Write-in Candidate Requirements for 2020 General Election

*Additional Information for Candidates for President, Vice-President*

*and Presidential Elector*

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR U.S. PRESIDENT**

U.S. Constitution, Art. II, §1

* The candidate must be a natural born Citizen of the United States and a resident of the United States for 14 years; and
* must have attained the age of 35 years.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR**

Title 21-A: §352

A presidential elector must be a resident of and a voter in the electoral division the elector represents. An at-large elector can reside anywhere in the state, but must be a registered Maine voter.

**HOW ARE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS NOMINATED?**

Presidential Electors are the people who actually elect the President of the United States. When voters go to the polls on Election Day, they cast a vote for who they would like to see as President. This is called the “popular vote”. The popular vote is used to choose “electors” – these are the people who are nominated to cast votes for President and Vice-President of the United States. Voters choose the electors and the electors choose the President.

The number of Electoral College votes allotted to each state is determined by adding up the members of the United States Congress who are elected from that state. Maine has two U.S. Senators and two U.S. Representatives, for a total of four members of Congress. Therefore, Maine also gets four Electoral College votes.

A presidential write-in candidate must name the candidate’s four electors when the Declaration of Write-in Candidacy is submitted. In the group of four electors, one must be from the First Congressional District, one must be from the Second Congressional District and two are chosen at-large. Each elector must file a written consent with the Secretary of State.

After the popular vote is cast November 3, 2020, the electors will meet to cast their votes for President. The candidate who wins the most popular votes in the First Congressional District wins one elector. The candidate with the most popular votes in the Second Congressional District wins one elector. The candidate who wins the most popular votes statewide wins the two at-large electors.