Declared Write-In Candidate Requirements

**For 2024 General Election Candidates**

**Who is a Write-In Candidate?**

Title 21-A MRS §1(51), §338, §722-A, §723

A “write-in candidate” is a person:

1. Whose name is not printed on the ballot; and
2. Who otherwise fulfills the qualifications for the office designated; and
3. Who receives one or more valid write-in votes for an office listed on a primary, general or special election ballot; and
4. Who has filed a “Declaration of Write-In Candidacy” on or before 5 p.m. on the **70th day prior** to the election. **The filing deadline for the November 5, 2024 General Election is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 27, 2024.**

Declaration forms can be obtained from the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions.

**There is a different Declaration of Write-In Candidacy for each office up for election. The write-in candidate must specify which form is needed.**

# Party Name or Designation of a Write-In Candidate

For the **General Election,** the candidate may indicate a party or political designation by writing that party or political designation in the appropriate space on the Declaration of Write-In Candidacy. The candidate may insert the name of a qualified party (Democratic, Green Independent, Libertarian, No Labels or Republican) or choose a political designation which may not exceed 3 words in length, and may not incorporate the candidate’s name or the designation or an abbreviation of the designation of a party that is qualified to nominate candidates by primary election, and may not consist of or comprise language that is obscene or violates any other provision of Maine law with respect to names. A candidate who intends to form a new party about that person’s candidacy must use the proposed party’s designation.

**Note:** Somerset County elects all county officials, except for District Attorney, in a non-partisan election. Candidates for Somerset County offices should write “None” or “Non-Partisan” in this space.

# How Does a Voter Cast a Write-In Vote?

Title 21-A §692 (General Election)

1. The voter must write the candidate’s name in the blank space provided next to the write-in indicator. The residence address of the candidate is not required in order for the vote to count; **and**
2. The voter also must mark the write-in indicator as instructed on the ballot to indicate a vote for the write-in candidate.

**Note:** The use of stickers is not allowed to cast a write-in vote on any ballot.

# Minimum Number of Votes Needed

Title 21-A §723(2) (General Election), §723-A (Ranked Choice)

For a **General** Election, the person receiving the greatest number of votes (i.e., a plurality) is elected, as long as there is at least one vote cast for that office. Ranked-choice offices are determined by the provisions of §723-A.