

## **Independent/Unrecognized Political Party Candidates for President For 2008**

Oklahoma law makes provision for Independent candidates and candidates of political parties not recognized in this state to gain ballot access for the office of President at the General Election. Sections 10-101.1 (Independent) and 10-101.2 (Unrecognized Party) of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes set forth the manner in which those candidates may gain ballot access.

1. Ballot access is by way of petition.
2. A candidate of an unrecognized political party must file a notice of intent to circulate the petition prior to gathering any signatures. **Independent candidates are not required to file a notice of intent.**
3. A total of 43,913 signatures (3% of the votes cast for President in 2004) are required on the petition.
4. The petition may be signed by any person who is a registered voter in Oklahoma.
5. Only names of voters from a single county may sign any given petition page (i.e., voters from Cleveland County cannot sign on the same page as voters from Oklahoma County.).
6. The petition, bearing the required number of signatures, must be submitted to the Oklahoma State Election Board office, Room B-6, State Capitol building, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, no later than July 15, 2008.

## **Oklahoma Statutes Citationized**

### **Title 26. Elections**

#### **Chapter A1**

#### **Article Article X**

#### **Section 10-101.1 - Candidates Pledged to Independent Candidate for President.**

The names of a slate of candidates for the office of Presidential Elector pledged to an Independent candidate for President of the United States shall be printed on the ballot only by observing the following procedure:

1. No later than July 15 of a presidential election year, petitions signed by a number of registered voters supporting the candidacy of said candidate for President of the United States equal to at least three percent (3%) of the total votes cast in the last General Election for President shall be filed with the Secretary of the State Election Board. The form of said petitions shall be prescribed by the Secretary. Each page of said petitions must contain the names of registered voters from a single county.
2. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of said petitions, the State Election Board shall determine the sufficiency of said petitions.
3. If the petitions are found to be sufficient, the Independent candidate for President of the United States shall, no later than September 1, certify to the Secretary of the State Election Board the names of the nominees for Presidential Elector pledged to him and the name of his Vice Presidential running mate. Each candidate for Presidential Elector so nominated shall subscribe to an oath stating

that, if elected, he will cast his ballot for the candidate who nominated him and for said candidate's Vice Presidential running mate. Said oath shall be filed with the Secretary of the State Election Board no later than September 15.

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#### **Section 10-104 - Qualifications.**

The electors for President and Vice President, hereinafter referred to as Presidential Electors, shall be registered voters of Oklahoma; provided, however, that no United States Senator or United States Representative or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States shall be a Presidential Elector.