



STATE OF MICHIGAN
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS
LANSING

January 2019

-- NEW POLITICAL PARTY QUALIFICATION --

A political party is required to file the following in order to gain access to the November 3, 2020 general election ballot: (1) a “new political party” petition containing the requisite number of valid signatures, and (2) a certificate which states the name of the party, signed by the chairperson and the secretary of the political party’s state central committee.

Minimum Number of Valid Signatures: To meet the petition requirement, a political party must file a “new political party” petition bearing the signatures of registered and qualified electors equal to not less than 1 percent (.01) of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for governor at the last election in which a governor was elected. At the November 6, 2018 general election, 4,250,585 votes were cast for all candidates seeking the office of governor. Thus, the minimum number of valid signatures presently required on a “new political party” petition is 42,506.

Signature Distribution: At least 100 signatures from each of at least ½ of the congressional districts in the state.

Circulation Period: 180 days preceding filing date. Signatures that are more than 180 days old on the date the petition is filed are not valid and will not be counted.

Filing Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on July 16, 2020. Once a “new political party” petition is filed, additional petition sheets cannot be added to the filing.

Filing Location: Michigan Department of State’s Bureau of Elections in Lansing.

Form: The form of the petition (including page size and type sizes) must be in conformity with Michigan election law, MCL 168.685. (See attached sample petition form.) Note that petition forms must be printed on paper that is 8.5 by 13 inches. Id.

The sponsors of a “new political party” petition are urged to submit a proof copy of their petition to the Board of State Canvassers for approval as to form prior to the circulation of the petition. The attached “Printer’s Affidavit” must accompany a petition submitted for Board approval.

Circulator Qualifications: The circulator of a new political party petition is not required to reside or be registered to vote in Michigan. Thus, the sponsor of a new political party

petition may utilize a petition circulator who resides out-of-state, so long as the circulator is age 18 years or older and a United States Citizen. MCL 168.544c(1), (3). The Certificate of Circulator must read as follows:

CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR

The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen; that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence; that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once; and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a qualified registered elector of the city or township indicated preceding the signature, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross or check mark in the box provided, otherwise each signature on this petition sheet is invalid and the signatures will not be counted by a filing official. By making a cross or check mark in the box provided, the undersigned circulator asserts that he or she is not a resident of Michigan and agrees to accept the jurisdiction of this state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that concerns a petition sheet executed by the circulator and agrees that legal process served on the Secretary of State or a designated agent of the Secretary of State has the same effect as if personally served on the circulator.

Following the certificate of circulator printed on the signature side of the petition, the sponsor of a new political party petition must print the following:

CIRCULATOR – Do not sign or date certificate until after circulating petition.

_____/_____
Signature of Circulator Date

Printed Name of Circulator

Complete Residence Address (Street and Number or Rural Route) Do not enter a post office box

City or Township, State, Zip Code

County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan

Governing Provisions of Michigan Election Law: Links to provisions of Michigan election law governing ballot access by new political parties follow:

- [MCL 168.532](#)
- [MCL 168.534](#)
- [MCL 168.544c](#)

[MCL 168.560a](#)
[MCL 168.685](#)
[MCL 168.686](#)
[MCL 168.686a](#)
[MCL 168.686b](#)
[MCL 168.687](#)
[MCL 168.692a](#)

A copy of the compiled Michigan election law may be obtained for \$7.50 from the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections. The compiled Michigan election law can also be accessed through the Michigan Legislature website, www.legislature.mi.gov, at this [link](#).

Questions?

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Michigan Department of State
Bureau of Elections
P.O. Box 20126
Lansing, Michigan 48901-0726
Telephone: (800) 292-5973
Fax: (517) 373-0941
Email: elections@michigan.gov
Web: www.michigan.gov/elections

The sponsors of new political party petitions are urged to submit a proof copy of their petition to the Board of State Canvassers for approval as to form prior to the circulation of the petition. When submitting a petition form for approval, the Board requests that this affidavit be attached.

PRINTER'S AFFIDAVIT

I, _____, being duly sworn, depose and say:

1. That I prepared the attached petition proof.
2. That the size of the petition is 8.5 inches by 13 inches.
3. That the words, "PETITION TO FORM A NEW POLITICAL PARTY" and the name of the proposed party are printed in 24-point boldface type.
4. That the words, "We, the undersigned, duly registered electors . . ." are printed in 8-point type.
5. That the two warning statements and language contained therein are printed in 12-point boldface type.
6. That the words, "CIRCULATOR – Do not sign or date . . ." are printed in 12-point boldface type.
7. That the balance of the petition is printed in 8-point type.
8. That the font used in the petition is _____.
9. That to the best of my knowledge and belief, the petition conforms to the petition form standards prescribed by Michigan Election Law.

Printer's Signature

Name of Proposed Political Party

Notary Public, State of Michigan, County of _____.

Acting in the County of _____ (where required).

My commission expires _____.

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this ___ day of _____, 20___,

by _____.

Name of Affiant

Signature of Notary Public

Name of Notary Public

PETITION TO FORM NEW POLITICAL PARTY

We, the undersigned, duly registered electors of the county of _____, state of Michigan, residing at the places set opposite our names, respectfully request the secretary of state, in accordance with section 665 of the Michigan election law 1954 PA 115, MCL 168.665, to receive the certificate and signets accompanying this petition, and place the names of the candidates of the **Working Class Party** on the ballot at the November 3, 2016 election.

WARNING: A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY SIGNS PETITIONS TO ORGANIZE MORE THAN 1 NEW STATE POLITICAL PARTY, SIGNS A PETITION TO ORGANIZE A NEW STATE POLITICAL PARTY MORE THAN ONCE, OR SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN IS VIOLATING THE PROVISIONS OF THE MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW.

INDICATE CITY OR TOWNSHIP IN WHICH REGISTERED TO VOTE	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING		
					MONTH	DAY	YEAR
1. CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>							
2. CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>							
3. CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>							
4. CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>							
5. CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>							
6. CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>							
7. CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>							
8. CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>							
9. CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>							
10. CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>							
11. CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>							
12. CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>							

CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR

The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen; that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence, that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once; and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a qualified registered elector of the city or township indicated preceding the signature, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross (X) or check mark (✓) in this box provided, otherwise each signature on this petition shall be invalid and the signatures will not be counted by a filing official. By making a cross or check mark in the box provided, the undersigned circulator asserts that he or she is not a resident of Michigan and agrees to accept the jurisdiction of this state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that concerns a petition filed executed by the circulator and agrees that legal process served on the Secretary of State or a designated agent of the Secretary of State has the same effect as if personally served on the circulator.

WARNING -- A CIRCULATOR KNOWINGLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN THE ABOVE CERTIFICATE, A PERSON NOT A CIRCULATOR WHO SIGNS AS A CIRCULATOR, OR A PERSON WHO SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN AS CIRCULATOR IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.

Paid for by the Working Class Party, 9250 Greenfield Detroit MI 48213

CIRCULATOR -- DO NOT SIGN OR DATE CERTIFICATE UNTIL AFTER CIRCULATING PETITION.

Signature of Circulator _____ Date _____
 Printed Name of Circulator _____

Complete Residence Address (Street and Number or Rural Route) Do not enter a post office box

 City or Township, State, Zip Code _____

County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan _____