

**Rule 3. Rules Concerning Qualified Political Organizations**

- 3.1 A qualified political organization, as defined in Rule 1.1.42, must file proof of organization with the Secretary of State. The proof must include, but is not limited to:
- 3.1.1 The organization's bylaws, which must include the method for selecting officers, delegates to county, state, and national conventions, and candidates planning to petition onto the state's general election ballot; and
  - 3.1.2 The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the organization's Colorado chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary, together with the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all other members elected or appointed to other offices or committees authorized by the bylaws.
- 3.2 A qualified political organization must meet at least once each calendar year.
- 3.2.1 During the meeting in odd-numbered years, the organization must elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, and other officers or committees required by the organization's bylaws. If the political organization is a new organization, the organization must hold this meeting before placing a candidate on the ballot. In this instance, the organization may hold this meeting in an even-numbered year and may select candidates as described in Rule 3.3.3.
  - 3.2.2 The organization's chairperson and secretary must file with the Secretary of State a full and complete list, under oath, of the persons elected or appointed under this Rule 3.2, together with any amendments to the bylaws adopted at the meeting.
  - 3.2.3 During the meeting in even-numbered years, the organization must select candidates who will attempt to petition onto the ballot for the next general election.
- 3.3 To remain in good standing, a qualified political organization must place a candidate, certified to the ballot by the Secretary of State, on the general election ballot every two years. A write-in candidate alone is not sufficient to meet this requirement.

- 3.3.1 Organization candidates must be nominated in accordance with section 1-4-802, C.R.S.
- 3.3.2 Each petition must contain the name of one candidate and an affidavit signed under oath by the chairperson and secretary of the qualified political organization. The affidavit form must be approved by the Secretary of State.
- 3.3.3 To qualify for the ballot, a candidate must have been affiliated with the qualified political organization by the first business day in January of the election year, or if the organization has not been qualified, the candidate must have been registered as unaffiliated by the first business day in January of the election year.
- 3.4 The Secretary of State will qualify a political organization if the organization:
  - 3.4.1 Files proof of organization with the Secretary of State by March 1 in an even numbered year;
  - 3.4.2 Meets and names a candidate to the general election ballot; and
  - 3.4.3 Places a candidate, certified to the ballot by the Secretary of State, on the general election ballot.
- 3.5 Once qualified, eligible electors may affiliate with the political organization.
- 3.6 The Secretary of State will revoke the qualified status of a political organization if the organization does not fully comply with Rules 3.3 and 3.4.
- 3.7 If the Secretary of State revokes the qualified status of a political organization, the Secretary will notify county clerks by June 1 of each odd-numbered year. Upon receipt, the county clerk must mark registration records as “unaffiliated”, where applicable.