
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 1097

AN ACT REQUIRING DISCLOSURE OF PRESIDENTIAL AND GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES' FEDERAL TAX RETURNS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires candidates for U.S. President or Vice President, and governor or lieutenant governor, to publicly disclose their federal income tax returns in order to be listed on the official ballot in Connecticut. The requirement applies to tax returns for the three years immediately preceding a primary or general election.

Under the bill, candidates must publicly disclose their federal income tax returns by filing copies with the secretary of the state according to specified deadlines and by giving her written authorization to publish them on her office's website. The publication must occur within seven days after the filing. Candidates who run in a primary need not provide additional copies of their tax returns in order to be listed on the general election ballot.

The bill makes several technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

DISCLOSURE DEADLINES

Candidates for President or Vice President

Under the bill, in order for their names to appear on the ballot in a presidential preference primary, candidates for president must file their federal income tax returns with the secretary of the state by 4:00 p.m., 75 days before the primary. In order for their presidential electors to appear on the general election ballot, candidates for President or Vice President must file their tax returns by 4:00 p.m., 63 days before the election (see BACKGROUND).

Candidates for Governor or Lieutenant Governor

Under the bill, candidates for governor or lieutenant governor must file their tax returns with the secretary of the state by specified deadlines, in order for their names to appear on the ballot. Deadlines are as follows:

1. party-endorsed candidates running in a primary must file by 4:00 p.m., 14 days after the convention;
2. major-party candidates challenging the party-endorsed candidate in a primary must file by 4:00 p.m., 63 days before the primary;
3. major, minor, or petitioning party candidates in the general election must file by 4:00 p.m., 63 days before the election; and
4. write-in candidates in the general election must file by 4:00 p.m., 14 days before the election.

BACKGROUND

Presidential Electors

By law, at a presidential election, the words “Presidential electors for” appear on the ballot, followed by the last names of the party-nominated candidates whom the electors represent. The electors cast their ballots at the secretary of state’s office on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December following the election (CGS § 9-176).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 11 Nay 4 (04/01/2019)