

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 4206**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED DECEMBER 4, 2023

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator PAUL A. SARLO**

**District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE**

**District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Changes number of signatures required on primary election petition to nominate certain municipal candidates in certain municipalities.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee on December 7, 2023, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/8/2024)**

1 AN ACT concerning the number of signatures required to nominate  
 2 candidates on certain primary election petitions in certain  
 3 municipalities and amending R.S.19:23-8.

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

7  
 8 1. R.S.19:23-8 is amended to read as follows:

9 19:23-8. The petitions for candidates to be voted for by the  
 10 voters of a political party throughout the entire State shall in the  
 11 aggregate be signed by at least 1,000 such voters; in the case of  
 12 candidates to be voted for by the voters of a political party  
 13 throughout a congressional district by at least 200 of such voters;  
 14 in the case of candidates for the Senate and General Assembly at  
 15 least 100 such voters; in the case of candidates to be voted for by  
 16 the voters of a political party throughout a county or any county  
 17 election district, by at least 100 of such voters; in the case of  
 18 candidates to be voted for by the voters of a political party  
 19 throughout a municipality having a population in excess of 14,000  
 20 as ascertained by the last Federal census by at least 50 of such  
 21 voters; in the case of candidates to be voted for by the voters of a  
 22 political party throughout all other municipalities or any ward of  
 23 any municipality by at least 25 of such voters; in the case of a  
 24 candidate to be voted for by the voters of a political party within a  
 25 single election district by at least 10 of such voters.

26 **Notwithstanding the above provisions, in the case of petitions for**  
 27 **candidates to be voted for by the voters of a political party**  
 28 **throughout any municipality having a population that is less than**  
 29 **7,000 as ascertained by the last Federal census, or any ward **[,]** or**  
 30 **election district of any municipality, the number of signers of any**  
 31 **such petition may be fewer than the minimum number specified**  
 32 **above but shall be at least 5 **[%]** percent in number of the total vote**  
 33 **cast by the voters of that political party at the last preceding**  
 34 **primary election held for the election of that party's candidates for**  
 35 **the General Assembly. In no case, however, shall there be fewer**  
 36 **than one signer of any such petition.**

37 For a person to be nominated for any office or elected to any  
 38 political party position at the primary election by having the  
 39 person's name written or pasted upon the primary election ballot,  
 40 that person <sup>1</sup>**[must]** shall<sup>1</sup> receive a number of votes at least equal  
 41 to the number of signatures required on a candidate nominating  
 42 petition pursuant to this section.

43 (cf: P.L.1981, c.164, s.1)

44

45 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

<sup>1</sup>**Senate SSG committee amendments adopted December 7, 2023.**