

of candidacy is a final act of withdrawal; and a person who files such a certificate of withdrawal may not reinstate his candidacy, unless the time limit for the filing of candidacies has not expired. No filing fees shall be refunded to persons who withdraw in accordance with this section, subject, however, to § 4A-7 of this article.

(2) Board offices shall be open and certificates of withdrawal of candidacy shall be accepted until nine (9) p.m. on the last day for withdrawing.

§ 12-2. Primary election for candidate for President and delegates to national convention.

(a) Manner of becoming candidate for nomination for President; withdrawal of candidacy.—Any person who is a candidate for the nomination of a party which must nominate candidates for State public office by means of primary elections under the provisions of this article, for the office of President of the United States, and who desires to obtain the vote of the delegates from Maryland of the party in its national convention, may become a candidate for nomination in primary elections to be held in accordance with the provisions of this article only:

(1) By direction of the Secretary of State who shall place the name of the candidate upon the ballot no sooner than 70 days nor later than 53 days preceding the date set by law for the primary election when he has determined in his sole discretion that the candidate's candidacy is generally advocated or recognized in national news media throughout the United States, unless the candidate executes and files with the Secretary of State an affidavit stating without qualification that he is not and does not intend to become a candidate for the office at the forthcoming election;

(2) By making the payment required and by filing with the State Administrative Board of Election Laws, a petition in the form prescribed by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws which shall contain the signatures of not less than 400 of the registered voters within each congressional district, at least 53 days preceding the date set by law for the primary election. Nothing in this section shall require compliance with § 7-1.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, whenever any person who has been nominated in any presidential primary election, in a writing signed by him and acknowledged before a [justice of the peace or] notary public, notifies the officer or board with whom the certificate of candidacy, or petition for nomination, or name is required to be filed by this article, at least forty-five (45) days before the primary that he desires to withdraw as a candidate for the nomination, his name shall be withdrawn and the name of any person so withdrawing shall not be printed upon the ballots to be used at the presidential primary election. The filing of a valid certificate of withdrawal of candidacy is a final act of withdrawal; and a person who files a certificate of withdrawal may not reinstate his candidacy, unless the time limit for the filing of candidacies has not expired. No filing fees shall be refunded to persons who withdraw in accordance with this section, subject, however, to § 4A-7 of this article. Nothing in this section shall apply to a candidate who qualifies under § 12-2 (a) (1).