

March 8, 2017

Minor Party Disqualification Update: Four New Mexico Political Parties Lose Minor Party Status

Four political parties in New Mexico have lost their designated minor party status in accordance with State law. The four political parties are the Constitution Party of New Mexico, the Independent American Party of New Mexico, the American Delta Party of New Mexico and the Party for Socialism and Liberation of New Mexico.

A minor political party in New Mexico loses its qualified status if two successive general elections are held without at least one of the party's candidates on the ballot or if the total votes cast for the party's candidates for governor or president of the United States in a general election do not equal at least one-half of one percent of the total votes cast, as applicable. The Constitution Party of New Mexico, the American Delta Party of New Mexico and the Party for Socialism and Liberation of New Mexico all failed to hit the required vote threshold in the 2016 general election. The Independent American Party failed to nominate a candidate for president in the 2016 general election.

The New Mexico Election Code provides that the Secretary of State is required to notify the state chair of any political party that fails to remain qualified by March 15 of an odd-numbered year, and to also notify all county clerks and post the notice on the [Secretary of State's website](#). As directed by State law, letters were sent by the Secretary of State yesterday to all New Mexico voters who are registered as a member of one of the four minor political parties that have been disqualified.

To requalify, the political party must again comply with the requirements outlined in the New Mexico Election Code. These requirements include, but are not limited to, the political party's governing body adopting organizational rules that are filed with the Secretary of State's office, and the party filing petition signatures of at least one-half percent of the total votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election declaring that they are New Mexico voters and that they would like the party to be qualified in New Mexico. The current required number of petition signatures to qualify as a minor party is 2,564. This number will be updated after the 2018 general election for Governor.

New Mexico currently has three qualified minor parties: the Libertarian Party of New Mexico, the Green Party of New Mexico and the Better for America Party of New Mexico. The New Mexico Democratic Party and the New Mexico Republican Party are the two qualified major political parties.

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