

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - NOMINATION OF PARTY AND INDEPENDENT  
CANDIDATES - MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SUBMITTED NOMINATION SIGNATURES

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Burke, F. Lombardi, Sosnowski, Ciccone, DiPalma,  
Tikoian, and LaMountain

Date Introduced: February 16, 2023

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-14-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-14 entitled "Nomination  
2 of Party and Independent Candidates" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-14-7. Number of signers required for nomination papers.**

4 (a) United States senator or governor. The nomination papers of a candidate for the party  
5 nomination or an independent candidate for presidential elector, United States senator, or governor  
6 shall be signed, in the aggregate, by at least one thousand (1,000) voters. Notwithstanding the  
7 foregoing, for the 2020 election only, the nomination papers of a candidate for the party nomination  
8 or an independent candidate for United States senator shall be signed, in the aggregate, by at least  
9 five hundred (500) voters.

10 (b) Representative in Congress. The nomination papers of a candidate for the party  
11 nomination or an independent candidate for representative in Congress shall be signed, in the  
12 aggregate, by at least five hundred (500) voters. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for the 2020  
13 election only, the nomination papers of a candidate for the party nomination or an independent  
14 candidate for representative in Congress shall be signed, in the aggregate, by at least two hundred  
15 fifty (250) voters.

16 (c) General state offices. The nomination papers of a candidate for the party nomination or  
17 an independent candidate for any of the general offices of the state, excluding governor, shall be  
18 signed, in the aggregate, by at least five hundred (500) voters.

1 (d) State senator. The nomination papers of a candidate for a party nomination or  
2 independent candidate for senator in any senatorial district shall be signed, in the aggregate, by at  
3 least one hundred (100) voters of the senatorial district and the candidate shall submit no more than  
4 one hundred fifty (150) signatures for certification.

5 (e) State representative. The nomination papers of a candidate for party nomination or an  
6 independent candidate for a member of the house of representatives from any representative district  
7 shall be signed, in the aggregate, by at least fifty (50) voters of the representative district and the  
8 candidate shall submit no more than one hundred (100) signatures for certification.

9 (f) City offices. The nomination papers of a candidate for party nomination or an  
10 independent candidate for any local office to be filled by the voters of any city at large shall be  
11 signed, in the aggregate, by at least two hundred (200) voters of the city, provided that in the city  
12 of Newport, for at-large candidates or candidates for school committee, at least one hundred (100)  
13 signatures shall be required; provided, further, that in the city of Woonsocket, for candidates for  
14 citywide nonpartisan office, including city council, mayor, and candidates for school committee, if  
15 elected, at least one hundred (100) signatures shall be required; and provided, further that in the  
16 city of Providence, at least five hundred (500) signatures shall be required. Any candidate required  
17 to submit a minimum of one hundred (100) signatures for nomination by this subsection, shall  
18 submit no more than one hundred fifty (150) signatures seeking certification.

19 (g) Voting district moderator or clerk. The nomination papers for a candidate for voting  
20 district moderator or clerk in any town shall be signed, in the aggregate, by at least ten (10) voters  
21 of the voting district.

22 (h) Other offices. The nomination papers of a candidate for party nomination for other  
23 offices covered by § 17-15-7, or for the election of delegates or for unendorsed party committee  
24 candidates, shall be signed, in the aggregate, by fifty (50) voters and the candidate shall submit no  
25 more than seventy-five (75) signatures for certification.

26 (i) After certifying voter signatures in a sum equal to or greater than fifty percent (50%)  
27 above the minimum number necessary for a candidate to be qualified pursuant to the provisions of  
28 this section, the board of canvassers may stop further certification of signatures.

29 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2024.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would limit the number of signatures that a candidate may submit for certification,  
2 to one hundred (100) if fifty (50) signatures are required and to one hundred fifty (150) when one  
3 hundred (100) signatures are required.

4           This act would take effect on January 1, 2024.

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