

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3863

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Extends petition filing deadline by two weeks for all candidates, and waives signature requirements for candidates for party office, for 2020 primary election.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the deadline for filing nominating petitions for  
2 any candidate, and the number of signatures required to nominate  
3 a candidate for party office, for the 2020 primary election.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

7  
8 1. Notwithstanding any provision of R.S.19:23-8, or any other  
9 law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, for the 2020 primary  
10 election, the number of voter signatures required in a petition to  
11 nominate a candidate for party office shall be waived, except that  
12 such petition shall have at least one signer.

13  
14 2. a. Notwithstanding any provision of R.S.19:23-14, or any  
15 other law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, for the 2020 primary  
16 election, a petition filed before 4:00 PM of the 64th day next  
17 preceding the primary election may contain fewer than the number  
18 of voter signatures required by law, provided the candidate filing  
19 such petition submits the remaining number of required signatures  
20 not later than 8:00 AM on the 50th day preceding the primary  
21 election.

22 b. Notwithstanding any provision of R.S.19:23-14, or section 1  
23 of P.L.1945, c.68 (C.19:23-22.1), or any other law, rule, or  
24 regulation to the contrary, for petitions submitted not later than 8:00  
25 AM on the 50th day preceding the 2020 primary election as  
26 provided under subsection a. of this section, the municipal clerk  
27 shall certify to the county clerk the full and correct names and  
28 addresses of all candidates for nomination for public and party  
29 office and the name of the political party of which such persons are  
30 candidates together with their slogan and designation not later than  
31 the close of business on the 50th day preceding the primary election  
32 for the general election.

33 c. Notwithstanding any provision of R.S.19:23-21, or any other  
34 law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, for petitions submitted not  
35 later than 8:00 AM on the 50th day preceding the 2020 primary  
36 election as provided under subsection a. of this section, the  
37 Secretary of State shall certify the names of the persons indorsed in  
38 the petitions filed in the secretary's office to the clerks of counties  
39 concerned thereby not later than the close of business on the 50th  
40 day prior to the holding of the primary election, specifying in such  
41 certificate the political parties to which the persons so nominated in  
42 the petitions belong.

43 d. Notwithstanding any provision of R.S.19:23-22, or any other  
44 law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, for petitions submitted not  
45 later than 8:00 AM on the 50th day preceding the 2020 primary  
46 election as provided under subsection a. of this section, the county

1 clerk shall certify all of the persons so certified to the county clerk  
2 by the Secretary of State and in addition the names of all persons  
3 indorsed in petitions filed in the county clerk's office to the clerk of  
4 each municipality concerned thereby in the county clerk's  
5 respective county not later than the close of business on the 50th  
6 day prior to the time fixed by law for the holding of the primary  
7 election, specifying in such certificate the political party to which  
8 the person or persons so nominated belong.

9  
10 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

11  
12  
13 STATEMENT

14  
15 This bill extends the petition filing deadline by two weeks for all  
16 candidates, and waives signature requirements for candidates for  
17 party office, for the 2020 primary election only.

18 Under current law, candidates for county committee are required  
19 to comply with the number of signatures required under current law,  
20 as specified in R.S.19:23-8 and in the by-laws of the party. This bill  
21 would waive the signature requirements for candidates for party  
22 office, but would require their nominating petitions to have at least  
23 one signature.

24 Under current law, R.S.19:23-14, candidates are required to  
25 submit their petitions to the municipal clerk, county clerk, or  
26 Secretary of State, as the case may be, before 4:00 PM of the 64th  
27 day next preceding the primary election (March 30, 2020). This bill  
28 provides that, for the 2020 primary election, such petitions may  
29 contain fewer than the number of voter signatures required by law,  
30 provided the candidate filing such petition submits the remaining  
31 number of required signatures not later than 8:00 AM on the 50th  
32 day preceding the 2020 primary election (April 13, 2020). The  
33 municipal clerk, county clerk, and Secretary of State, as the case  
34 may be, would certify such petitions by the close of business on that  
35 same day. Normally, certifications by the municipal clerks and the  
36 Secretary of State occur not later than the 54th day before the  
37 primary election (April 9, 2020), or by the county clerk on the 53rd  
38 day (April 10, 2020).