

# North Carolina State Board of Elections

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## *Write-in Petition - 2019 Special Elections for U.S. House District 3*

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### Special General Election Date is July 9, 2019

A person who seeks to become a write-in candidate Congress must submit a petition signed by **250 qualified North Carolina voters registered in the affected counties**. Completed petitions for these offices are subject to two deadlines:

**1<sup>st</sup> deadline:** The petitioner must file signature pages with the appropriate county board of elections by **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2019** (15 days before the final documentation is due to the State Board).

Petition signature pages must be segregated by county; each signature page must be submitted to the board of elections for the county in which the signatures on given page were gathered.

Verification of the signatures must be completed by staff of the county boards of elections in time to return the verified signature pages to the petitioner.

**2<sup>nd</sup> deadline:** The petitioner must submit the petition (comprising all of the verified signature pages) and a **declaration of intent to the State Board** by noon on the 90<sup>th</sup> day before the general election, **Wednesday, April 10, 2019**.

### The Write-in Petition Process

#### 1) What is the process for qualifying as a write-in candidate by petition?<sup>1</sup>

A prospective write-in candidate must first complete and submit a [petition request form](#) to the State Board of Elections (State Board). In response, the State Board will:

- a) return the form completed with the required number of signatures (250) and the deadlines that the petitioner must meet and
- b) provide a write-in petition signature sheet template that is customized for the candidate and contest.

The petitioner will make as many copies of this template as he or she requires.

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<sup>1</sup> Write-in candidate: [prev. § 163-123]; text currently available online under [§ 163A-1006](#).

The petitioner must collect signatures of registered voters *who are eligible to vote for the office* the petitioner is seeking. These signers must therefore be residents of the jurisdiction of that office.

The fields on the petition sheet that requests the signer's residential address is important for this process, especially if the signer bears a common name, since county staff must be able to determine that the signer is a registered voter residing in that county.

## **2) What happens as (or after) the petitioner gathers signatures?**

The counties within the affected district will verify that the signatures were made by registered voters.

Since the write-in petition is for a contest that falls under state jurisdiction, the affected counties, after verifying the signatures, will return the original signatures sheets to the petitioner, along with a report that says how many signatures were verified. The petitioner must then submit both the original signature pages and the counties' reports ("certifications") to the State Board by the deadline.

The petitioner will also submit a *declaration of intent* with the completed petition when all the required signatures have been gathered. A declaration of intent is a signed, dated document that includes the applicant's name, residential address, a statement of the applicant's intent to be a write-in candidate, the title of the office sought, and the date of the election. To access a template for a declaration of intent, please use [this link](#).

**3) What is the filing fee?** There is no filing fee for a write-in candidate.

## **4) What are the campaign reporting requirements?**

Campaign reporting requirements for candidates to Congress are provided by the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, P.L. 92-225, as amended ([Title 252, U.S.C. Chapter 301](#)).

Candidates for Congress should contact the Federal Election Commission (FEC) for requirements for registering a campaign finance committee. The FEC has a toll-free phone number, 1-800-424-9530 and a website: <https://www.fec.gov/>.

Candidates for Congress need not register a campaign finance committee with the North Carolina State Board of Elections unless they intend to contribute to other North Carolina candidates.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Statements filed with Board: [prev. § 163-278.9]; text currently available under [§ 163A-1418](#).