

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 196**

**Representatives Creech, King**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 3513.041, 3513.05, 3513.06, 1  
3513.07, 3513.261, and 3513.271 and to enact 2  
section 3513.053 of the Revised Code to allow an 3  
elector who is not a member of a political party 4  
to protest a person's candidacy for that party's 5  
nomination on certain grounds and to provide 6  
space on candidacy forms for former names. 7

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 3513.041, 3513.05, 3513.06, 8  
3513.07, 3513.261, and 3513.271 be amended and section 3513.053 9  
of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 10

**Sec. 3513.041.** A write-in space shall be provided on the 11  
ballot for every office, except in an election for which the 12  
board of elections has received no valid declarations of intent 13  
to be a write-in candidate under this section. Write-in votes 14  
shall not be counted for any candidate who has not filed a 15  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate pursuant to 16  
this section. A qualified person who has filed a declaration of 17  
intent may receive write-in votes at either a primary or general 18  
election. Any candidate shall file a declaration of intent to be 19

a write-in candidate before four p.m. of the seventy-second day 20  
preceding the election at which such candidacy is to be 21  
considered. If the election is to be determined by electors of a 22  
county or a district or subdivision within the county, such 23  
declaration shall be filed with the board of elections of that 24  
county. If the election is to be determined by electors of a 25  
subdivision located in more than one county, such declaration 26  
shall be filed with the board of elections of the county in 27  
which the major portion of the population of such subdivision is 28  
located. If the election is to be determined by electors of a 29  
district comprised of more than one county but less than all of 30  
the counties of the state, such declaration shall be filed with 31  
the board of elections of the most populous county in such 32  
district. Any candidate for an office to be voted upon by 33  
electors throughout the entire state shall file a declaration of 34  
intent to be a write-in candidate with the secretary of state 35  
before four p.m. of the seventy-second day preceding the 36  
election at which such candidacy is to be considered. In 37  
addition, candidates for president and vice-president of the 38  
United States shall also file with the secretary of state by 39  
that seventy-second day a slate of presidential electors 40  
sufficient in number to satisfy the requirements of the United 41  
States constitution. 42

A board of elections shall not accept for filing the 43  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person 44  
seeking to become a candidate if that person, for the same 45  
election, has already filed a declaration of candidacy, a 46  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or a 47  
nominating petition, or has become a candidate through party 48  
nomination at a primary election or by the filling of a vacancy 49  
under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code, for any 50

federal, state, or county office, if the declaration of intent 51  
to be a write-in candidate is for a state or county office, or 52  
for any municipal or township office, for member of a city, 53  
local, or exempted village board of education, or for member of 54  
a governing board of an educational service center, if the 55  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate is for a 56  
municipal or township office, or for member of a city, local, or 57  
exempted village board of education, or for member of a 58  
governing board of an educational service center. 59

No person shall file a declaration of intent to be a 60  
write-in candidate for the office of governor unless the 61  
declaration also shows the intent of another person to be a 62  
write-in candidate for the office of lieutenant governor. No 63  
person shall file a declaration of intent to be a write-in 64  
candidate for the office of lieutenant governor unless the 65  
declaration also shows the intent of another person to be a 66  
write-in candidate for the office of governor. No person shall 67  
file a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate for the 68  
office of governor or lieutenant governor if the person has 69  
previously filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in 70  
candidate to the office of governor or lieutenant governor at 71  
the same primary or general election. A write-in vote for the 72  
two candidates who file such a declaration shall be counted as a 73  
vote for them as joint candidates for the offices of governor 74  
and lieutenant governor. 75

The secretary of state shall not accept for filing the 76  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person for 77  
the office of governor unless the declaration also shows the 78  
intent of another person to be a write-in candidate for the 79  
office of lieutenant governor, shall not accept for filing the 80  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person for 81

the office of lieutenant governor unless the declaration also 82  
shows the intent of another person to be a write-in candidate 83  
for the office of governor, and shall not accept for filing the 84  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate of a person to 85  
the office of governor or lieutenant governor if that person, 86  
for the same election, has already filed a declaration of 87  
candidacy, a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, 88  
or a nominating petition, or has become a candidate through 89  
party nomination at a primary election or by the filling of a 90  
vacancy under section 3513.30 or 3513.31 of the Revised Code, 91  
for any other state office or any federal or county office. 92

Protests Except as otherwise provided in section 3513.053 93  
of the Revised Code, protests against the candidacy of any 94  
person filing a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate 95  
may be filed by any qualified elector who is eligible to vote in 96  
the election at which the candidacy is to be considered. The 97  
protest shall be in writing and shall be filed not later than 98  
four p.m. of the sixty-seventh day before the day of the 99  
election. The protest shall be filed with the board of elections 100  
with which the declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate 101  
was filed. Upon the filing of the protest, the board with which 102  
it is filed shall promptly fix the time for hearing it and shall 103  
proceed in regard to the hearing in the same manner as for 104  
hearings set for protests filed under section 3513.05 of the 105  
Revised Code. At the time fixed, the board shall hear the 106  
protest and determine the validity or invalidity of the 107  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate. If the board 108  
finds that the candidate is not an elector of the state, 109  
district, county, or political subdivision in which the 110  
candidate seeks election to office or has not fully complied 111  
with the requirements of Title XXXV of the Revised Code in 112

regard to the candidate's candidacy, the candidate's declaration 113  
of intent to be a write-in candidate shall be determined to be 114  
invalid and shall be rejected; otherwise, it shall be determined 115  
to be valid. The determination of the board is final. 116

The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of the 117  
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate. 118

**Sec. 3513.05.** Each person desiring to become a candidate 119  
for a party nomination at a primary election or for election to 120  
an office or position to be voted for at a primary election, 121  
except persons desiring to become joint candidates for the 122  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor and except as 123  
otherwise provided in section 3513.051 of the Revised Code, 124  
shall, not later than four p.m. of the ninetieth day before the 125  
day of the primary election, file a declaration of candidacy and 126  
petition and pay the fees required under divisions (A) and (B) 127  
of section 3513.10 of the Revised Code. The declaration of 128  
candidacy and all separate petition papers shall be filed at the 129  
same time as one instrument. When the offices are to be voted 130  
for at a primary election, persons desiring to become joint 131  
candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor 132  
shall, not later than four p.m. of the ninetieth day before the 133  
day of the primary election, comply with section 3513.04 of the 134  
Revised Code. The prospective joint candidates' declaration of 135  
candidacy and all separate petition papers of candidacies shall 136  
be filed at the same time as one instrument. The secretary of 137  
state or a board of elections shall not accept for filing a 138  
declaration of candidacy and petition of a person seeking to 139  
become a candidate if that person, for the same election, has 140  
already filed a declaration of candidacy or a declaration of 141  
intent to be a write-in candidate, or has become a candidate by 142  
the filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 of the Revised 143

Code for any federal, state, or county office, if the 144  
declaration of candidacy is for a state or county office, or for 145  
any municipal or township office, if the declaration of 146  
candidacy is for a municipal or township office. 147

If the declaration of candidacy declares a candidacy which 148  
is to be submitted to electors throughout the entire state, the 149  
petition, including a petition for joint candidates for the 150  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor, shall be signed by 151  
at least one thousand qualified electors who are members of the 152  
same political party as the candidate or joint candidates, and 153  
the declaration of candidacy and petition shall be filed with 154  
the secretary of state; provided that the secretary of state 155  
shall not accept or file any such petition appearing on its face 156  
to contain signatures of more than three thousand electors. 157

Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, if the 158  
declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be submitted only 159  
to electors within a district, political subdivision, or portion 160  
thereof, the petition shall be signed by not less than fifty 161  
qualified electors who are members of the same political party 162  
as the political party of which the candidate is a member. If 163  
the declaration of candidacy is for party nomination as a 164  
candidate for member of the legislative authority of a municipal 165  
corporation elected by ward, the petition shall be signed by not 166  
less than twenty-five qualified electors who are members of the 167  
political party of which the candidate is a member. 168

No such petition, except the petition for a candidacy that 169  
is to be submitted to electors throughout the entire state, 170  
shall be accepted for filing if it appears to contain on its 171  
face signatures of more than three times the minimum number of 172  
signatures. When a petition of a candidate has been accepted for 173

filing by a board of elections, the petition shall not be deemed 174  
invalid if, upon verification of signatures contained in the 175  
petition, the board of elections finds the number of signatures 176  
accepted exceeds three times the minimum number of signatures 177  
required. A board of elections may discontinue verifying 178  
signatures on petitions when the number of verified signatures 179  
equals the minimum required number of qualified signatures. 180

If the declaration of candidacy declares a candidacy for 181  
party nomination or for election as a candidate of a minor 182  
party, the minimum number of signatures on such petition is one- 183  
half the minimum number provided in this section, except that, 184  
when the candidacy is one for election as a member of the state 185  
central committee or the county central committee of a political 186  
party, the minimum number shall be the same for a minor party as 187  
for a major party. 188

If a declaration of candidacy is one for election as a 189  
member of the state central committee or the county central 190  
committee of a political party, the petition shall be signed by 191  
five qualified electors of the district, county, ward, township, 192  
or precinct within which electors may vote for such candidate. 193  
The electors signing such petition shall be members of the same 194  
political party as the political party of which the candidate is 195  
a member. 196

For purposes of signing or circulating a petition of 197  
candidacy for party nomination or election, an elector is 198  
considered to be a member of a political party if the elector 199  
voted in that party's primary election within the preceding two 200  
calendar years, or if the elector did not vote in any other 201  
party's primary election within the preceding two calendar 202  
years. 203

If the declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be 204  
submitted only to electors within a county, or within a district 205  
or subdivision or part thereof smaller than a county, the 206  
petition shall be filed with the board of elections of the 207  
county. If the declaration of candidacy is of one that is to be 208  
submitted only to electors of a district or subdivision or part 209  
thereof that is situated in more than one county, the petition 210  
shall be filed with the board of elections of the county within 211  
which the major portion of the population thereof, as 212  
ascertained by the next preceding federal census, is located. 213

A petition shall consist of separate petition papers, each 214  
of which shall contain signatures of electors of only one 215  
county. Petitions or separate petition papers containing 216  
signatures of electors of more than one county shall not thereby 217  
be declared invalid. In case petitions or separate petition 218  
papers containing signatures of electors of more than one county 219  
are filed, the board shall determine the county from which the 220  
majority of signatures came, and only signatures from such 221  
county shall be counted. Signatures from any other county shall 222  
be invalid. 223

Each separate petition paper shall be circulated by one 224  
person only, who shall be the candidate or a joint candidate or 225  
a member of the same political party as the candidate or joint 226  
candidates, and each separate petition paper shall be governed 227  
by the rules set forth in section 3501.38 of the Revised Code. 228

The secretary of state shall promptly transmit to each 229  
board such separate petition papers of each petition 230  
accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with the secretary 231  
of state as purport to contain signatures of electors of the 232  
county of such board. The board of the most populous county of a 233



district shall promptly transmit to each board within such 234  
district such separate petition papers of each petition 235  
accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with it as purport 236  
to contain signatures of electors of the county of each such 237  
board. The board of a county within which the major portion of 238  
the population of a subdivision, situated in more than one 239  
county, is located, shall promptly transmit to the board of each 240  
other county within which a portion of such subdivision is 241  
located such separate petition papers of each petition 242  
accompanying a declaration of candidacy filed with it as purport 243  
to contain signatures of electors of the portion of such 244  
subdivision in the county of each such board. 245

All petition papers so transmitted to a board and all 246  
petitions accompanying declarations of candidacy filed with a 247  
board shall, under proper regulations, be open to public 248  
inspection until four p.m. of the eightieth day before the day 249  
of the next primary election. Each board shall, not later than 250  
the seventy-eighth day before the day of that primary election, 251  
examine and determine the validity or invalidity of the 252  
signatures on the petition papers so transmitted to or filed 253  
with it and shall return to the secretary of state all petition 254  
papers transmitted to it by the secretary of state, together 255  
with its certification of its determination as to the validity 256  
or invalidity of signatures thereon, and shall return to each 257  
other board all petition papers transmitted to it by such board, 258  
together with its certification of its determination as to the 259  
validity or invalidity of the signatures thereon. All other 260  
matters affecting the validity or invalidity of such petition 261  
papers shall be determined by the secretary of state or the 262  
board with whom such petition papers were filed. 263

~~Protests~~ Except as otherwise provided in section 3513.053 264

of the Revised Code, protests against the candidacy of any 265  
person filing a declaration of candidacy for party nomination or 266  
for election to an office or position, as provided in this 267  
section, may be filed by any qualified elector who is a member 268  
of the same political party as the candidate and who is eligible 269  
to vote at the primary election for the candidate whose 270  
declaration of candidacy the elector objects to, or by the 271  
controlling committee of that political party. The protest shall 272  
be in writing, and shall be filed not later than four p.m. of 273  
the seventy-fourth day before the day of the primary election. 274  
The protest shall be filed with the election officials with whom 275  
the declaration of candidacy and petition was filed. Upon the 276  
filing of the protest, the election officials with whom it is 277  
filed shall promptly fix the time for hearing it, and shall 278  
forthwith mail notice of the filing of the protest and the time 279  
fixed for hearing to the person whose candidacy is so protested. 280  
They shall also forthwith mail notice of the time fixed for such 281  
hearing to the person who filed the protest. At the time fixed, 282  
such election officials shall hear the protest and determine the 283  
validity or invalidity of the declaration of candidacy and 284  
petition. If they find that such candidate is not an elector of 285  
the state, district, county, or political subdivision in which 286  
the candidate seeks a party nomination or election to an office 287  
or position, or has not fully complied with this chapter, the 288  
candidate's declaration of candidacy and petition shall be 289  
determined to be invalid and shall be rejected; otherwise, it 290  
shall be determined to be valid. That determination shall be 291  
final. 292

A protest against the candidacy of any persons filing a 293  
declaration of candidacy for joint party nomination to the 294  
offices of governor and lieutenant governor shall be filed, 295

heard, and determined in the same manner as a protest against 296  
the candidacy of any person filing a declaration of candidacy 297  
singly. 298

The secretary of state shall, on the seventieth day before 299  
the day of a primary election, certify to each board in the 300  
state the forms of the official ballots to be used at the 301  
primary election, together with the names of the candidates to 302  
be printed on the ballots whose nomination or election is to be 303  
determined by electors throughout the entire state and who filed 304  
valid declarations of candidacy and petitions. 305

The board of the most populous county in a district 306  
comprised of more than one county but less than all of the 307  
counties of the state shall, on the seventieth day before the 308  
day of a primary election, certify to the board of each county 309  
in the district the names of the candidates to be printed on the 310  
official ballots to be used at the primary election, whose 311  
nomination or election is to be determined only by electors 312  
within the district and who filed valid declarations of 313  
candidacy and petitions. 314

The board of a county within which the major portion of 315  
the population of a subdivision smaller than the county and 316  
situated in more than one county is located shall, on the 317  
seventieth day before the day of a primary election, certify to 318  
the board of each county in which a portion of that subdivision 319  
is located the names of the candidates to be printed on the 320  
official ballots to be used at the primary election, whose 321  
nomination or election is to be determined only by electors 322  
within that subdivision and who filed valid declarations of 323  
candidacy and petitions. 324

Sec. 3513.053. Notwithstanding any provision of section 325

3513.041 or 3513.05 of the Revised Code to the contrary, any 326  
elector who is eligible to vote at the general election for an 327  
office may file a protest under those sections against a 328  
person's candidacy for a political party's nomination for the 329  
office on the ground that, if elected to the office, the person 330  
would be ineligible to hold the office for any of the following 331  
reasons: 332

(A) The person is not a United States citizen. 333

(B) The person would not have attained the minimum age to 334  
hold the office. 335

(C) The person would exceed an applicable term limit or 336  
age limit. 337

(D) The person would be ineligible to hold the office by 338  
reason of a criminal conviction. 339

(E) The person is in violation of section 3513.052 or 340  
3513.271 of the Revised Code. 341

**Sec. 3513.06.** If any person desiring to become a candidate 342  
for public office has had a change of name within five years 343  
immediately preceding the filing of the person's declaration of 344  
candidacy, the person's declaration of candidacy and petition 345  
shall both contain, immediately following the person's present 346  
name, on a space provided for the purpose, the person's former 347  
names. Any person who has been elected under the person's 348  
changed name, without submission of the person's former name, 349  
shall be immediately suspended from the office and the office 350  
declared vacated, and shall be liable to the state for any 351  
salary ~~he~~ the person has received while holding such office. The 352  
attorney general in the case of candidates for state offices, 353  
the prosecuting attorney of the most populous county in a 354

district in the case of candidates for district offices, and the 355  
prosecuting attorney of the county in the case of all other 356  
candidates shall institute necessary action to enforce this 357  
section. 358

This section does not apply to a change of name by reason 359  
of marriage; to a candidate for a state office who has once 360  
complied with this section and who has previously been elected 361  
to a state office; to a candidate for a district office who has 362  
once complied with this section and who has previously been 363  
elected to a state or district office; to a candidate for a 364  
county office who has once complied with this section and has 365  
previously been elected to a state, district, or county office; 366  
to a candidate for a municipal office who has once complied with 367  
this section and has previously been elected to a municipal 368  
office; or to a candidate for a township office who has once 369  
complied with this section and has previously been elected to a 370  
township office; provided that such previous election was one at 371  
which ~~his~~ the candidate's candidacy complied with this section. 372

**Sec. 3513.07.** The form of declaration of candidacy and 373  
petition of a person desiring to be a candidate for a party 374  
nomination or a candidate for election to an office or position 375  
to be voted for at a primary election shall be substantially as 376  
follows: 377

"DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION 378

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Candidate), the 379  
undersigned, formerly \_\_\_\_\_ (any former 380  
names used by the Candidate within the last five years, except 381  
where the change of name was the result of marriage), hereby 382  
declare under penalty of election falsification that my voting 383  
residence is in \_\_\_\_\_ precinct of the 384

\_\_\_\_\_ (Township) or (Ward and City or  
Village) in the county of \_\_\_\_\_, Ohio; that my voting  
residence is \_\_\_\_\_ (Street and Number, if any, or  
Rural Route and Number) of the \_\_\_\_\_  
(City or Village) of \_\_\_\_\_, Ohio; and that I am a  
qualified elector in the precinct in which my voting residence  
is located. I am a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Party. I hereby  
declare that I desire to be \_\_\_\_\_ (a candidate  
for nomination as a candidate of the Party for election to the  
office of \_\_\_\_\_) (a candidate for election to the office  
or position of \_\_\_\_\_) for the \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
state, district, (Full term or unexpired term ending  
\_\_\_\_\_) county, city, or village of  
\_\_\_\_\_, at the primary election to be held on the  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and I hereby request that  
my name be printed upon the official primary election ballot of  
the said \_\_\_\_\_ Party as a candidate for \_\_\_\_\_ (such  
nomination) or (such election) as provided by law.

I further declare that, if elected to said office or  
position, I will qualify therefor, and that I will support and  
abide by the principles enunciated by the \_\_\_\_\_ Party.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of candidate)

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A  
FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE.

PETITION OF CANDIDATE

We, the undersigned, qualified electors of the state of  
Ohio, whose voting residence is in the county, city, village,

ward, township, or school district, and precinct set opposite 414  
our names, and members of the 415  
\_\_\_\_\_ Party, hereby certify 416  
that \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of candidate), formerly 417  
\_\_\_\_\_ (any former names used by the 418  
candidate within the last five years, except where the change of 419  
name was the result of marriage), whose declaration of candidacy 420  
is filed herewith, is a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Party, and 421  
is, in our opinion, well qualified to perform the duties of the 422  
office or position to which that candidate desires to be 423  
elected. 424

Street City, 425

and Village or 426

Signature Number Township Ward Precinct County Date 427

(Must use address on file with the board of elections) 428

\_\_\_\_\_ 429

\_\_\_\_\_ 430

\_\_\_\_\_ 431

\_\_\_\_\_ (Name of circulator 432

of petition), declares under penalty of election falsification 433

that the circulator of the petition is a qualified elector of 434

the state of Ohio and resides at the address appearing below the 435

signature of that circulator; that the circulator is a member of 436

the \_\_\_\_\_ Party; that the circulator is the circulator of 437

the foregoing petition paper containing \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) 438

signatures; that the circulator witnessed the affixing of every 439

signature; that all signers were to the best of the circulator's 440

knowledge and belief qualified to sign; and that every signature 441

is to the best of the circulator's knowledge and belief the 442

signature of the person whose signature it purports to be or of 443

an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.382 of the Revised Code.

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(Signature of circulator)

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(Address of circulator's permanent residence in this state)

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(If petition is for a statewide candidate, the name and address of person employing to circulate petition, if any)

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE."

The secretary of state shall prescribe a form of declaration of candidacy and petition, and the form shall be substantially similar to the declaration of candidacy and petition set forth in this section, that will be suitable for joint candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor.

The petition provided for in this section shall be circulated only by a member of the same political party as the candidate.

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**Sec. 3513.261.** A nominating petition may consist of one or 469  
more separate petition papers, each of which shall be 470  
substantially in the form prescribed in this section. If the 471  
petition consists of more than one separate petition paper, the 472  
statement of candidacy of the candidate or joint candidates 473  
named need be signed by the candidate or joint candidates on 474  
only one of such separate petition papers, but the statement of 475  
candidacy so signed shall be copied on each other separate 476  
petition paper before the signatures of electors are placed on 477  
it. Each nominating petition containing signatures of electors 478  
of more than one county shall consist of separate petition 479  
papers each of which shall contain signatures of electors of 480  
only one county; provided that petitions containing signatures 481  
of electors of more than one county shall not thereby be 482  
declared invalid. In case petitions containing signatures of 483  
electors of more than one county are filed, the board of 484  
elections shall determine the county from which the majority of 485  
the signatures came, and only signatures from this county shall 486  
be counted. Signatures from any other county shall be invalid. 487

All signatures on nominating petitions shall be written in 488  
ink or indelible pencil. 489

At the time of filing a nominating petition, the candidate 490  
designated in the nominating petition, and joint candidates for 491  
governor and lieutenant governor, shall pay to the election 492  
officials with whom it is filed the fees specified for the 493  
office under divisions (A) and (B) of section 3513.10 of the 494  
Revised Code. The fees shall be disposed of by those election 495  
officials in the manner that is provided in section 3513.10 of 496  
the Revised Code for the disposition of other fees, and in no 497  
case shall a fee required under that section be returned to a 498  
candidate. 499

Candidates or joint candidates whose names are written on the ballot, and who are elected, shall pay the same fees under section 3513.10 of the Revised Code that candidates who file nominating petitions pay. Payment of these fees shall be a condition precedent to the granting of their certificates of election.

Each nominating petition shall contain a statement of candidacy that shall be signed by the candidate or joint candidates named in it or by an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.382 of the Revised Code. Such statement of candidacy shall contain a declaration made under penalty of election falsification that the candidate desires to be a candidate for the office named in it, and that the candidate is an elector qualified to vote for the office the candidate seeks.

The form of the nominating petition and statement of candidacy shall be substantially as follows:

"STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of candidate), formerly \_\_\_\_\_ (any former names used by the Candidate within the last five years, except where the change of name was the result of marriage), the undersigned, hereby declare under penalty of election falsification that my voting residence is in \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Township) or (Ward and City, or Village) in the county of \_\_\_\_\_ Ohio; that my post-office address is \_\_\_\_\_ (Street and Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number) of the \_\_\_\_\_ (City, Village, or post office) of \_\_\_\_\_, Ohio; and that I am a qualified elector in the precinct in which my

voting residence is located. I hereby declare that I desire to 530  
be a candidate for election to the office of \_\_\_\_\_ in 531  
the \_\_\_\_\_ (State, District, County, City, 532  
Village, Township, or School District) for the 533  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Full term or unexpired 534  
term ending \_\_\_\_\_) at the General Election to be held 535  
on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ 536

I further declare that I am an elector qualified to vote 537  
for the office I seek. Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 538  
\_\_\_\_\_ 539

\_\_\_\_\_ 540  
(Signature of candidate) 541

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A 542  
FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE. 543

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby constitute 544  
the persons named below a committee to represent me: 545

Name	Residence	
_____	_____	546
_____	_____	547
_____	_____	548
_____	_____	549
_____	_____	550
_____	_____	551

NOMINATING PETITION 552

We, the undersigned, qualified electors of the state of 553  
Ohio, whose voting residence is in the County, City, Village, 554  
Ward, Township or Precinct set opposite our names, hereby 555

nominate \_\_\_\_\_, formerly \_\_\_\_\_ 556  
\_\_\_\_\_ (any former names used by the \_\_\_\_\_ 557  
candidate within the last five years, except where the change of 558  
name was the result of marriage), as a candidate for election to 559  
the office of \_\_\_\_\_ in the 560  
\_\_\_\_\_ (State, District, County, City, 561  
Village, Township, or School District) for the \_\_\_\_\_ 562  
(Full term or unexpired term ending \_\_\_\_\_) to be 563  
voted for at the general election next hereafter to be held, and 564  
certify that this person is, in our opinion, well qualified to 565  
perform the duties of the office or position to which the person 566  
desires to be elected. 567  
568

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

A Street

B Address

C or R.F.D.

D (Must use

E address on City,

F file with Village

G the board of or Date of

H Signature elections) Township Ward Precinct County Signing

\_\_\_\_\_ 569

\_\_\_\_\_ 570

\_\_\_\_\_ 571

\_\_\_\_\_, declares under penalty of election 572  
falsification that such person is a qualified elector of the 573  
state of Ohio and resides at the address appearing below such 574  
person's signature hereto; that such person is the circulator of 575  
the foregoing petition paper containing \_\_\_\_\_ 576  
signatures; that such person witnessed the affixing of every 577  
signature; that all signers were to the best of such person's 578  
knowledge and belief qualified to sign; and that every signature 579  
is to the best of such person's knowledge and belief the 580  
signature of the person whose signature it purports to be or of 581  
an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.382 of the 582  
Revised Code. 583

\_\_\_\_\_ 584  
(Signature of circulator) 585

\_\_\_\_\_ 586  
(Address of circulator's 587  
permanent residence 588  
in this state) 589

\_\_\_\_\_ 590  
(If petition is for a statewide 591  
candidate, the name and address 592  
of person employing circulator 593  
to circulate petition, if any) 594

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A 595  
FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE." 596

The secretary of state shall prescribe a form of 597  
nominating petition for a group of candidates for the office of 598  
member of a board of education, township office, and offices of 599  
municipal corporations of under two thousand population. 600

The secretary of state shall prescribe a form of statement 601  
of candidacy and nominating petition, which shall be 602  
substantially similar to the form of statement of candidacy and 603  
nominating petition set forth in this section, that will be 604  
suitable for joint candidates for the offices of governor and 605  
lieutenant governor. 606

If such petition nominates a candidate whose election is 607  
to be determined by the electors of a county or a district or 608  
subdivision within the county, it shall be filed with the board 609  
of such county. If the petition nominates a candidate whose 610  
election is to be determined by the voters of a subdivision 611  
located in more than one county, it shall be filed with the 612  
board of the county in which the major portion of the population 613  
of such subdivision is located. 614

If the petition nominates a candidate whose election is to 615  
be determined by the electors of a district comprised of more 616  
than one county but less than all of the counties of the state, 617  
it shall be filed with the board of elections of the most 618  
populous county in such district. If the petition nominates a 619  
candidate whose election is to be determined by the electors of 620  
the state at large, it shall be filed with the secretary of 621  
state. 622

The secretary of state or a board of elections shall not 623  
accept for filing a nominating petition of a person seeking to 624  
become a candidate if that person, for the same election, has 625  
already filed a declaration of candidacy, a declaration of 626

intent to be a write-in candidate, or a nominating petition, or 627  
has become a candidate through party nomination at a primary 628  
election or by the filling of a vacancy under section 3513.30 or 629  
3513.31 of the Revised Code for any federal, state, or county 630  
office, if the nominating petition is for a state or county 631  
office, or for any municipal or township office, for member of a 632  
city, local, or exempted village board of education, or for 633  
member of a governing board of an educational service center, if 634  
the nominating petition is for a municipal or township office, 635  
or for member of a city, local, or exempted village board of 636  
education, or for member of a governing board of an educational 637  
service center. 638

**Sec. 3513.271.** If any person desiring to become a 639  
candidate for public office has had a change of name within five 640  
years immediately preceding the filing of ~~his~~ the person's 641  
statement of candidacy, both ~~his~~ the person's statement of 642  
candidacy and nominating petition must contain, immediately 643  
following the person's present name, on a space provided for the 644  
purpose, the person's former names. Any person who has been 645  
elected under the person's changed name, without submission of 646  
the person's former name, shall be immediately suspended from 647  
the office and the office declared vacated, and shall be liable 648  
to the state for any salary the person has received while 649  
holding such office. The attorney general in the case of 650  
candidates for state offices, the prosecuting attorney of the 651  
most populous county in a district in the case of candidates for 652  
district offices, and the prosecuting attorney of the county in 653  
the case of all other candidates shall institute necessary 654  
action to enforce this section. 655

This section does not apply to a change of name by reason 656  
of marriage; to a candidate for a state office who has once 657

complied with this section and who has previously been elected 658  
to a state office; to a candidate for a district office who has 659  
once complied with this section and who has previously been 660  
elected to a state or district office; to a candidate for a 661  
county office who has once complied with this section and has 662  
previously been elected to a state, district, or county office; 663  
to a candidate for a municipal office who has once complied with 664  
this section and has previously been elected to a municipal 665  
office; or to a candidate for a township office who has once 666  
complied with this section and has previously been elected to a 667  
township office; provided that such previous election was one at 668  
which ~~his~~ the person's candidacy complied with this section. 669

**Section 2.** That existing sections 3513.041, 3513.05, 670  
3513.06, 3513.07, 3513.261, and 3513.271 of the Revised Code are 671  
hereby repealed. 672