

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 33 - Election Code

9-1.

The times designated in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section for declining nominations and for withdrawal of certificates of candidacy and for board offices to be open are mandatory and the provisions of these paragraphs shall also be applicable to municipal elections in Baltimore City. The provisions of these paragraphs shall not be applicable to elections pursuant to § 22-1(b) of this article, and any right of withdrawal in such elections shall be limited to whatever is set forth in the Governor's proclamation, provided, however, that said proclamation by the Governor must contain a provision which allows any person who has filed a certificate of candidacy pursuant to § 22-1(b) of this article to withdraw such certificate within two days after the final filing date as established in § 4A-3 of this article.

(a) (1) ~~Whenever~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 12-2 (c) OF THIS ARTICLE, WHENEVER any person who has filed a certificate of candidacy for nomination in any primary election shall, in a writing signed by him, and acknowledged before a notary public, notify the officer or board with whom the certificate of candidacy is required to be filed by this article, within [18] 10 days after the final filing date established in § 4A-3 of this article that he desires to withdraw as a candidate for such nomination, the certificate of candidacy shall thereupon be and become void; and the name of any person so withdrawing shall not be printed upon the ballots to be used at the primary election. The filing of a valid certificate of withdrawal 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.

12-2.

(a) Whenever a party uses a primary election to nominate a candidate for President of the United States, any person who desires to run in the primary election may become a candidate for nomination only:

(1) By direction of the Secretary of State who shall place the name of the candidate upon the ballot no sooner than 70 [70] 90 days nor later than 53 [53] 70 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