

(2) In a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of Representative in Congress, a petition that contains the required number of signatures shall be filed with the State Board by 5 p.m. on the day of the special primary election, OR IF THERE IS ONLY A SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION, ON THE DAY BY WHICH THE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEES OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES MUST DESIGNATE THEIR CANDIDATES UNDER § 8-710(E) OF THIS ARTICLE FOR THE SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION.

8-202.

(a) A principal political party, as determined by the statement of registration issued by the State Board:

(1) shall use the primary election to:

(i) nominate its candidates for public office; and

(ii) elect all members of the local central committees of the political party; and

(2) may use the primary election in the year of a presidential election to elect delegates to a national presidential nominating convention.

(b) Except for a nominee for President or Vice President, the name of a nominee of a principal political party may not appear on the ballot in a general election if the individual has not:

(1) been nominated in the primary election; [or]

(2) been designated to fill a vacancy in nomination in accordance with Subtitle 5 of this title; OR

(3) BEEN DESIGNATED TO BE A CANDIDATE IN A SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBTITLE 7 OF THIS TITLE.

(c) If a political party chooses to permit voters not affiliated with the party to vote in the party's primary election, the chairman of the party's State central committee shall so notify the State Board at least 6 months before the date of the primary election.

8-710.

(a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, [if there is a vacancy in the office of Representative in Congress,] the Governor shall issue a