

of the delegates from Maryland of the party in its national convention, may become a candidate for nomination in primary elections to be held in accordance with the provisions of this article only:

(1) By direction of the Secretary of State who shall place the name of the candidate upon the ballot ~~at least 77 days prior to the date set by law for the primary election~~ **NO SOONER THAN 70 DAYS NOR LATER THAN 53 DAYS PRECEDING THE DATE SET BY LAW FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION** when he has determined in his sole discretion that the candidate's candidacy is generally advocated or recognized in national news media throughout the United States, unless the candidate executes and files with the Secretary of State an affidavit stating without qualification that he is not and does not intend to become a candidate for the ~~office~~ **OFFICE** at the forthcoming election; or

(2) By making the payment required and by filing a ~~certificate of candidacy at least 70 days prior to the date set by law for the primary election specifying the party to which he belongs and the national convention whose nomination for President he seeks.~~ **WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE A PETITION IN THE FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE WHICH SHALL CONTAIN THE SIGNATURES OF NOT LESS THAN 400 OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS WITHIN EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, AT LEAST 53 DAYS PRECEDING THE DATE SET BY LAW FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL REQUIRE COMPLIANCE WITH SECTIONS 7-1 AND 7-2.**

(3) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, whenever any person who has been nominated in any presidential primary election, in a writing signed by him and acknowledged before a justice of the peace or notary public, notifies the officer or board with whom the certificate of candidacy, or petition for nomination, or name is required to be filed by this article, at least forty-five (45) days before the primary that he desires to withdraw as a candidate for the nomination, his name shall be withdrawn and the name of any person so withdrawing shall not be printed upon the ballots to be used at the presidential primary election. The filing of a valid certificate of withdrawal of candidacy is a final act of withdrawal; and a person who files a certificate of withdrawal may not reinstate his candidacy, unless the time limit for the filing of candidacies has not expired. No filing fees shall be refunded to persons who withdraw in accordance with this section, subject, however, to Section 4A-7 of this article. **NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL APPLY TO A CANDIDATE WHO QUALIFIES UNDER SECTION 12-2 (A) (1).**

(b) A candidate qualifying under this section shall be entitled to have his name printed upon the official primary ballot of his party in primary elections held under and in accordance with this article as a candidate for the nomination for President.

(c) The board of supervisors of elections in each county and of Baltimore City shall have printed upon the official primary ballots of each of those political parties in each county of the State, and in each legislative district of Baltimore City at the primary election in each year in which a President of the United States is to be elected, the names of the candidates for President and names of