



county, separate petition papers must be circulated in each county.  
(R.C. 3501.38, 3513.05, 3513.07, 3513.261)

11. No petition may contain more than three times the minimum number of required signatures. (R.C. 3513.05, 3513.257, 3513.259)
12. All petitions must contain the following statement in boldface capital letters: "WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE." (R.C. 3501.38(J), 3599.36)  
(**Note:** The penalties for a fifth degree felony are 6 to 12 months in prison and/or a fine of \$2500.)
13. All petitions remain open for public inspection, under reasonable regulations, at the board of elections at which they were filed.  
(R.C. 3513.05, 3513.262)

## **PROTESTS**

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### *Generally*

Protests against the candidacy of any person must be in writing, must set forth with specificity the legal ground(s) for the protest, and must be filed with the board of elections where the candidate filed his/her declaration of candidacy, nominating petition, or declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate. If the candidate filed with the office of the secretary of state, the protest must be filed with the secretary of state.  
(R.C. 3513.041, 3513.05, 3513.262, 3513.263)

After a valid protest is filed, the board of elections or, if applicable, the secretary of state, must set a time and place for hearing the protest and give notice to both the person whose candidacy is being protested and the protestor. Both the protestor and the protested candidate, or their respective legal counsel, will have the opportunity to address the board or secretary of state hearing officer at the hearing.  
(R.C. 3513.05, 3513.262, 3513.263)

### *Partisan Primary Candidacy*

Protests against any candidate in a partisan primary may be made by the controlling committee of that party, or by any qualified elector who is a member of the same party as the candidate and who is eligible to vote for the candidate whose petition is the subject of the protest.  
(R.C. 3513.041, 3513.05)

The deadline to file a protest against any party candidate who filed a declaration of candidacy for the March 4 primary is 4 p.m. on January 15, 2008 (49 days before the presidential primary election).  
(R.C. 3513.05)