

(c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a petition for the formation of a new political party, or any additional signatures to a petition, may be filed at any time.

(2) A petition for the formation of a new political party, or any additional signatures to a petition, may be filed:

(i) In the year of an election at which the President is elected except:

1. During the period of time that registration is closed before and after a primary election in accordance with § 3-302(a) of this article; and

2. After the first Monday in August until registration reopens after the general election in accordance with § 3-302(a) of this article;

(ii) In the year of an election at which the Governor is elected, except after the first Monday in August until registration reopens after the general election in accordance with § 3-302(a) of this article; or

(iii) When a special primary election and a special election are proclaimed by the Governor in accordance with § 8-710 of this article except:

1. After the fifth Monday before the special primary election through the tenth day following the special primary election; and

2. After the fifth Monday before the special election through the fifteenth day following the special election.

(d) (1) (i) If the petition is certified under Title 6 of this article, the State Board shall promptly notify the State chairman of the partisan organization.

(ii) Upon the filing of a constitution and bylaws with the State Board by a partisan organization in accordance with subsection (e) of this section, the State Board shall:

1. Review the constitution and bylaws to determine whether the constitution and bylaws meet the requirements of subsection (e) of this section; and

2. If the constitution and bylaws meet the requirements of subsection (e) of this section, promptly notify the partisan organization designated in the petition that it is considered a State political party for the purposes of this article.

(2) If the petition does not meet the requirements of this section and of Title 6 of this article:

(i) The State Board shall declare the petition insufficient;

(ii) The partisan organization is not a State political party for the purposes of this article; and

(iii) The State Board shall promptly notify the State chairman of the partisan organization.