

(d) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if the vacancy occurs or becomes known to the Governor during the period beginning 120 days before the regular primary election for Representatives in Congress and ending 40 days before the primary election, the Governor's proclamation shall order that:

(i) the special primary election shall be merged with the regular primary election;

(ii) any individual who files a certificate of candidacy for the regular primary election shall be deemed to have filed a certificate of candidacy for the special primary election; and

(iii) any other qualified individual may file a certificate of candidacy, for both the special primary election and the regular primary election, not later than 9 p.m. on the day that is 2 days after the issuance of the proclamation.

(2) A vote cast for a candidate in the merged primary election shall be deemed a vote for that candidate in both the special primary election and the regular primary election.

(3) Two certificates of nomination, one for the special primary election and one for the regular primary election, shall be issued to each candidate nominated in the merged primary election.

(4) Notwithstanding any provision of this article:

(i) a nominee for the special primary election may decline the nomination by notifying the State Board not later than 5 p.m. on the Wednesday following the primary election;

(ii) the appropriate political party shall fill the vacancy in nomination not later than 5 p.m. on the Thursday following the primary election; and

(iii) a petition for recount and recanvass of the special primary election shall be filed not later than 5 p.m. on the Wednesday following the primary election.

(E) (1) IF THE OFFICE BECOMES VACANT, OR WILL BECOME VACANT, DUE TO RESIGNATION, AFTER THE DATE OF THE REGULAR PRIMARY ELECTION, THE GOVERNOR MAY ISSUE A PROCLAMATION PROVIDING:

(I) THAT A SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION ~~MAY~~ NOT BE HELD;