

(2) (i) Appended to the petition shall be papers bearing the signatures of at least ~~10,000~~ ~~1% OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF~~ registered voters WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE STATE AS OF THE 1ST DAY OF THE MONTH IN WHICH THE PETITION IS SUBMITTED.

(ii) Signatures on the petition must have been affixed to the petition not more than 2 years before the filing date of the last qualifying signature.

(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 1st 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 1st 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 5th Monday before the special primary election through the 10th day following the special primary election; and

2. After the 5th Monday before the special election through the 15th 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.