

(2) THEREAFTER, THE POLITICAL PARTY SHALL RETAIN ITS STATUS AS A POLITICAL PARTY THROUGH EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING:

(I) IF THE POLITICAL PARTY HAS NOMINATED A CANDIDATE FOR THE HIGHEST OFFICE ON THE BALLOT IN A STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION, AND THE CANDIDATE RECEIVES AT LEAST 1% OF THE TOTAL VOTE FOR THAT OFFICE, THE POLITICAL PARTY SHALL RETAIN ITS STATUS THROUGH DECEMBER 31 IN THE YEAR OF THE NEXT FOLLOWING GENERAL ELECTION; OR

(II) IF THE STATE VOTER REGISTRATION TOTALS, AS OF DECEMBER 31, SHOW THAT AT LEAST 1% OF THE STATE'S REGISTERED VOTERS ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE POLITICAL PARTY, THE POLITICAL PARTY SHALL RETAIN ITS STATUS UNTIL THE NEXT FOLLOWING DECEMBER 31.

(b) The State Board shall promptly notify the State chairman of a group that loses its status as a political party.

(c) A group that loses its status as a political party may regain that status only by complying with all the requirements for qualifying as a new party under § 4-101 of this subtitle.

~~5-703.~~

~~(e) (1) A candidate who seeks nomination by petition may not have the candidate's name placed on the general election ballot unless the candidate files with the appropriate board petitions signed by:~~

~~(i) In the case of an office voted on by the voters of the entire State,] not less than 1% of the total number of registered voters who are eligible to vote [in the State; and~~

~~(ii) In the case of an office not voted on by the voters of the entire State, not less than 3 percent of the registered voters who are eligible to vote] for the office for which the nomination is sought, EXCEPT THAT THE PETITIONS SHALL BE SIGNED BY AT LEAST 250 REGISTERED VOTERS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE FOR THE OFFICE.~~

~~(2) The petitions shall be filed as required in Title 6 of this article.~~

~~(3) The number of registered voters required to satisfy the requirements of paragraph (1) of this section shall be determined as of the deadline for changing party affiliation before the primary election for which the nomination is sought.~~

~~5-703.~~

(e) (1) A candidate who seeks nomination by petition may not have the candidate's name placed on the general election ballot unless the candidate files with the appropriate board petitions signed by:

(i) In the case of an office voted on by the voters of the entire State,] not less than 1% of the total number of registered voters who are eligible to vote [in the State; and