



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 5354



Offered by:

REP. BLUMENTHAL, 147<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. FLEXER, 29<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: House Bill No. 5434

File No. 519

Cal. No. 339

**"AN ACT CONCERNING STATE-WIDE RECOGNITION OF MINOR PARTIES FOR PURPOSES OF NOMINATING PETITIONS."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 9-453b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

5 The Secretary of the State shall not issue any nominating petition  
6 forms for a candidate for an office to be filled at a regular election to be  
7 held in any year prior to the first business day of such year. The  
8 Secretary shall not issue any nominating petition forms unless the  
9 person requesting the nominating petition forms makes a written  
10 application for such forms, which application shall contain the  
11 following: (1) The name or names of the candidates to appear on such  
12 nominating petition, compared by the town clerk of the town of  
13 residence of each candidate with the candidate's name as it appears on  
14 the last-completed registry list of such town, and verified and corrected

15 by such town clerk or in the case of a newly admitted elector whose  
16 name does not appear on the last-completed registry list, the town clerk  
17 shall compare the candidate's name as it appears on the candidate's  
18 application for admission and verify and correct it accordingly; (2) a  
19 signed statement by each such candidate that the candidate consents to  
20 the placing of the candidate's name on such petition; and (3) the party  
21 designation, if any. An applicant for petition forms who does not wish  
22 to specify a party designation shall so indicate on the application for  
23 such forms and the application, if so marked, shall not be amended in  
24 this respect. No application made after November 3, 1981, shall contain  
25 any party designation unless a reservation of such party designation  
26 with the Secretary is in effect for all of the offices included in the  
27 application or unless the party designation is the same as the name of a  
28 minor party [which] that is qualified for a different office or offices on  
29 [the same ballot as the office or offices included in the application] any  
30 ballot in the state or that is described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision  
31 (6) of section 9-372, as amended by this act. The Secretary shall not issue  
32 such forms (A) unless the application for forms on behalf of a candidate  
33 for the office of presidential elector is accompanied by the names of the  
34 candidates for President and Vice-President whom the candidate for the  
35 office of presidential elector represents and includes the consent of such  
36 candidates for President and Vice-President; (B) unless the application  
37 for forms on behalf of Governor or Lieutenant Governor is accompanied  
38 by the name of the candidate for the other office and includes the  
39 consent of both such candidates; (C) if petition forms have previously  
40 been issued on behalf of the same candidate for the same office unless  
41 the candidate files a written statement of withdrawal of the candidate's  
42 previous candidacy with the Secretary; and (D) unless the application  
43 meets the requirements of this section. A candidacy for nomination by  
44 nominating petition to a district or municipal office may be filed on  
45 behalf of any person whose name appears on the last-completed registry  
46 list of the district or municipality represented by such office, as the case  
47 may be. A candidacy for nomination by nominating petition to a state  
48 office may be filed on behalf of any person whose name appears on the  
49 last-completed registry list of the state.

50 Sec. 2. Section 9-372 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
51 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

52 The following terms, as used in this chapter, chapter 157 and sections  
53 9-51 to 9-67, inclusive, 9-169e, 9-217, 9-236 and 9-361, shall have the  
54 following meanings:

55 (1) "Caucus" means any meeting, at a designated hour and place, or  
56 at designated hours and places, of the enrolled members of a political  
57 party within a municipality or political subdivision thereof for the  
58 purpose of selecting party-endorsed candidates for a primary to be held  
59 by such party or for the purpose of transacting other business of such  
60 party;

61 (2) "Convention" means a meeting of delegates of a political party  
62 held for the purpose of designating the candidate or candidates to be  
63 endorsed by such party in a primary of such party for state or district  
64 office or for the purpose of transacting other business of such party;

65 (3) "District" means any geographic portion of the state which crosses  
66 the boundary or boundaries between two or more towns;

67 (4) "District office" means an elective office for which only the electors  
68 in a district, as defined in subdivision (3) of this section, may vote;

69 (5) "Major party" means (A) a political party or organization whose  
70 candidate for Governor at the last-preceding election for Governor  
71 received, under the designation of that political party or organization,  
72 at least twenty per cent of the whole number of votes cast for all  
73 candidates for Governor, or (B) a political party having, at the last-  
74 preceding election for Governor, a number of enrolled members on the  
75 active registry list equal to at least twenty per cent of the total number  
76 of enrolled members of all political parties on the active registry list in  
77 the state;

78 (6) "Minor party" means (A) a political party or organization [which]  
79 that is not a major party and whose candidate for the office in question

80 received at the last-preceding regular election for such office, under the  
81 designation of that political party or organization, at least one per cent  
82 of the whole number of votes cast for all candidates for such office at  
83 such election, or (B) with respect to a candidate applying to appear on a  
84 nominating petition for any office in accordance with the provisions of  
85 section 9-453b, as amended by this act, a political party or organization  
86 that is not a major party and whose candidate for a state office received  
87 at the last-preceding regular election for such state office, under the  
88 designation of that political party or organization, at least one per cent  
89 of the whole number of votes cast for all candidates for such state office  
90 at such election;

91 (7) "Municipal office" means an elective office for which only the  
92 electors of a single town, city, borough, or political subdivision, as  
93 defined in subdivision (10) of this section, may vote, including the office  
94 of justice of the peace;

95 (8) "Party designation committee" means an organization, composed  
96 of at least twenty-five members who are electors, [which] that has, on or  
97 after November 4, 1981, reserved a party designation with the Secretary  
98 of the State pursuant to the provisions of this chapter;

99 (9) "Party-endorsed candidate" means (A) in the case of a candidate  
100 for state or district office, a person endorsed by the convention of a  
101 political party as a candidate in a primary to be held by such party, and  
102 (B) in the case of a candidate for municipal office or for member of a  
103 town committee, a person endorsed by the town committee, caucus or  
104 convention, as the case may be, of a political party as a candidate in a  
105 primary to be held by such party;

106 (10) "Political subdivision" means any voting district or combination  
107 of voting districts constituting a part of a municipality;

108 (11) "Primary" means a meeting of the enrolled members of a political  
109 party and, when applicable under section 9-431, unaffiliated electors,  
110 held during consecutive hours at which such members or electors may,

111 without assembling at the same hour, vote by secret ballot for  
112 candidates for nomination to office or for town committee members;

113 (12) "Registrar" means the registrar of voters in a municipality who is  
114 enrolled with the political party holding a primary and, in each  
115 municipality where there are different registrars for different voting  
116 districts, means the registrar so enrolled in the voting district in which,  
117 at the last-preceding regular election, the presiding officer for the  
118 purpose of declaring the result of the vote of the whole municipality was  
119 moderator;

120 (13) "Slate" means a group of candidates for nomination by a political  
121 party to the office of justice of the peace of a town, which group numbers  
122 at least a bare majority of the number of justices of the peace to be  
123 nominated by such party for such town;

124 (14) "State office" means any office for which all the electors of the  
125 state may vote and includes the office of Governor, Lieutenant  
126 Governor, Secretary, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General and  
127 senator in Congress, but does not include the office of elector of  
128 President and Vice-President of the United States;

129 (15) "State-wide minor party" means (A) a political party or  
130 organization that is not a major party and whose candidate for a state  
131 office received at the last-preceding regular election for such state office,  
132 under the designation of that political party or organization, at least one  
133 per cent of the whole number of votes cast for all candidates for such  
134 state office at such election, or (B) a political party or organization that  
135 is not a major party and whose candidate for the office of state senator  
136 or state representative, in each of at least forty-seven of all the offices of  
137 state senator and state representative, received at the last-preceding  
138 regular election for the office of state senator or state representative, as  
139 applicable, under the designation of that political party or organization,  
140 at least one per cent of the whole number of votes cast for all candidates  
141 for the office of state senator or state representative, as applicable, at  
142 such election;

143 [(15)] (16) "Votes cast for the same office at the last-preceding  
 144 election" or "votes cast for all candidates for such office at the last-  
 145 preceding election" means, in the case of multiple openings for the same  
 146 office, the total number of electors checked as having voted at the last-  
 147 preceding election at which such office appeared on the ballot.

148 Sec. 3. Section 9-66 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
 149 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

150 The provisions of sections 9-51 to 9-67, inclusive, shall extend only to  
 151 (A) any major party as defined in subdivision (5) of section 9-372, as  
 152 amended by this act, and (B) any minor party as defined in subdivision  
 153 (6) of section 9-372, as amended by this act. In the case of a major party,  
 154 such provisions shall apply state-wide. In the case of a minor party, such  
 155 provisions shall apply within the geographical jurisdiction of the office  
 156 or offices to which such minor party status pertains, as provided in  
 157 subdivision (6) of section 9-372, as amended by this act.

158 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section,  
 159 "district office", "major party", "municipal office", "state office" and  
 160 "state-wide minor party" have the same meanings as provided in section  
 161 9-372 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

162 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of title 9 of the general statutes,  
 163 the provisions of chapter 153 of the general statutes and any regulation  
 164 adopted under said chapter relating to the procedures for nomination  
 165 by a major party of candidates for state offices, district offices and  
 166 municipal offices shall apply, as nearly as possible, to the procedures for  
 167 nomination by a state-wide minor party of candidates for such offices."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	9-453b
Sec. 2	July 1, 2026	9-372
Sec. 3	July 1, 2026	9-66
Sec. 4	July 1, 2026	New section