiency of the petition of* the candidacy of any person seeking to qualify pursuant to this section is challenged, all affidavits and documents in support of the challenge must be filed not later than 5 p.m. on the fourth ~~Monday~~ *Friday* in ~~March~~ *June*. Any judicial proceeding resulting from the challenge must be



1 set for hearing not more than 5 days after the fourth ~~[Monday]~~
2 *Friday* in ~~[March.]~~ *June*.

3 9. Any challenge pursuant to subsection 8 must be filed with:

4 (a) The First Judicial District Court if the petition of candidacy
5 was filed with the Secretary of State.

6 (b) The district court for the county where the petition of
7 candidacy was filed if the petition was filed with a county clerk.

8 10. *The district court in which the challenge is filed shall give*
9 *priority to such proceedings over all other matters pending with*
10 *the court, except for criminal proceedings.*

11 11. An independent candidate for partisan office must file a
12 declaration of candidacy with the appropriate filing officer and pay
13 the fee required by NRS 293.193 not earlier than the first Monday in
14 March of the year in which the election is held nor later than 5 p.m.
15 on the second Friday after the first Monday in March.

16 **Sec. 16.** (Deleted by amendment.)

17 **Sec. 17.** NRS 293.260 is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 293.260 1. Where there is no contest of election for
19 nomination to a particular office, neither the title of the office nor
20 the name of the candidate may appear on the ballot ~~[.]~~ *at the*
21 *primary election.*

22 2. ~~If more than one major political party has candidates for a~~
23 ~~particular office, the persons who receive the highest number of~~
24 ~~votes at the primary elections must be declared the nominees of~~
25 ~~those parties for the office.~~

26 ~~—3. If only one major political party has candidates for a~~
27 ~~particular office and a minor political party has nominated a~~
28 ~~candidate for the office or an independent candidate has filed for~~
29 ~~the office, the candidate who receives the highest number of votes in~~
30 ~~the primary election of the major political party must be declared the~~
31 ~~nominee of that party and his or her name must be placed on the~~
32 ~~general election ballot with the name of the nominee of the minor~~
33 ~~political party for the office and the name of the independent~~
34 ~~candidate who has filed for the office.~~

35 ~~—4. If only one major political party has candidates for a~~
36 ~~particular office and no minor political party has nominated a~~
37 ~~candidate for the office and no independent candidate has filed for~~
38 ~~the office:~~

39 ~~—(a) If there are more candidates than twice the number to be~~
40 ~~elected to the office, the names of the candidates must appear on the~~
41 ~~ballot for a primary election. Except as otherwise provided in this~~
42 ~~paragraph, the candidates of that party who receive the highest~~
43 ~~number of votes in the primary election, not to exceed twice the~~
44 ~~number to be elected to that office at the general election, must be~~
45 ~~declared the nominees for the office. If only one candidate is to be~~



~~1 elected to the office and a candidate receives a majority of the votes
2 in the primary election for that office, that candidate must be
3 declared the nominee for that office and his or her name must be
4 placed on the ballot for the general election.~~

~~5 —(b) If there are no more than twice the number of candidates to
6 be elected to the office, the candidates must, without a primary
7 election, be declared the nominees for the office.~~

~~8 —5.] If a major political party has two or more candidates for a
9 particular office, the person who receives the highest number of
10 votes at the primary election must be declared the nominee of that
11 major political party for the office.~~

12 **3.** Where no more than the number of candidates to be elected
13 have filed for nomination for:

14 (a) Any partisan office, the office of judge of the Court of
15 Appeals or the office of justice of the Supreme Court, the names of
16 those candidates must be omitted from all ballots for a primary
17 election and placed on all ballots for a general election;

18 (b) Any nonpartisan office, other than the office of justice of the
19 Supreme Court, office of judge of the Court of Appeals or the office
20 of member of a town advisory board, the names of those candidates
21 must appear on the ballot for a primary election unless the
22 candidates were nominated pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS
23 293.165. If a candidate receives one or more votes at the primary
24 election, the candidate must be declared elected to the office and his
25 or her name must not be placed on the ballot for the general
26 election. If a candidate does not receive one or more votes at the
27 primary election, his or her name must be placed on the ballot for
28 the general election; and

29 (c) The office of member of a town advisory board, the
30 candidate must be declared elected to the office and no election
31 must be held for that office.

32 ~~[6.]~~ **4.** If there are more candidates than twice the number to be
33 elected to a nonpartisan office, the names of the candidates must
34 appear on the ballot for a primary election. Those candidates who
35 receive the highest number of votes at that election, not to exceed
36 twice the number to be elected, must be declared nominees for the
37 office.

38 **Sec. 18.** (Deleted by amendment.)

39 **Sec. 19.** (Deleted by amendment.)

40 **Sec. 20.** (Deleted by amendment.)

41 **Sec. 21.** NRS 293.368 is hereby amended to read as follows:

42 293.368 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 of
43 NRS 293.165, if a candidate on the ballot at a primary election dies
44 after 5 p.m. of the second Tuesday in April, the deceased
45 candidate's name must remain on the ballot and the votes cast for



1 the deceased candidate must be counted in determining the
2 nomination for the office for which the decedent was a candidate.

3 2. If the deceased candidate on the ballot at the primary
4 election receives the number of votes required to receive the
5 nomination to the office for which he or she was a candidate, except
6 as otherwise provided in subsection 2 of NRS 293.165, the deceased
7 candidate shall be deemed nominated and the vacancy in the
8 nomination must be filled as provided in NRS 293.165 or 293.166.
9 If the deceased person was a candidate for a nonpartisan office, the
10 nomination must be filled pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 293.165.

11 3. Whenever a candidate whose name appears upon the ballot
12 at a general election dies after 5 p.m. on the fourth Friday in ~~June~~
13 ~~July~~ of the year in which the general election is held, the votes cast
14 for the deceased candidate must be counted in determining the
15 results of the election for the office for which the decedent was a
16 candidate.

17 4. If the deceased candidate on the ballot at the general election
18 receives the majority of the votes cast for the office, the deceased
19 candidate shall be deemed elected and the office to which he or she
20 was elected shall be deemed vacant at the beginning of the term for
21 which he or she was elected. The vacancy thus created must be
22 filled in the same manner as if the candidate had died after taking
23 office for that term.

24 **Sec. 22.** (Deleted by amendment.)

25 **Sec. 23.** (Deleted by amendment.)

26 **Sec. 24.** (Deleted by amendment.)

27 **Sec. 25.** (Deleted by amendment.)

28 **Sec. 26.** (Deleted by amendment.)

29 **Sec. 27.** (Deleted by amendment.)

30 **Sec. 28.** (Deleted by amendment.)

31 **Sec. 29.** (Deleted by amendment.)

32 **Sec. 30.** (Deleted by amendment.)

33 **Sec. 31.** (Deleted by amendment.)

