

2020 -- H 8086

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - PARTY COMMITTEES AND CONVENTIONS

Introduced By: Representative Anastasia P. Williams

Date Introduced: July 02, 2020

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-12-11 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-12 entitled "Party
2 Committees and Conventions" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-12-11. Endorsement by local committees.**

4 (a)(1) Each town, ward, and city committee shall file with the appropriate local board the
5 list of candidates in the town, ward, or city which have the endorsement of the committees.

6 (2) Endorsements by town, ward, and city committees shall be signed by three (3) officers
7 of the committee.

8 (b)(1) Each district committee shall file with the board of canvassers of the city or town of
9 residence of the senatorial or representative candidate endorsed, ~~except that if the candidate is a~~
10 ~~resident of Providence the endorsement shall be filed with the secretary of state,~~ the list of
11 candidates in the district which have the endorsement of the committee.

12 (2) Endorsements by district committees shall be signed by a majority of those members
13 presently on the committee.

14 (c) Endorsements shall be filed with the appropriate local board or the secretary of state, as
15 the case may be, not later than four o'clock (4:00) p.m. of the day after the last day for filing
16 declarations of candidacy.

17 SECTION 2. Section 17-14-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-14 entitled "Nomination
18 of Party and Independent Candidates" is hereby amended to read as follows:

19 **17-14-4. Preparation of nomination papers for candidates -- Combination of endorsed**

1 **candidates -- Furnishing of nomination papers to candidates.**

2 (a) Upon receipt of the declarations referred to in § 17-14-1, within two (2) business days
3 of the final date for filing endorsements, the secretary of state for statewide candidates and the local
4 board for general assembly and local candidates shall prepare nomination papers for each person
5 who has filed a declaration of candidacy as provided in § 17-14-1. A minimum of three (3) sets of
6 nomination papers shall be prepared for each candidate whose name appears on nomination papers
7 containing the name of a candidate for general assembly and for local office. ~~Nomination papers~~
8 ~~for voters from the city of Providence for the offices enumerated in § 17-14-1 shall be furnished by~~
9 ~~the secretary of state.~~ Nomination papers shall be prepared with the name of the candidate as it
10 appears on the voting list, notwithstanding that the candidate may have signed his or her declaration
11 of candidacy other than as the candidate's name appears on the voting list. Candidates for
12 nomination for different offices endorsed by the appropriate committee on any party shall be
13 combined on the same nomination papers. The names of candidates for different offices not
14 endorsed by the appropriate committee of any party shall not be combined on the same nomination
15 papers. Nomination papers for candidates for general assembly shall be furnished by the local board
16 of the general assembly candidate. Nomination papers shall be furnished to the local boards by the
17 secretary of state and each shall bear the imprint of the state coat of arms and any additional
18 language required by law. Nomination papers shall be appropriately marked or color coded to
19 indicate the different political parties, the endorsed and unendorsed candidates of those parties, and
20 independent candidates.

21 (b) General assembly and local candidates for nomination may, at their own expense, have
22 nomination papers duplicated. The signatures obtained on the duplicated nomination papers shall
23 be considered valid if, and only if, prior to any signatures being affixed, the duplicated nomination
24 papers have been time stamped by the secretary of state or local board of canvassers which issued
25 the original nomination papers.

26 (c) Nomination papers furnished by the secretary of state shall be personally issued to the
27 candidate, or in the case of combined nomination papers to one of the candidates, for whom they
28 were prepared, or to an individual presenting written authorization from the candidate, or one of
29 the candidates appearing on them, to receive the nomination papers.

30 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO ELECTIONS - PARTY COMMITTEES AND CONVENTIONS

1 This act would provide that for candidates for the general assembly, the filing of
2 endorsement papers of candidates by the Providence city committees, as well as the furnishing of
3 nomination papers for Providence voters, would be through the local board of canvassers rather
4 than the office of the secretary of state.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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