



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 6184



Offered by:

SEN. FLEXER, 29<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. BLUMENTHAL, 147<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. GADKAR-WILCOX, 22<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. GASTON, 23<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 459

File No. 500

Cal. No. 312

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE'S  
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE CIRCULATION OF  
PRIMARY AND NOMINATING PETITIONS AND DISTRIBUTION OF  
ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS."**

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

3 "Section 1. Section 9-404a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

5 Petition forms for candidacies for nomination by a political party to  
6 a state office, as defined in section 9-372, or the district office of  
7 representative in Congress shall be available from the Secretary of the  
8 State beginning on the one-hundred-fifth day preceding the day of the  
9 primary for such state and district offices. Petition forms for candidacies  
10 for nomination by a political party to the district office of judge of  
11 probate, state senator or state representative shall be available from the

12 Secretary of the State beginning on the seventy-seventh day preceding  
13 the day of the primary for such office. Any person who requests a  
14 petition form shall give the person's name and address and the name,  
15 address and office sought of each candidate for whom the petition is  
16 being obtained and shall file a statement signed by each such candidate  
17 that such candidate consents to be a candidate for such office. Each such  
18 candidate shall include on the statement of consent the candidate's  
19 name as the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot. Any  
20 prospective circulator of one or more primary petition pages shall  
21 execute an affidavit stating that, if such prospective circulator has been  
22 convicted of a crime under this title, it is beyond the period that is four  
23 years after such conviction. Upon receiving such information, [and]  
24 statement and affidavit, the Secretary shall type or print on a petition  
25 form the name and address of each such candidate, the office sought  
26 and the political party holding the primary. The Secretary shall give to  
27 any person requesting such form one or more petition pages, suitable  
28 for duplication, as the Secretary deems necessary. If the person is  
29 requesting the form on behalf of an indigent candidate or a group of  
30 indigent candidates listed on the same petition, the Secretary shall give  
31 the person the number of original pages that the person requests or the  
32 number which the Secretary deems sufficient. An original petition page  
33 filled in by the Secretary may be duplicated by or on behalf of the  
34 candidate or candidates listed on the page and signatures may be  
35 obtained on such duplicates. The duplicates may be filed in the same  
36 manner and shall be subject to the same requirements as original  
37 petition pages. All information relative to primary petitions shall be a  
38 public record.

39 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 9-404b of the general statutes is  
40 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
41 *1, 2027*):

42 (d) Each circulator of a primary petition page shall be an enrolled  
43 party member of a municipality in this state. Each petition page shall  
44 contain a statement signed by the registrar of the municipality in which

45 the circulator is an enrolled party member attesting that the circulator is  
46 an enrolled party member in the municipality. Unless such a statement  
47 by the registrar of voters appears on each page so submitted, the  
48 Secretary shall reject the page. Each separate page of the petition shall  
49 contain a statement as to the authenticity of the signatures on the page  
50 and the number of such signatures, and shall be signed under the  
51 penalties of false statement by the person who circulated the page,  
52 setting forth the circulator's address and the town in which the  
53 circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting that each person  
54 whose name appears on the page signed the petition in person in the  
55 presence of the circulator, that the circulator either knows each such  
56 signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified himself or herself to the  
57 circulator and that the spaces for candidates supported, offices sought  
58 and the political party involved were filled in prior to the obtaining of  
59 the signatures. Each separate page of the petition shall also be  
60 acknowledged before an appropriate person as provided in section 1-  
61 29. The Secretary shall reject any page of a petition filed with the  
62 Secretary which does not contain such a statement by the circulator as  
63 to the authenticity of the signatures on the page, or upon which the  
64 statement of the circulator is incomplete in any respect, or which does  
65 not contain the certification required under this section by the registrar  
66 of the town in which the circulator is an enrolled party member. No  
67 person who has been convicted of a crime under this title shall circulate  
68 any page of a primary petition for a period of four years after such  
69 conviction, in accordance with such person's executed affidavit under  
70 section 9-404a, as amended by this act, and the Secretary shall reject for  
71 filing any such page that was circulated in violation of such prohibition.  
72 Any individual proposed as a candidate in any primary petition may  
73 serve as a circulator of the pages of the petition, provided the  
74 individual's service as circulator does not violate any provision of this  
75 section.

76 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 9-409 of the general statutes is  
77 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
78 *1, 2027*):

79 (c) Any person who requests a petition form shall give his name and  
80 address and the name, address and office or position sought of each  
81 candidate for whom the petition is being obtained, and shall file a  
82 statement signed by each such candidate that he consents to be a  
83 candidate for such office or position. In the case of the municipal offices  
84 of state senator and state representative, each such candidate shall  
85 include on the statement of consent his name as he authorizes it to  
86 appear on the ballot. Any prospective circulator of one or more primary  
87 petition pages shall execute an affidavit stating that, if such prospective  
88 circulator has been convicted of a crime under this title, it is beyond the  
89 period that is four years after such conviction. Upon receiving such  
90 information, [and] statement and affidavit, the registrar shall type or  
91 print on a petition form the name and address of each such candidate,  
92 the office sought and the political party holding the primary. The  
93 registrar shall give to any person requesting such form one or more  
94 petition pages, suitable for duplication, as the registrar deems necessary.  
95 If the person is requesting the form on behalf of an indigent candidate  
96 or a group of indigent candidates listed on the same petition, the  
97 registrar shall give the person a number of petition pages determined  
98 by the registrar as at least two times the number needed to contain the  
99 required number of signatures for a candidacy for nomination to  
100 municipal office or a number of petition pages determined by the  
101 registrar as at least five times the number needed to contain the required  
102 number of signatures for a candidacy for election as a town committee  
103 member. An original petition page filled in by the registrar may be  
104 duplicated by or on behalf of the candidate or candidates listed on the  
105 page and signatures may be obtained on such duplicates. The duplicates  
106 may be filed in the same manner and shall be subject to the same  
107 requirements as original petition pages. All information relative to  
108 primary petitions shall be a public record.

109 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 9-410 of the general statutes is  
110 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
111 *1, 2027*):

112 (c) Each circulator of a primary petition page shall be an enrolled  
113 party member of a municipality in this state who is entitled to vote. Each  
114 petition page shall contain a statement signed by the registrar of the  
115 municipality in which such circulator is an enrolled party member  
116 attesting that the circulator is an enrolled party member in such  
117 municipality. Unless such a statement by the registrar appears on each  
118 page so submitted, the registrar shall reject such page. No candidate for  
119 the nomination of a party for a municipal office or the position of town  
120 committee member shall circulate any petition for another candidate or  
121 another group of candidates contained in one primary petition for the  
122 nomination of such party for the same office or position, and any  
123 petition page circulated in violation of this provision shall be rejected by  
124 the registrar. No person shall circulate petitions for more than the  
125 maximum number of candidates to be nominated by a party for the  
126 same office or position, and any petition page circulated in violation of  
127 this provision shall be rejected by the registrar. Each separate sheet of  
128 such petition shall contain a statement as to the authenticity of the  
129 signatures thereon and the number of such signatures, and shall be  
130 signed under the penalties of false statement by the person who  
131 circulated the same, setting forth such circulator's address and the town  
132 in which such circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting that  
133 each person whose name appears on such sheet signed the same in  
134 person in the presence of such circulator, that the circulator either knows  
135 each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified the signer to  
136 the circulator and that the spaces for candidates supported, offices or  
137 positions sought and the political party involved were filled in prior to  
138 the obtaining of the signatures. Each separate sheet of such petition shall  
139 also be acknowledged before an appropriate person as provided in  
140 section 1-29. Any sheet of a petition filed with the registrar which does  
141 not contain such a statement by the circulator as to the authenticity of  
142 the signatures thereon, or upon which the statement of the circulator is  
143 incomplete in any respect, or which does not contain the certification  
144 hereinbefore required by the registrar of the town in which the  
145 circulator is an enrolled party member, shall be rejected by the registrar.  
146 No person who has been convicted of a crime under this title shall

147 circulate any page of a primary petition for a period of four years after  
148 such conviction, in accordance with such person's executed affidavit  
149 under subsection (c) of section 9-409, as amended by this act, and the  
150 registrar shall reject for filing any such page that was circulated in  
151 violation of such prohibition. Any individual proposed as a candidate  
152 in any primary petition may serve as a circulator of the pages of such  
153 petition, provided such individual's service as circulator does not  
154 violate any provision of this section.

155 Sec. 5. Section 9-453b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
156 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

157 The Secretary of the State shall not issue any nominating petition  
158 forms for a candidate for an office to be filled at a regular election to be  
159 held in any year prior to the first business day of such year. The  
160 Secretary shall not issue any nominating petition forms unless the  
161 person requesting the nominating petition forms makes a written  
162 application for such forms, which application shall contain the  
163 following: (1) The name or names of the candidates to appear on such  
164 nominating petition, compared by the town clerk of the town of  
165 residence of each candidate with the candidate's name as it appears on  
166 the last-completed registry list of such town, and verified and corrected  
167 by such town clerk or in the case of a newly admitted elector whose  
168 name does not appear on the last-completed registry list, the town clerk  
169 shall compare the candidate's name as it appears on the candidate's  
170 application for admission and verify and correct it accordingly; (2) a  
171 signed statement by each such candidate that the candidate consents to  
172 the placing of the candidate's name on such nominating petition; [and]  
173 (3) the party designation, if any; and (4) an executed affidavit from each  
174 prospective circulator of one or more pages of such nominating petition  
175 stating that, if such prospective circulator has been convicted of a crime  
176 under this title, it is beyond the period that is four years after such  
177 conviction. An applicant for petition forms who does not wish to specify  
178 a party designation shall so indicate on the application for such forms  
179 and the application, if so marked, shall not be amended in this respect.

180 No application made after November 3, 1981, shall contain any party  
181 designation unless a reservation of such party designation with the  
182 Secretary is in effect for all of the offices included in the application or  
183 unless the party designation is the same as the name of a minor party  
184 which is qualified for a different office or offices on the same ballot as  
185 the office or offices included in the application. The Secretary shall not  
186 issue such forms (A) unless the application for forms on behalf of a  
187 candidate for the office of presidential elector is accompanied by the  
188 names of the candidates for President and Vice-President whom the  
189 candidate for the office of presidential elector represents and includes  
190 the consent of such candidates for President and Vice-President; (B)  
191 unless the application for forms on behalf of Governor or Lieutenant  
192 Governor is accompanied by the name of the candidate for the other  
193 office and includes the consent of both such candidates; (C) if petition  
194 forms have previously been issued on behalf of the same candidate for  
195 the same office, unless the candidate files a written statement of  
196 withdrawal of the candidate's previous candidacy with the Secretary;  
197 and (D) unless the application meets the requirements of this section. A  
198 candidacy for nomination by nominating petition to a district or  
199 municipal office may be filed on behalf of any person whose name  
200 appears on the last-completed registry list of the district or municipality  
201 represented by such office, as the case may be. A candidacy for  
202 nomination by nominating petition to a state office may be filed on  
203 behalf of any person whose name appears on the last-completed registry  
204 list of the state.

205 Sec. 6. Section 9-453e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
206 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

207 (a) Each circulator of a nominating petition page shall be a United  
208 States citizen, at least eighteen years of age and a resident of a town in  
209 this state and shall not be on parole for conviction of a felony. Any  
210 individual proposed as a candidate in any nominating petition may  
211 serve as circulator of the pages of such nominating petition.

212 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,

213 no person who has been convicted of a crime under this title shall  
 214 circulate any page of a nominating petition for a period of four years  
 215 after such conviction, in accordance with such person's executed  
 216 affidavit under subdivision (4) of section 9-453b, as amended by this act.  
 217 The appropriate town clerk or the Secretary of the State, as applicable  
 218 under section 9-453i, shall reject for filing any such page that was  
 219 circulated in violation of such prohibition.

220       Sec. 7. Section 9-453j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
 221 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

222       Each page of a nominating petition submitted to the town clerk or the  
 223 Secretary of the State and filed with the Secretary of the State under the  
 224 provisions of sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or section 9-216 shall  
 225 contain a statement as to the residency in this state and eligibility of the  
 226 circulator and authenticity of the signatures thereon, signed under  
 227 penalties of false statement, by the person who circulated the same. Such  
 228 statement shall set forth (1) such circulator's residence address,  
 229 including the town in this state in which such circulator is a resident, (2)  
 230 the circulator's date of birth and that the circulator is at least eighteen  
 231 years of age, (3) that the circulator is a United States citizen and [not]  
 232 neither (A) on parole for conviction of a felony, nor (B) within the period  
 233 that is four years after conviction of a crime under this title, in  
 234 accordance with such circulator's executed affidavit under subdivision  
 235 (4) of section 9-453b, as amended by this act, and (4) that each person  
 236 whose name appears on such page signed the same in person in the  
 237 presence of such circulator and that either the circulator knows each  
 238 such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified himself to the  
 239 circulator. Any false statement committed with respect to such  
 240 statement shall be deemed to have been committed in the town in which  
 241 the petition was circulated."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2027	9-404a

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Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-404b(d)
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-409(c)
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-410(c)
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-453b
Sec. 6	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-453e
Sec. 7	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-453j