



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**  
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[www.hawaii.gov/elections](http://www.hawaii.gov/elections)

**FACTSHEET**

**THE PETITION PROCESS TO QUALIFY A  
POLITICAL PARTY FOR ELECTION BALLOT PURPOSES  
IN THE STATE OF HAWAII**

This factsheet is provided for informational purposes only. Refer to Sections 11-61 through 11-65 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes for information dealing with political parties.

**PETITION FOR QUALIFICATION (HRS §11-62)**

1. Groups desiring to qualify a new political party in Hawaii for election ballot purposes should contact the Chief Election Officer to request the petition.
2. Prior to receiving the petition, the group must complete an application for the petition and provide the following:
  - (1) The name of the group;
  - (2) The address and telephone number of the group; and
  - (3) The name and telephone number of a contact person for the group
3. The petition for qualification as a political party shall:
  - (1) Declare the intention of the signers thereof to qualify as a political party and state the name of the new party;
  - (2) Contain signatures of currently registered voters comprising not less than one-tenth of one per cent of the total registered voters of the State as of the last preceding General Election (662,728 registered in 2006 General Election = 663 signatures required); and
  - (3) Be upon a form prescribed and provided by the Chief Election Officer.
4. The petition shall be filed by 4:30 p.m. on the 170th day prior to the next Primary Election with the Chief Election Officer in the Office of Elections. This deadline is **April 3, 2008**.

5. The petition shall be accompanied by the following:
  - (1) The names and addresses of the officers of the central committee of the political party;
  - (2) The names and addresses of the officers of the respective county committees of the political party; and
  - (3) The party rules.
6. If no objections are raised by 4:30 p.m. on the 20th business day after the petition has been filed, the petition shall be approved.

#### **PARTY RULES (HRS §11-63)**

1. Party rules must be submitted with the petition forms when they are filed. All other political parties must file party rules by 4:30 p.m. on the 150th day prior to the next Primary Election with the Chief Election Officer in the Office of Elections. This deadline is **April 23, 2008**.
2. All amendments to party rules shall be filed not later than 4:30 p.m. on the 30th day after their adoption.
3. All rules and amendments must be certified by an authorized officer of the party, and upon filing, shall become public record.

#### **WITHDRAWAL OF SIGNATURES FROM THE PETITION (HRS §11-6)**

A voter who signs a petition and seeks to withdraw his/her signature from the petition may do so if the petition has not yet been filed with the chief election officer.

1. A voter who seeks to withdraw the voter's signature from a petition must submit a notice in writing to the chief election officer any time before the filing of the petition. The notice shall include the voter's:
  - (1) Name;
  - (2) Social security number;
  - (3) Residence address;
  - (4) Date of birth; and
  - (5) Signature with the name under which the voter is registered to vote.
2. Upon receipt of that notice containing the information required by HRS §11-6, the chief election officer shall notify the group or individual to whom the petition was issued and the signature of the individual shall not be counted.

## **OBJECTIONS (HRS §11-62)**

1. The petition shall be subject to a hearing under Chapter 91 should objections be raised by the Chief Election Officer or any political party. Objections must be filed not later than 4:30 p.m. on the twentieth business day after the petition has been filed. The Chief Election Officer may extend the objection period up to an additional ten business days, if the group of persons desiring to qualify as a political party is provided with notice of extension and the reasons therefore. All decisions shall be rendered not later than 4:30 p.m. on the thirtieth day after filing of the objection or not later than 4:30 p.m. on the one hundredth day prior to the Primary Election, whichever occurs first. If no objections are raised by the deadline, the petition shall be approved.
2. The Chief Election Officer may check the names of any persons on the petition to see that they are registered voters and may check the validity of their signatures. Upon filing, the petition shall become public record.

## **ELECTION DATES**

The Primary Election will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2008.

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CORRECTLY COMPLETING THE PETITION FORM

1. The petition can **only** be verified on the basis of the information contained on it.
  - a. The information is compared with the information contained in the official voter register.
  - b. If a voter provides information that is **illegible or inconsistent** with the information in the official voter register, **this may result in the signature not being counted.**

Examples of this are the voter provides an incorrect address, social security number, or date of birth. This frequently results from illegible handwriting or a voter transposing numbers.

2. Do not separate the petition sets. Use black ink for all signatures.
3. The voter's signature **must** match the signature on his/her most recent voter registration affidavit. This signature will be used for any necessary signature validity checks.
4. The voter's **residence address** where he/she is registered to vote must be recorded.

The voter should not use an address to which the voter has moved subsequently to registering and has failed to make the change of registration required by law.

**Mailing addresses are not acceptable.**

5. If you need additional petition sets, contact the Office of Elections at (808) 453-VOTE (8683). Allow a minimum of five business days for preparation of the petition sets.

This Fact Sheet is intended for informational purposes only and should not be used as an authority on the Hawaii election law and candidate deadlines. Requirements and/or deadlines may change pending changes in legislation. Consult the Hawaii Revised Statutes and other sources for more detailed and accurate requirements.

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