

Political Party Qualification

How to Qualify a Political Party

Groups desiring to qualify a new political party in Hawaii for election ballot purposes must file a petition with the chief election officer.

Petition

To request a petition, an *Application for Petition to Qualify a Political Party* must be submitted to the Office of Elections. Application forms are available through the Office of Elections at www.elections.hawaii.gov. Upon receipt of the completed application the Office of Elections will issue the petition.

The petition must contain **757** signatures of currently registered voters in the State of Hawaii. This constitutes not less than one-tenth of one percent of the total registered voters of the state as of the last preceding general election.¹

Withdrawal of Signatures

A voter may withdraw his/her signature from a petition, as long as the petition has not been filed. A notice must be submitted to the chief election officer that includes the voter's name, Social Security Number, residence address, date of birth, and signature. The chief election officer will notify the group or individual that the signature will not be counted.

Filing Petition

The deadline to file a political party petition is **Thursday, February 20, 2020, 4:30 pm**.

The petition must be accompanied by the following:

- Names and addresses of the officers of the central committee
- Names and addresses of the officers of the respective county committees
- Party rules

Objections

An objection can be made by any political party or the chief election officer. The objection must be filed with the chief election officer no later than 4:30 pm on the 20th business day after the petition has been filed. The chief election officer may extend the objection period up to ten additional business days, if the group or persons desiring to qualify as a political party is provided with notice of extension and the reasons therefor. If no objection is raised, the petition will be approved. If an objection is made, any decision will be made no later than 4:30 pm on the 30th day after filing the objection or no later than 4:30 pm on the 100th day prior to the primary election, whichever occurs first.

How to Remain a Qualified Political Party

To remain a qualified political party for the next election, the party must have had a candidate running at the last general election for any statewide or U.S. Representative contest whose terms had expired. This does not include offices which were vacant because the incumbent had died or resigned before the end of the incumbent's term.

The party must also meet one of the following to qualify as a political party for the next election:

- The party received at least ten percent (10%) of all votes cast for one of the following contests for an expired term:
 - Any statewide contest
 - U.S. Representative, District I
 - U.S. Representative, District II
- The party received at least four percent (4%) of all the votes cast for all state senate contests.
- The party received at least four percent (4%) of all the votes cast for all state representative contests.

¹ There were 756,751 registered voters in the 2018 General Election.

- The party received at least two percent (2%) of all the votes cast for all state senate and state representative contests combined statewide.

If a party does not meet the qualifications, the party will be disqualified and a notice will be sent to the party by **Wednesday, March 3, 2021**. However, a party will remain qualified, if it is operating under a ten (10) year period established through compliance with the requirements of HRS §11-62(d).

Ten Year Provision

A political party having first qualified by petition under HRS §11-62 and having been qualified as a political party for three consecutive general elections by petition or meeting the vote requirements of HRS §11-61(b) shall be deemed a qualified political party for the following ten (10) year period, assuming the party continues to field candidates for office.

For complete information, please refer to HRS §§11-6, and 11-61 through 11-65.

Office of Elections
802 Lehua Avenue
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782
Phone: (808) 453-VOTE (8683)
Neighbor Island Toll Free: 1-800-442-VOTE (8683)
TTY: (808) 453-6150
