

School Board Nominating Petition Circulation - 2015

1. The declaration of candidacy at the top of the petition form must be completed prior to circulation for signatures (SDCL 12-6-8). The declaration cannot be signed prior to the first date of circulation. The name will appear on the ballot in the exact form indicated in the declaration of candidacy (SDCL 12-16-1).
2. Petitions may not be circulated until ten weeks prior to the election. Petitions may be filed no later than the Friday thirty-nine days before the election at 5:00 pm. However, if the school election is combined with a municipal election on April 14, 2015 petition circulation may begin on January 30, 2015 and the filing deadline is February 27, 2015. If the election is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June petition circulation may begin on March 1, 2015 and the filing deadline is March 31, 2015. Petitions which are mailed by REGISTERED MAIL prior to 5:00 p.m. on the last day to file will be considered timely filed.
3. Signatures of registered voters must be obtained between the date of the candidate's signed declaration of candidacy and the date of the circulator's verification.
4. The petition circulator must be a resident of the state of South Dakota who is at least eighteen years of age. The petition circulator must personally witness each signature on the petition being circulated. The petition's verification must be completed following circulation and must include the circulator's printed name and complete address and signed under oath before a notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths.
5. Each petition signer must be a registered voter in the state of South Dakota in the school district for which the petition is circulated (SDCL 12-6-8).
6. Signers must sign their names as they are registered to vote or as they usually sign their names.
7. The signer's printed name must appear below the signature.

8. Each signature line must show a complete residence address. This can be street and house number or rural route and box number in addition to the city or town. Zip codes are not necessary but will not invalidate a signature.

If the signer is a resident of a second or third class municipality, a post office box number may be used in lieu of a street address. Second and third class municipalities are those with less than 5000 population. They would include all municipalities except the following which are first class municipalities:

Aberdeen, Brandon, Brookings, Huron, Madison, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Sturgis, Vermillion, Watertown and Yankton.

9. Each signature line must show the month and day it was signed.

10. Numbers to designate the month are permissible. Abbreviations commonly used are also acceptable.

11. The county of the signer's voter registration must be included.

12. The date, address, county of registration, and printed name may be added by the circulator prior to the petition being filed. Ditto marks may not be used.

13. A voter may sign as many petitions for a particular office as there are positions to be filled (SDCL 12-6-8).

14. Petitions are filed with the school business manager.

It is prudent to submit any petition to the filing authority with ample time prior to the deadline to allow you to collect additional signatures if there are not sufficient valid signatures presented on your initial petition.

For additional information or petition forms, contact your school business manager, Associated School Boards of South Dakota, 224-2515 or Secretary of State's office, 773-3537.

This pamphlet has been prepared for the 2015 school board elections.