



2020 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 183

SENATE ENGROSSED

Introduced by: **Senator Lake**

1 **An Act to revise the signature requirements for the nominating petitions for certain**
 2 **elected offices.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1.** That § 12-6-7 be AMENDED:

5 **12-6-7. Nominating petitions--Several sheets--Signature requirements.**

6 A nominating petition may be composed of several sheets, each sheet shall have
 7 identical headings printed at the top and shall be a self-contained sheet of paper. The
 8 petition for a candidate for the Legislature shall designate the senatorial or representative
 9 district number and house for which the person is a candidate.

10 The petition for party office or political public office for a state or federal candidate
 11 shall be signed by not less than one percent of the voters who voted for that party's
 12 gubernatorial candidate at the last gubernatorial election in the county, part of the county,
 13 district, or state electing a candidate to fill the office. A petition for the Legislature, county
 14 party office, or county political public office shall be signed by not less than one percent
 15 of the voters who voted for that party's gubernatorial candidate at the last gubernatorial
 16 election, or fifty voters, in the county, part of the county, or district electing a candidate
 17 to fill the office, whichever is less.

18 If the party meets the requirement for alternative political status as defined in
 19 § 12-1-3.1, the petition for party office or political public office for a state or federal
 20 candidate shall be signed by not less than one percent of the voters who voted for that
 21 party's statewide candidate receiving the highest votes at the last gubernatorial election
 22 in the county, part of the county, district, or state electing a candidate to fill the office. A
 23 petition for the Legislature, county party office, or county political public office shall be
 24 signed by not less than one percent of the voters who voted for that party's statewide
 25 candidate receiving the highest votes at the last gubernatorial election in the county, part
 26 of the county, or district electing a candidate to fill the office, whichever is less.

1 If a county uses vote centers and does not print ballots by precinct, signature
2 requirements ~~for both partisan and independent candidates~~ are:

3 (1) ~~Fifty~~ For both partisan and independent candidates, fifty signatures for a legislative
4 candidate whose district either in whole or in part includes that county;

5 (2) ~~Thirty signatures for~~ For a county candidate:

6 (a) Partisan candidate petitions shall be signed by the lesser of fifty signatures
7 or signatures from one percent of the voters who voted for that party's
8 gubernatorial candidate, or the party's statewide candidate receiving the
9 highest votes if the party meets the requirement for alternative party status
10 as defined in § 12-1-3.1, at the last gubernatorial election in the county
11 electing a candidate to fill the office; or

12 (b) Independent candidate petitions shall be signed by not less than one
13 percent of the total combined vote for Governor at the last certified election
14 within the county electing a candidate to fill the office;

15 (3) ~~Fifteen signatures~~ Half the number of signatures required under subdivision (2), for
16 county commissioner district candidates;

17 (4) Five signatures for a new party legislative candidate whose district either in whole
18 or in part includes that county;

19 (5) Five signatures for a new party county candidate; or

20 (6) Three signatures for a new party county commissioner district candidate.

21 **Section 2.** That § 12-6-7.1 be REPEALED.

22 **12-6-7.1. Petition for candidate for Legislature, county political public office,**
23 **or county party office.**