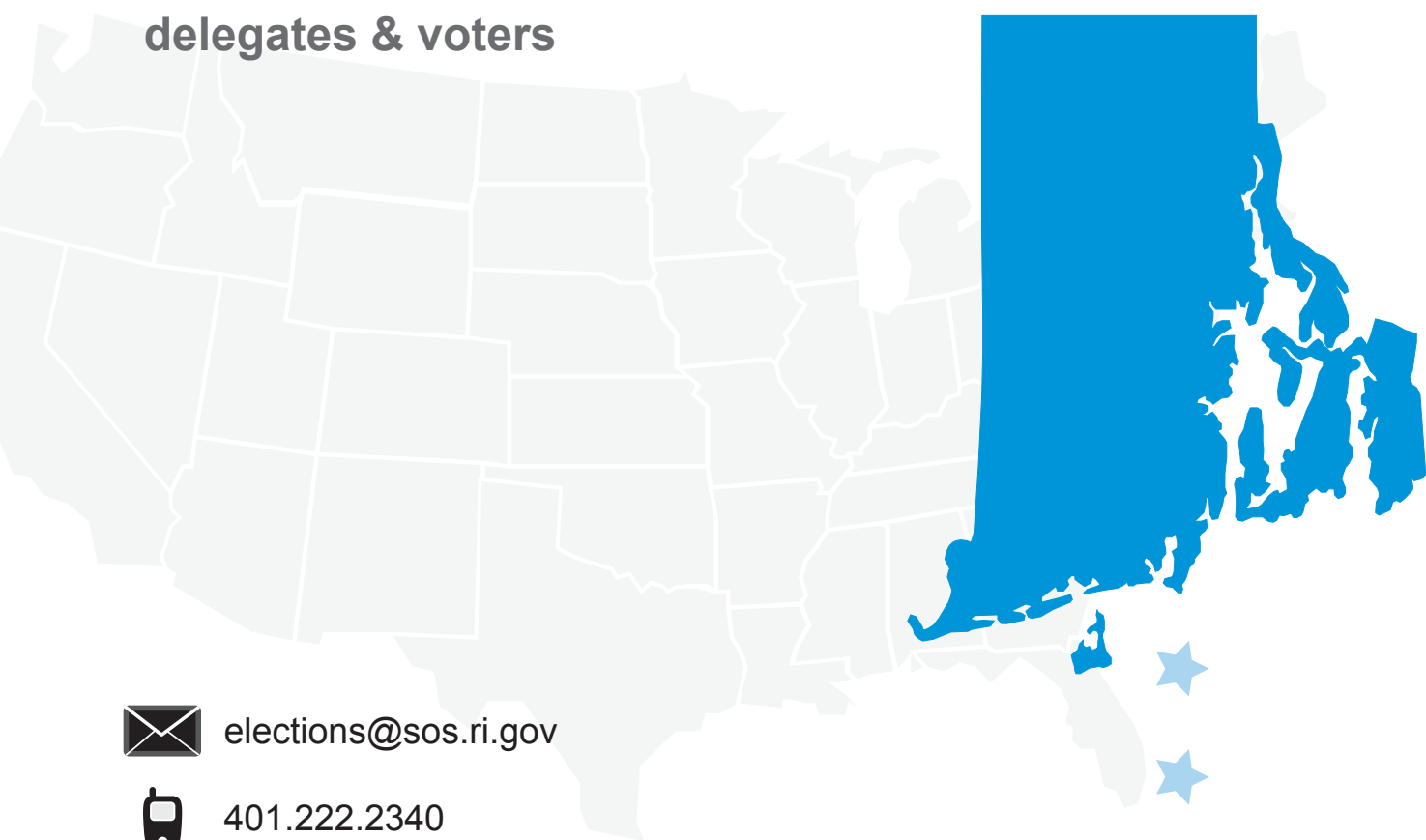


Rhode Island Presidential Preference Primary 2016

A guide for candidates,
delegates & voters

RIVOTES



elections@sos.ri.gov



401.222.2340



www.sos.ri.gov



@RISecState



This guide was produced by
the Rhode Island Department of State

Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State



Dear Rhode Islander:

The Rhode Island Department of State has prepared this 2016 Presidential Preference Primary guide to provide you with important and relevant information whether you are a voter or you are interested in being a candidate or delegate. As Secretary of State, I am committed to engaging and empowering all Rhode Islanders in the civic process. Civic participation is vitally important to the health of our communities, our state, and our country.

You can find more information on our website (sos.ri.gov). You can also contact our Elections Division at (401) 222-2340, TTY 711, or via email at: elections@sos.ri.gov if you need additional information or support.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information. I hope this guide helps you make informed decisions that move our state forward.

Sincerely,

Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State



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Rhode Island's Presidential Preference Primary

Every four years, a Presidential Preference Primary election is held in Rhode Island. The next one will take place on April 26, 2016. On that day, voters will vote for one person as his or her party's candidate for president. They will also select delegates to represent Rhode Island at his or her party's National Convention.

The information in this guide explains Rhode Island's Presidential Preference Primary and the delegate selection process. This guide includes the procedures for the selection of presidential candidates and delegates for the Democratic and Republican political parties. If you are seeking information regarding the presidential candidate or delegate selection process for any other political party please contact that political party directly.

Unless noted otherwise throughout this guide, all filings required by state election laws must be made no later than 4 p.m. on the date they are due and must be filed at the Rhode Island Department of State, referred to in the rest of this guide as "Department of State".

This information is intended solely as a guide and does not constitute official interpretation of state law. All statutory references are to Title 17 of the Rhode Island General Laws, 1956, as amended. The information in this guide is not intended to replace professional legal advice. If you have questions regarding the legal information provided or the law, you should contact your legal counsel.

Are you running for president?

Presidential candidates must file a Statement of Intent and collect 1,000 signatures in order to appear on Rhode Island's Presidential Preference Primary ballot.

Statement of Intent:

Any presidential candidate seeking the endorsement of a national political party for which a primary is being held must file a Statement of Intent form with the Department of State between January 21 and 23, 2016.

Nomination Papers:

Once the Statement of Intent is received, the Department of State will prepare nomination papers for eligible presidential candidates on the same day.

Candidates must obtain the signatures of 1,000 eligible voters on the nomination papers in order to be placed on the ballot. Persons signing nomination papers must be eligible voters at the time of signing. Candidates must ensure that nomination papers are separated by city or town. Only registered voters in each city or town should sign the nomination papers for their city or town.

On or before February 4, 2016, candidates must submit the signed nomination papers to the local board of canvassers of each city or town where the signers are registered to vote. The Department of State receives the certified nomination papers from the local boards of canvassers, totals the signatures, and announces the qualified presidential candidates.

Would you like to be a delegate to your party's National Convention?

Declaration of Candidacy:

A voter who wishes to be a delegate to his or her party's National Convention must file a Declaration of Candidacy form with the Department of State between February 24 and 25, 2016.

A voter must be registered to vote by January 25 or 26, 2016 to be able to file a Declaration of Candidacy. If a voter wishes to run as a delegate candidate from a party other than the party they belong to, they will need to disaffiliate 90 days before declaring their candidacy (See "File disaffiliation" on page 8).

Pledge of Support:

A delegate candidate must also complete a Pledge of Support form prepared by his or her political party. Delegates must file the Pledge of Support form with the Declaration of Candidacy form.

Nomination Papers:

Once the Declaration of Candidacy is received, the Department of State will prepare nomination papers for delegate candidates on the next business day.

A delegate candidate must obtain the signatures of 150 eligible voters from his or her congressional district (Republican at-large delegate candidates however, may obtain signatures statewide) on the nomination papers in order to be placed on the ballot. Persons signing nomination papers must be eligible voters at the time of signing. Candidates must ensure that nomination papers are separated by city or town. Only registered voters in each city or town should sign the nomination papers for their city or town.

On or before March 1, 2016, delegate candidates must submit the signed nomination papers to the local board of canvassers of each city or town where the signers are registered to vote. The Department of State receives the certified nomination papers from the local boards of canvassers, totals the signatures, and announces the qualified delegate candidates.

Documentation of approval:

Delegate candidates may submit documentation to the Department of State no later than March 8, 2016 that the delegate candidate has the presidential candidate's

approval to be identified on the primary ballot with the presidential candidate.

All qualified delegate candidates who have received the presidential candidate's approval shall be listed on the ballot, arranged by lottery, under the name of the presidential candidate. Those delegate candidates who do not submit an approval from the presidential candidate will be listed on the ballot in accordance with their party's rules.

Party Rules:

The National Committee of each political party determines the number of delegates and alternates that are elected from each of Rhode Island's two congressional districts. The rules of each political party control the method of delegate selection.

In accordance with party rules, the Democratic and Republican parties in Rhode Island will apply the results of the April 26, 2016 Presidential Preference Primary in assigning their delegates to their respective 2016 National Conventions.

Copies of both parties' Delegate Selection and Affirmation Action Plans for the 2016 National Conventions will be available on our website at www.sos.ri.gov/elections/ppp.

Useful information for Rhode Island voters

At the Presidential Preference Primary, each voter will have the opportunity to vote for one person as his or her party's candidate for President. However, the voter may instead cast an uncommitted vote, expressing the voter's choice for none of the presidential candidates appearing on the ballot. Each voter will also have the opportunity to vote for delegates to his or her party's National Convention.

If a voter has selected a party on his or her voter registration form, this is called being "affiliated" with a party. Voters who did not select a party when registering to vote are called "unaffiliated" voters. To check your party affiliation, contact your local board of canvassers. See page 17 for contact information.

Affiliated Voters:

All registered voters affiliated with a party may vote in that party's Presidential Preference Primary. A voter is not entitled to vote in a party's primary if the voter is affiliated with another party.

Unaffiliated Voters:

All registered voters who are unaffiliated at the time of the Presidential Preference Primary may choose to vote in one party's primary. By voting in a party's primary, unaffiliated voters become affiliated with that party.

Disaffiliation:

A voter who would like to disaffiliate from his or her current party designation in order to be eligible to vote for a different party in the April 26, 2016 Presidential Preference Primary must file his or her disaffiliation with the local board of canvassers of the city or town in which he or she is registered on or before January 27, 2016.

Registration:

A voter who wishes to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary must be registered to vote by March 27, 2016.

Check your polling location!

It may have changed.



www.sos.ri.gov/vic



401.222.2340

All required documents, unless noted otherwise, must be filed or obtained by 4 pm at:

Rhode Island Department of State
Elections Division
148 W. River Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02904

Presidential Candidates

Important Dates and Deadlines

January 21 - 23, 2016

File Statement of Intent and pick up nomination papers

File Statement of Intent seeking endorsement of political party as its presidential candidate. Nomination papers for eligible presidential candidates can be picked up the same day. Persons other than candidates picking up nomination papers must have written authorization from the candidate.

[RIGL §§17-12.1-4(a), 17-12.1-4(b)(1)]

File Statement of Intent:

January 21, 2016 by 4 p.m.

January 22, 2016 by 4 p.m.

January 23, 2016 by 12 p.m.

Pick up nomination papers:

January 21, 2016 by 6 p.m.

January 22, 2016 by 6 p.m.

January 23, 2016 by 2 p.m.

February 4, 2016

Submit nomination papers

Deadline to submit nomination papers to boards of canvassers in the city or town where signers are registered voters. Signers on a nomination paper must be from the city or town listed at the top of the nomination paper. Presidential candidates must obtain one thousand (1,000) signatures of eligible voters.

[RIGL §17-12.1-4(b)(2)]

February 18, 2016

File objections to nomination papers

Deadline to file objections to nomination papers of presidential candidates with Board of Elections. [RIGL §17-12.1-4(b)(2)]

February 23, 2016

Eligibility of candidates

Deadline for Board of Elections to rule on eligibility of presidential candidates.

[RIGL §17-12.1-4(c)]

February 23, 2016

File affidavit of withdrawal

Deadline for presidential candidate to file affidavit of withdrawal.

[RIGL §17-12.1-4(e)]

March 8, 2016

File documentation of approval

Deadline to file documentation in writing from presidential candidate regarding which delegate candidates are affiliated with said presidential candidate.

[RIGL §17-12.1-7(a)]

March 9, 2016 at 5 p.m.

Ballot placement lottery

Department of State to conduct a lottery to determine ballot order for presidential nominees and delegate candidates. Lottery to be conducted in the Governor's State Room, State House, Providence, Rhode Island. [RIGL §17-12.1-11]

April 26, 2016

Presidential Preference Primary

[RIGL §17-12.1-1]

April 27, 2016

Request recount of votes

Deadline to request a recount of votes or file a protest with the Board of Elections. Recounts shall be conducted for a presidential candidate or a delegate candidate when there is a 200 vote or less difference between the losing candidate or delegate and the winner. [RIGL §§17-12.1-14, 17-15-34]

All required documents, unless noted otherwise, must be filed or obtained by 4 pm at:

Rhode Island Department of State
Elections Division
148 W. River Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02904

Delegate Candidates Important Dates and Deadlines

November 25, 2015*

File disaffiliation

Deadline to file disaffiliation to run as a delegate candidate. If you wish to run as a delegate candidate and are affiliated with a political party other than the party in which you wish to run, you must disaffiliate at your local board of canvassers by this time. Deadline depends on date your Declaration of Candidacy is filed. [RIGL §17-14-1.1]

File declaration on:

February 24, 2016
February 25, 2016

Disaffiliate by:

November 25, 2015*
November 25, 2015*

January 25 - 26, 2016

Register to vote

Deadline for delegate candidates to register to vote in order to be eligible to file a Declaration of Candidacy. Registration deadline depends on date you file your Declaration of Candidacy. [RIGL §17-14-1.2]

File declaration on:

February 24, 2016
February 25, 2016

Register to vote by:

January 25, 2016
January 26, 2016

February 24 - 25, 2016

File Declaration of Candidacy and Pledge of Support form

Declaration of Candidacy filing period. At the same time as the Declaration of Candidacy is filed, you must file the appropriate Pledge of Support form. [RIGL §17-12.1-3]

February 25 - 26, 2016

Pick up nomination papers

Nomination papers can be picked up the day after filing your Declaration of Candidacy. Persons other than candidates picking up nomination papers must have written authorization from the candidate. [RIGL §17-12.1-5]

File declaration on:

February 24, 2016
February 25, 2016

Pick up nomination papers on:

February 25, 2016
February 26, 2016

March 1, 2016

Submit nomination papers

Submit nomination papers to local boards of canvassers in the city or town where signers are registered voters. Signers on a nomination paper must be from the city or town listed at the top of the nomination paper. You must obtain the signatures of 150 eligible voters from your congressional district however, Republican at-large delegate candidates may obtain signatures statewide. [RIGL §§17-12.1-6, 17-12.1-7(a)]

March 7, 2016

File objections to nomination papers

Deadline to file objections to nomination papers of delegate candidates with Board of Elections. [RIGL §17-12.1-7(b)]

* We recommend that voters file for disaffiliation by November 25. November 26 is Thanksgiving. November 27 is the deadline, but most local boards of canvassers will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday. Voters should contact their local board of canvassers for more information. See page 17 for contact information.

- March 8, 2016** **File documentation of approval**
 Deadline to file documentation in writing from presidential candidate regarding which delegate candidates are affiliated with said presidential candidate. [RIGL §17-12.1-7(a)]
- March 8, 2016** **File affidavit of withdrawal**
 Deadline for delegate candidates to file affidavit of withdrawal. In the event of an objection being filed to nomination papers, the deadline is extended to 24 hours after a decision is rendered. [RIGL §17-12.1-3(4)]
- March 9, 2016 at 5 p.m.** **Ballot placement lottery**
 Department of State to conduct a lottery to determine ballot order for presidential nominees and delegate candidates. Lottery to be conducted in the Governor’s State Room, State House, Providence, Rhode Island. [RIGL §17-12.1-11]
- March 10, 2016** **Eligibility of delegate candidates**
 Deadline for Board of Elections to rule on eligibility of delegate candidates. [RIGL §17-12.1-7(c)]
- April 26, 2016** **Presidential Preference Primary**
 [RIGL §17-12.1-1]
- April 27, 2016** **Request recount of votes**
 Deadline to request a recount of votes or file a protest with the Board of Elections. Recounts shall be conducted for a presidential candidate or a delegate candidate when there is a 200 vote or less difference between the losing candidate or delegate and the winner. [RIGL §§17-12.1-14, 17-15-34]

Voters

Important Dates and Deadlines

Note: In order to vote in a political party's primary, you must be a registered voter and a member of that party or an unaffiliated voter who affiliates with that party on the day of the primary.

January 27, 2016

File disaffiliation

Deadline for voters to disaffiliate (if necessary) at their local board of canvassers in order to vote in a different party's primary. If you wish to disaffiliate you must do so at least 90 days prior to the primary. Unaffiliated voters may vote in any party's primary. [RIGL §17-9.1-24]

March 14, 2016

Apply for a Braille or tactile mail ballot

Deadline for voters who are blind or visually impaired to apply at their local board of canvassers for a Braille or tactile ballot to be voted as a mail ballot. [RIGL §17-19-8.1]

March 27, 2016

Register to vote

Deadline to register to vote in order to be eligible to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary. You must be registered at least 30 days prior to the primary. Contact your local board of canvassers for locations and registration hours. See page 17 for contact information. [RIGL §§§17-1-3, 17-1-7, 17-9.1-3]

April 5, 2016

Apply for a mail ballot

Deadline for voters to apply for a mail ballot at their local board of canvassers. [RIGL §17-20-2.1(c)]

April 6 - 25, 2016

Emergency mail ballot application period

Period for voters to apply for an emergency mail ballot at their local board of canvassers if they unexpectedly need a mail ballot and the situation occurs after the April 5, 2016 mail ballot application deadline. [RIGL §17-20-2.2(a); (b)]

April 26, 2016 at 8 p.m.
(not later than)

Return voted mail ballots

Deadline for Board of Elections to receive voted mail ballots. [RIGL 17-18-11; 17-20-16]

April 26, 2016

Presidential Preference Primary

[RIGL §17-12.1-1]

Check your polling location!
It may have changed.



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Department of State

Important Dates and Deadlines

January 5, 2016	Certification from state party committees Deadline to receive certification from each party's state committee for the number of delegates and alternates to be selected as determined by the national committee of each party, and the certification of party rules for national conventions. [RIGL §17-12.1-2]
January 5, 2016	Party rules Deadline to receive party rules from state party chairs. [RIGL §17-12.1-15]
January 21 - 23, 2016	Statements of Intent – Presidential candidates Receive Statements of Intent from presidential candidates who wish to run in the Presidential Preference Primary. [RIGL §17-12.1-4(a)]
January 21 - 23, 2016	Prepare nomination papers – Presidential candidates Prepare and issue nomination papers for presidential candidates. [RIGL §17-12.1-4(b)(1)]
February 17, 2016	Certified nomination papers – Presidential candidates Deadline to receive certified nomination papers of presidential candidates from local boards, total signatures and announce the qualified presidential candidates. [RIGL §17-12.1-4(b)(2)]
February 23, 2016	Affidavit of withdrawal – Presidential candidates Deadline to receive presidential candidate affidavit of withdrawal. [RIGL §17-12.1-4(e)]
February 24 - 25, 2016	Declarations of Candidacy – Delegate candidates Receive Declarations of Candidacy from persons filing as delegate candidates. [RIGL §17-12.1-3]
February 25 - 26, 2016	Prepare nomination papers – Delegate candidates Prepare and issue nomination papers for delegate candidates. [RIGL §17-12.1-5]
March 4, 2016	Certified nomination papers – Delegate candidates Deadline to receive certified nomination papers of delegate candidates from local boards, total signatures and announce the qualified delegate candidates. [RIGL §17-12.1-7(a)]
March 8, 2016	Documentation of approval Deadline to receive documentation of approval regarding which delegate candidates are affiliated with each presidential candidate. [RIGL §17-12.1-7(a)]
March 8, 2016	Affidavit of withdrawal – Delegate candidates Deadline to receive delegate candidate affidavit of withdrawal. [RIGL §17-12.1-3(4)]

- March 9, 2016 at 5 p.m.** **Ballot placement lottery**
Conduct lottery to determine ballot order for presidential nominees and delegate candidates. Lottery to be conducted in the Governor’s State Room, State House, Providence, Rhode Island. [RIGL §17-12.1-11]
- April 8, 2016** **Certifications for mail ballot applications**
Deadline to receive certifications for mail ballot applications from local boards of canvassers. [RIGL §17-20-10(c)]
- April 26, 2016** **Presidential Preference Primary**
[RIGL §17-12.1-1]
- April 28, 2016** **Certificates of nomination**
Receive certificates of nomination from Board of Elections. [RIGL §17-15-31]

Board of Elections

Important Dates and Deadlines

February 18, 2016	Receive objections to nomination papers – Presidential candidates Deadline to receive objections filed by an individual or organization to nomination papers of presidential candidates. [RIGL §17-12.1-4(b)(2)]
February 23, 2016	Decisions on objections – Presidential candidates Render decisions on objections filed regarding presidential candidate nomination papers. [RIGL §17-12.1-4(c)]
March 7, 2016	Receive objections to nomination papers – Delegate candidates Deadline to receive objections to delegate candidate nomination papers. [RIGL §17-12.1-7(b)]
March 10, 2016	Decisions on objections – Delegate candidates Render decisions on objections filed regarding delegate candidate nomination papers. [RIGL §17-12.1-7(c)]
April 26, 2016	Presidential Preference Primary [RIGL §17-12.1-1]
April 27, 2016	Receive request for recount of votes Deadline to receive requests for recount of votes. [RIGL §§17-12.1-14, 17-15-34]
April 28, 2016	File certified copies of certificates of nomination File certified copies of certificates of nomination with the Department of State. In the event of a protest, the Board of Elections is allowed an additional 48 hours. [RIGL §17-15-31]

Local Boards of Canvassers

Important Dates and Deadlines

November 25, 2015*

File disaffiliation – Delegate candidates

If voters wish to run as a delegate candidate and are affiliated with a political party other than the party in which they wish to run as a delegate candidate, they must disaffiliate with their local board of canvassers by this time. Deadline depends on date delegate candidate files their Declaration of Candidacy.

[RIGL §17-14-1.1]

File declaration on:

February 24, 2016

February 25, 2016

Disaffiliate by:

November 25, 2015*

November 25, 2015*

January 25 - 26, 2016

Register to vote – Delegate candidates

Deadline for delegate candidates to register to vote in order to be eligible to file a Declaration of Candidacy. Registration deadline depends on date delegate candidate files their Declaration of Candidacy. [RIGL §17-14-1.2]

File declaration on:

February 24, 2016

February 25, 2016

Register to vote by:

January 25, 2016

January 26, 2016

January 27, 2016

File disaffiliation – Voters

Deadline for voters to file disaffiliation, if necessary, with the local board of canvassers in the city or town where they are registered to vote in order to be eligible to vote in a different party's primary.

[RIGL §17-9.1-24]

February 4, 2016

Receive nomination papers – Presidential candidates

Deadline to receive nomination papers from presidential candidates.

[RIGL §17-12.1-4(b)(2)]

February 17, 2016

Certify nomination papers – Presidential candidates

Deadline to certify presidential candidate nomination papers to the Department of State. [RIGL §17-12.1-4(b)(2)]

March 1, 2016

Receive nomination papers – Delegate candidates

Deadline to receive nomination papers from delegate candidates.

[RIGL §17-12.1-7(a)]

March 4, 2016

Certify nomination papers – Delegate candidates

Deadline to certify delegate candidate nomination papers to the Department of State. [RIGL §17-12.1-7(a)]

* We recommend that voters file for disaffiliation by November 25. November 26 is Thanksgiving. November 27 is the deadline, but most local boards of canvassers will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday. Voters should contact their local board of canvassers for more information. See page 17 for contact information.

- March 14, 2016** **Apply for a Braille or tactile mail ballot – Voters**
 Deadline for voters to apply for a Braille or tactile mail ballot with their local board of canvassers. Voters who are blind or visually impaired may apply for a Braille or tactile ballot to be voted as a mail ballot. [RIGL §17-19-8.1]
- March 27, 2016** **Register to vote – Voters**
 Deadline to register to vote in order to be eligible to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary. [RIGL §§17-1-3, 17-1-7, 17-9.1-3]
- April 5, 2016** **Receive mail ballot applications**
 Deadline to receive mail ballot applications. [RIGL §17-20-2.1(c)]
- April 5, 2016**
 (not later than) **Examine list of qualified voters**
 Examine and correct list of qualified voters. [RIGL §17-10-5]
- April 8, 2016** **Certify applications for mail ballots**
 Deadline to certify applications for mail ballots to the Department of State. [RIGL §17-20-10(c)]
- April 6 - 25, 2016** **Emergency mail ballot application period**
 Period for voters to apply for an emergency mail ballot if they unexpectedly need a mail ballot and the situation occurs after the April 5, 2016 mail ballot application deadline. [RIGL §17-20-2.2(a); (b)]
- April 26, 2016** **Presidential Preference Primary**
 [RIGL §17-12.1-1]

Political Parties and State Party Chairs

Important Dates and Deadlines

January 5, 2016	File certification Department of State receives certification from each party's state committee for the number of delegates and alternates to be selected as determined by the national committee of each party, and the certification of party rules for national conventions. [RIGL §17-12.1-2]
January 5, 2016	File party rules Department of State receives party rules from state party chairs. [RIGL §17-12.1-15]
March 8, 2016	File documentation of approval Deadline for delegate candidates to submit documentation to the Department of State that the delegate candidate has approval to be identified with presidential candidate. [RIGL §17-12.1-7(a)]
March 9, 2016 at 5 p.m.	Ballot placement lottery Department of State to conduct a lottery to determine ballot order for presidential nominees and delegate candidates. Lottery to be conducted in the Governor's State Room, State House, Providence, Rhode Island. [RIGL §17-12.1-11]
April 26, 2016	Presidential Preference Primary [RIGL §17-12.1-1]
April 28, 2016	Obtain certified copies of election results Obtain certified copies of election results from the Board of Elections. Determine winning delegates pursuant to party rules filed with the Department of State. [RIGL §§17-12.1-9, 17-15-31]

Local Boards of Canvassers Contact Information

Barrington Town Hall
283 County Rd. 02806
247-1900 x4

Bristol Town Hall
10 Court St. 02809
253-7000

Burrillville Town Hall
105 Harrisville Main St.
Harrisville 02830
568-4300

Central Falls City Hall
580 Broad St. 02863
727-7450

Charlestown Town Hall
4540 South County Trl. 02813
364-1200

Coventry Town Hall
1670 Flat River Rd. 02816
822-9150

Cranston City Hall
869 Park Ave. 02910
780-3126

Cumberland Town Hall
45 Broad St. 02864
728-2400

East Greenwich Town Hall
125 Main St.
P.O. Box 111 02818
886-8603

East Providence City Hall
145 Taunton Ave. 02914
435-7502

Exeter Town Hall
675 Ten Rod Rd. 02822
294-2287

Foster Town Hall
181 Howard Hill Rd. 02825
392-9201

Glocester Town Hall
1145 Putnam Pike
P.O. Drawer B, Chepachet 02814
568-6206 x0

Hopkinton Town Hall
1 Town House Rd. 02833
377-7777

Jamestown Town Hall
93 Narragansett Ave. 02835
423-9804

Johnston Town Hall
1385 Hartford Ave. 02919
553-8856

Lincoln Town Hall
100 Old River Rd.
P.O. Box 100 02865
333-1140

Little Compton Town Hall
40 Commons
P.O. Box 226 02837
635-4400

Middletown Town Hall
350 East Main Rd. 02842
849-5540

Narragansett Town Hall
25 Fifth Ave. 02882
782-0625

Newport City Hall
43 Broadway 02840
845-5386

New Shoreham Town Hall
16 Old Town Rd.
P.O. Box 220 02807
466-3200

North Kingstown Town Hall
80 Boston Neck Rd. 02852
294-3331 x128

North Providence Town Hall
2000 Smith St. 02911
232-0900 x234

North Smithfield Municipal Annex
575 Smithfield Rd. 02896
767-2200

Pawtucket City Hall
137 Roosevelt Ave. 02860
722-1637

Portsmouth Town Hall
2200 East Main Rd. 02871
683-3157

Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance St. 02903
421-0495

Richmond Town Hall
5 Richmond Townhouse Rd.
Wyoming 02898
539-9000 x9

Scituate Town Hall
195 Danielson Pike
P.O. Box 328, N. Scituate 02857
647-7466

Smithfield Town Hall
64 Farnum Pike
Esmond 02917
233-1000 x112

South Kingstown Town Hall
180 High St.
Wakefield 02879
789-9331 x1231

Tiverton Town Hall
343 Highland Rd. 02878
625-6703

Warren Town Hall
514 Main St. 02885
245-7340 x4

Warwick City Hall
3275 Post Rd. 02886
738-2000

West Greenwich Town Hall
280 Victory Hwy. 02817
392-3800

West Warwick Town Hall
1170 Main St. 02893
822-9201

Westerly Town Hall
45 Broad St. 02891
348-2503

Woonsocket City Hall
169 Main St.
P.O. Box B 02895
767-9223

State Elections and Political Party Offices

Contact Information

› Department of State

Elections Division

148 W. River St., Providence, RI 02904

222-2340

› Board of Elections

50 Branch Ave., Providence, RI 02904

222-2345

› Rhode Island Democratic Party

200 Metro Center Blvd., Suite 1, Warwick, RI 02886

272-3367

› Moderate Party of Rhode Island

209 Yorktown Rd., North Kingstown, RI 02852

932-8364

› Rhode Island Republican Party

1800 Post Rd., Suite 17-I, Warwick, RI 02886

732-8282

Department of State's Website

The following information concerning the 2016 Presidential Preference Primary will be found at: www.sos.ri.gov/elections/ppp

- › Presidential Preference Primary Guide
- › Presidential Preference Primary calendar highlights
- › Delegate Declaration of Candidacy Form - Coming Soon
- › Presidential Candidate Statement of Intent Form - Coming Soon
- › Qualified Presidential Candidates:
Daily updates of presidential candidates who filed and/or qualified for ballot placement (starting January 22)
- › Qualified Delegate Candidates:
Daily updates of delegate candidates who filed and/or qualified for ballot placement (starting February 25)
- › Sample ballots (March, 2016)
- › Find your polling place (March, 2016)
- › Political party and presidential candidate contact information (February, 2016)
- › Political party delegate selection rules and delegate procedures for the National Conventions (January, 2016)

Polling Place Hours

Opening Times of Polls

CITY/TOWN	OPEN A.M.	CITY/TOWN	OPEN A.M.
Barrington	7 a.m.	Newport	7 a.m.
Bristol	7 a.m.	New Shoreham	Noon
Burrillville	9 a.m.	North Kingstown	7 a.m.
Central Falls	7 a.m.	North Providence	7 a.m.
Charlestown	9 a.m.	North Smithfield	7 a.m.
Coventry	7 a.m.	Pawtucket	7 a.m.
Cranston	7 a.m.	Portsmouth	7 a.m.
Cumberland	7 a.m.	Providence	7 a.m.
East Greenwich	7 a.m.	Richmond	7 a.m.
East Providence	7 a.m.	Scituate	7 a.m.
Exeter	7 a.m.	Smithfield	7 a.m.
Foster	7 a.m.	South Kingstown	7 a.m.
Glocester	7 a.m.	Tiverton	7 a.m.
Hopkinton	9 a.m.	Warren	7 a.m.
Jamestown	8 a.m.	Warwick	7 a.m.
Johnston	7 a.m.	Westerly	9 a.m.
Lincoln	7 a.m.	West Greenwich	7 a.m.
Little Compton	9 a.m.	West Warwick	7 a.m.
Middletown	7 a.m.	Woonsocket	7 a.m.
Narragansett	7 a.m.		

Closing Times of Polls

The polls in all cities and towns in Rhode Island will remain open for voting until 8 p.m.

Any person eligible to vote who is in line to vote at 8 p.m. will be allowed to cast his or her vote before the polls close.

Rhode Island General Laws - Chapter 17-12.1

Primaries for Election of Delegates to National Conventions and for Presidential Preference

17-12.1-1. Date of primaries for election of delegates to national conventions. – A primary election for the election of delegates to the national convention for each political party shall be held in the manner provided in this chapter on the fourth Tuesday in April 2012, and every fourth year thereafter.

History

(P.L. 1975, ch. 275, § 2; P.L. 1983, ch. 183, § 1; P.L. 1995, ch. 80, § 1; P.L. 2011, ch. 218, § 1; P.L. 2011, ch. 303, § 1.)

17-12.1-2. Number of delegates to be elected - Method of election. – At each primary there shall be elected for each congressional district of this state the number of delegates and alternates that shall be determined by the national committee of the party and certified to the secretary of state not later than the first Tuesday in January preceding the primary by the state committee of the party. The method of election of candidates for delegate shall be in accordance with party rules certified to the secretary of state by the chairperson of the state committee on or before the first Tuesday in January of each year a primary is to be held pursuant to this chapter.

History

(P.L. 1975, ch. 275, § 2; P.L. 1979, ch. 287, § 1; P.L. 1983, ch. 183, § 1.)

17-12.1-3. Declaration of candidacy – Delegates. – During the sixty-first (61st) and sixty-second (62nd) day preceding a primary for election of delegates to a national convention, each voter desiring to be a delegate at the forthcoming convention shall, on the form that shall be provided by the secretary of state, sign his or her name as it appears on the voting list and file, not later than four (4:00) p.m. of the date of filing with the secretary of state, a declaration of candidacy which shall include the following information:

- (1) His or her name and address as they appear on the voting list, party designation, place and date of birth, and length of residence in the state and in the town or city where he or she resides.
- (2) A statement that, if elected, he or she would comply with all party rules of the national committee of the party designated in subdivision (1) of this section relating to delegates to national conventions and conducting of national conventions.
- (3) At the same time as the declaration of candidacy is filed, the appropriate pledge of support form provided to the secretary of state by the political parties must be filed by the candidate for delegate.
- (4) If any candidate for delegate does not thereafter wish his or her name to appear on the ballot, the candidate shall, at

least forty-nine (49) days prior to the date for the primary, file an affidavit with the secretary of state stating his or her name may not be placed on the ballot and the secretary of state shall not place that candidate's name on the ballot.

History

(P.L. 1975, ch. 275, § 3; P.L. 1983, ch. 183, § 1; P.L. 1995, ch. 80, § 1; P.L. 2007, ch. 390, § 1; P.L. 2007, ch. 479, § 1; P.L. 2011, ch. 218, § 1; P.L. 2011, ch. 303, § 1.)

17-12.1-4. Presidential candidates. – (a) Any person seeking the endorsement of a national political party for which a primary is being held shall, during the ninety-fourth (94th) through and including the ninety-sixth (96th) day preceding the presidential preference primary being held, provide written notification to the secretary of state of his or her intention to run in the presidential preference primary. When the deadline falls on a Saturday, said written notification may be filed with the secretary of state on that Saturday until noon (12:00) p.m. The notification shall include the candidate's name and address and a statement affirming their eligibility, under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to serve, if elected, in the office of President of the United States. The notification shall also include the name and contact information of the designee authorized by the presidential candidate to act in his/her stead in Rhode Island.

(b) (1) Upon receipt of the notification referred to in subsection (a) of this section, the secretary of state shall, by six o'clock (6:00) p.m. on the same day, prepare petition papers for candidates who are eligible to serve in the office of President of the United States, clearly marked with the candidate's name, party designation, and the office the candidate seeks; provided, however, that for notifications filed on a Saturday deadline by noon (12:00) p.m., petition papers shall be prepared by two o'clock (2:00) p.m. on that Saturday.

(2) The petition papers of a candidate for president shall be signed, in the aggregate, by at least one thousand (1,000) eligible voters and shall be submitted on or before four o'clock (4:00) p.m. in the afternoon of the eighty-second (82nd) day before the presidential preference primary to the local board of the city or town where the signers appear to be voters, and the petition papers shall be checked, processed, and certified to the secretary of state by the local boards before four o'clock (4:00) p.m. in the afternoon of the sixty-ninth (69th) day before the presidential preference primary. When nomination papers have been duly certified by the appropriate local boards of canvassers, they shall be conclusively presumed to be valid, unless written objections to them are made as to the eligibility of the candidate or the sufficiency of the nomination papers or the signatures on them. All objections shall be filed with the state board of

elections by four o'clock (4:00) p.m. on the next business day after the last day fixed for local boards to file nomination papers with the secretary of state. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the secretary of state from disqualifying a candidate based on the determination of the secretary of state that the nomination papers or the signatures on them are invalid or insufficient.

(c) The decision of the state board shall be rendered not later than four o'clock (4:00) p.m. on the sixty-third (63rd) day before the presidential preference primary and shall immediately be certified by the state board to the secretary of state.

(d) If any candidate for presidential nomination does not qualify for ballot placement, the names of delegates committed to this disqualified presidential candidate, who are otherwise qualified, shall appear on the ballot in accordance with party rules.

(e) If any candidate whose name has been announced as a presidential nominee does not thereafter wish his or her name to appear on the ballot, the candidate shall, at least sixty-three (63) days prior to the date for the primary, file an affidavit with the secretary of state stating his or her name may not be placed on the ballot and the secretary of state shall not place that candidate's name on the ballot. Said affidavit must be signed by the presidential candidate or his or her designee on file with the office of the secretary of state. Names of delegates committed to the withdrawn candidate, who are otherwise qualified, shall appear on the ballot in accordance with party rules.

History

(P.L. 1975, ch. 275, § 2; P.L. 1992, ch. 249, § 1; P.L. 1995, ch. 80, § 1; P.L. 2007, ch. 390, § 1; P.L. 2007, ch. 479, § 1; P.L. 2011, ch. 218, § 1; P.L. 2011, ch. 303, § 1.)

17-12.1-5. Preparation of nomination papers – Delegates.

– Upon receipt of the declaration referred to in § 17-12.1-3, the secretary of state shall prepare nomination papers for each candidate who has qualified, clearly marked with the candidate's name and the office the candidate seeks, and shall, by four o'clock (4:00) p.m. on the next business day after receipt of the declaration, deliver the nomination papers to the proper candidate or to those persons that the candidate, in writing, designates to receive them.

History

(P.L. 1975, ch. 275, § 2; P.L. 1990, ch. 350, § 1; P.L. 2007, ch. 390, § 1; P.L. 2007, ch. 479, § 1.)

17-12.1-6. Number of signers required. – The nomination papers of a candidate for delegate to a national convention shall be signed, in the aggregate, by at least one hundred fifty (150) eligible voters.

History

(P.L. 1975, ch. 275, § 2; P.L. 1983, ch. 183, § 1; P.L. 2011, ch. 218, § 1; P.L. 2011, ch. 303, § 1.)

17-12.1-7. Checking and certification of nomination papers.

– (a) Each nomination paper of a candidate for delegate shall be submitted on or before four o'clock (4:00) p.m. in the afternoon of the fifty-sixth (56th) day before the presidential preference primary to the local board of the city or town where the signers appear to be voters, and the nomination papers shall be checked, processed, and certified to the secretary of state by the local boards before four o'clock (4:00) p.m. in the afternoon of the fifty-third (53rd) day before the presidential preference primary. In addition, each candidate for delegate to a national convention may, on or before four o'clock (4:00) p.m. in the afternoon of the forty-ninth (49th) day before the presidential primary, submit to the secretary of state documentation from a candidate, as set forth in § 17-12.1-4, that he or she has the approval of the candidate for presidential nominee or approval from the steering/screening committee to name the candidates' delegates to be identified with him or her. Names of delegates pledged to a presidential candidate who do not receive approval of the candidate for presidential nominee or approval from the steering/screening committee to name the candidates' delegates to be identified with him/her, who are otherwise qualified, shall appear on the ballot in accordance with party rules.

(b) When nomination papers have been duly certified by the appropriate local boards of canvassers, they shall be conclusively presumed to be valid, unless written objections to them are made as to the eligibility of the candidate or the sufficiency of the nomination papers or the signatures on them. All objections shall be filed with the state board of elections by four o'clock (4:00) p.m. on the next business day after the last day fixed for local boards to file nomination papers with the secretary of state. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the secretary of state from disqualifying a candidate based on the determination of the secretary of state that the nomination papers or the signatures on them are invalid or insufficient.

(c) The decision of the state board shall be rendered not later than four o'clock (4:00) p.m. on the forty-seventh (47th) day before the presidential preference primary and shall immediately be certified by the state board to the secretary of state.

History

(P.L. 1975, ch. 275, § 2; P.L. 1976, ch. 27, § 1; P.L. 1976, ch. 36, § 1; P.L. 1983, ch. 183, § 1; P.L. 1988, ch. 375, § 1; P.L. 1995, ch. 80, § 1; P.L. 2007, ch. 390, § 1; P.L. 2007, ch. 479, § 1; P.L. 2011, ch. 218, § 1; P.L. 2011, ch. 303, § 1.)

17-12.1-8. Presidential preference primary. – (a) On the same date and at the same time as the election of delegates to national conventions, as provided in § 17-12.1-1, there shall be held a presidential preference primary for each political party at which each party voter shall have the opportunity to vote his or her preference for his or her choice for one person to be the candidate of his or her party for president of the United States.

(b) The secretary of state shall place on the ballot the name

of all persons qualified as candidates for presidential nominee as provided in § 17-12.1-4, and who have not filed with the secretary of state the affidavit as provided in § 17-12.1-4, and shall list under the name of each candidate for presidential nominee, arranged by lot, the names of all candidates for delegates to a national convention who submitted the approval of the candidate for presidential nominee as set forth in § 17-12.1-7. All other candidates for delegates to a national convention shall be listed on the ballot, arranged by lot, as uncommitted, unless otherwise specified in party rules.

History

(P.L. 1975, ch. 275, § 2; P.L. 1995, ch. 80, § 1; P.L. 1996, ch. 277, § 8; P.L. 1996, ch. 298, § 8; P.L. 2011, ch. 218, § 1; P.L. 2011, ch. 303, § 1.)

17-12.1-9. Voting for nominees and delegates -

Designation of winning delegates. – Each voter shall vote, within that voter’s party primary, for the presidential nominees of that voter’s choice or may express that voter’s choice for no nominee in a space provided and designated “uncommitted” and for any or all of the number of elected delegates allocated to Rhode Island by the respective national committees. The number of delegates and the designation of the winning delegates shall be determined pursuant to the rules of the political party filed with the secretary of state as provided by this chapter.

History

(P.L. 1975, ch. 275, § 2.)

17-12.1-10. Filling of vacancies. – Vacancies shall be filled in the delegation by the alternates in the order of their plurality and in accordance with the rules of the political party.

History

(P.L. 1975, ch. 275, § 2.)

17-12.1-11. Form of ballot. – (a) The order on the ballot, subject to final determination of any objections filed with the board of elections and the removal of said individual(s) by the secretary of state post-lot, of the presidential nominees and delegates and the uncommitted delegates shall be chosen by lot under the direction of the secretary of state.

(b) Individuals committed to a particular presidential candidate or uncommitted shall appear in a manner so that the candidates for delegates shall be readily identified with the presidential candidate to whom they are committed or shall appear in a manner that clearly shows they are uncommitted.

(c) No person shall appear on the ballot as a candidate for delegate more than once.

(d) There shall be nothing on the ballot to indicate or suggest any political party endorsement.

(e) The secretary of state shall prepare and arrange the ballot for use in the primaries authorized in this title, which shall include, as to the candidates for delegates, the person to whom the candidates are committed and any other

information and instruction that the secretary of state shall deem necessary.

History

(P.L. 1975, ch. 275, § 2; P.L. 1996, ch. 277, § 8; P.L. 1996, ch. 298, § 8; P.L. 2011, ch. 218, § 1; P.L. 2011, ch. 303, § 1.)

17-12.1-12. Definitions. – For the purposes of this chapter the following terms have the meaning indicated as follows:

(1) “Political party” is defined as provided in § 17-1-2(9).

(2) “Uncommitted” means a candidate for delegate not approved by, obligated, or committed to any particular presidential contender.

History

(P.L. 1975, ch. 275, § 2; P.L. 1994, ch. 185, § 2; P.L. 1994, ch. 416, § 2; P.L. 1995, ch. 80, § 1.)

17-12.1-13. Repealed.

History

(P.L. 1975, ch. 275, § 2; Repealed by P.L. 1996, ch. 277, § 15; P.L. 1996, ch. 298, § 15, effective January 1, 1997.)

17-12.1-14. Recount. – (a) Upon application, the state board of elections shall conduct a recount for a presidential candidate or delegate for a winning candidate when there is a two hundred (200) or less vote difference between the losing candidate or delegate and the winner. Said recount shall be conducted by re-reading the programmed memory device or devices and comparing the results and totals obtained at such recount with the results and totals obtained on election night.

(b) The state board shall have the authority to adopt rules and regulations to implement and administer the provisions of this section.

History

(P.L. 1975, ch. 275, § 2; P.L. 2004, ch. 264, § 3; P.L. 2004, ch. 483, § 3; P.L. 2013, ch. 501, § 96.)

17-12.1-15. Political party rules. – The state chairperson of each political party shall, on or before the first Tuesday in January of each year a primary is to be held pursuant to this chapter, file with the secretary of state a certified copy of the complete rules of the political party including, but not limited to, the delegate selection rules and delegate procedure for the national convention of the political party.

History

(P.L. 1975, ch. 275, § 2; P.L. 1983, ch. 183, § 1; P.L. 2011, ch. 218, § 1; P.L. 2011, ch. 303, § 1.)

17-12.1-16. Applicability. – The appropriate provisions of this title shall apply to the primaries held under the provisions of this chapter, unless clearly inconsistent with this chapter.

History

(P.L. 1975, ch. 275, § 2.)