

TO: ALL CANDIDATES, POTENTIAL CANDIDATES AND INTERESTED PARTIES

FR: LINDA WILLIAMS, CHAIR, INDEPENDENT PARTY OF OREGON (IPO)

DA: MAY 27, 2010

**RE: NOMINATING PROCESS FOR THE INDEPENDENT PARTY OF OREGON
THIS ELECTION CYCLE**

I. OVERVIEW.

"Nomination" means selection by the IPO of a candidate, as defined by ORS 249.002(1), to be the IPO's nominee for partisan political office under procedures set out in ORS 249.705-.722.

Minor party nomination processes are generally established by those statutes and must be set out in party Bylaws. Major political parties have membership-wide primaries subsidized by the State. Minor political parties do not receive any State funds and usually conduct their nominations by caucus, convention(s) or some combination.

Persons seeking the nomination of a minor political party do not file any form with the Secretary of State but instead must approach the minor political party directly.

The steps involved in the Independent Party nomination process are:

- A. Notice to the party of intent to seek the party's nomination;
- B. A review by the IPO Caucus of the potential candidate's eligibility for the office sought;
- C. Conduct of the nomination process to select nominees for particular offices;
- D. Notice to the candidates of the results of the nomination process; and
- E. Acceptance by each nominee of the IPO nomination (evidenced by completing part of SEL 110, "Filing of Candidacy for Minor Political Party by Certificate of Nomination").

The last day for filing the SEL 110 is August 24, 2010. See generally, State Candidate's Manual: Minor Political Party, "Minor Political Party Nominating Process."

This memorandum reiterates the law applicable to minor party nominations and explains the IPO nominating process.

II. "FILING" TO GIVE NOTICE TO THE INDEPENDENT PARTY OF YOUR INTEREST IN BEING CONSIDERED AS A CANDIDATE FOR IPO NOMINATION.

The IPO, beginning in January 2010, asked that potential candidates for IPO nomination provide written notice to the IPO of his or her interest in seeking a nomination. The reasons for a "filing" requirement are (1) to provide an accurate record to the IPO of who wishes to be considered as a potential nominee and (2) to allow the IPO Caucus to perform certain duties under statute and the IPO Bylaws to determine whether the filer (potential nominee) is eligible to be a candidate for IPO nomination.

The Independent Party sought to make the process of a written "filing" for its nomination uniform by presenting a simple form on its website in January 2010, referring all inquiries from the public to the website, and distributing a notice form to many legislators and legislative caucus staff since then.

To assure a full and complete opportunity for anyone who has not yet filed in writing (or who wishes to refile for any reason) to do so, the Party will consider all applications filed by 5:00 pm June 2, 2010.

The application form is at the end of this memorandum and is also posted at indparty.com/apply. An applicant should:

1. Fill in the form and return it by email to info@indparty.com;
2. Print it out, fill it in and fax it to 866-795-9415 (toll free); or
3. Print it out, fill it in, scan the filled in form to PDF format, and email that to info@indparty.com.

III. QUALIFYING CANDIDATES.

The potential candidate must be eligible under the applicable statutes (residency requirement, for example) and must have been a member of the IPO for six months. Under Article V, § E, of the IPO Bylaws, this membership requirement may be waived for "good cause."

Many potential candidates have previously been qualified as candidates during April and May 2010 and should have received notice (a memorandum addressed to "Dear Candidate") so informing them. That means the membership requirement has been waived for any of them who have not been members of the IPO.

On June 3, The IPO Caucus will determine the eligibility of all application filers who have not yet been notified as of the date of this memorandum. The names of the qualified candidates will then be publicly announced.

A candidate may withdraw at any time during the nomination process. We request that any candidate who withdraws from the nominating process inform us as soon as possible of that decision.

IV. NOMINATION PROCESS.

All nomination authority resides in the 5-member IPO Caucus (consisting of appointed members and members who were elected by internet voting open to all IPO members).

The IPO Caucus will send each qualified candidate a questionnaire to help provide information to the IPO Caucus and to the IPO members. The IPO Caucus will allow each qualified candidate to post a statement on the IPO website in a manner similar to the Oregon Voters' Pamphlet.

A. SELECTING NOMINEES BY SECURE INTERNET E-VOTE.

The IPO Caucus may, by unanimous vote, delegate nominating authority for qualified candidates under rules adopted by the IPO Caucus to all the members eligible to vote for through secure internet voting (e-vote). The IPO Caucus intends to delegate all nomination authority for all offices to a membership-wide primary style election conducted by e-vote using a secure unique logon ID to be mailed to each IPO member. If we do not reach our fundraising goals to hold a secure internet vote, however, all nominations will be decided by the IPO Caucus under Article V, § D of the IPO Bylaws. I summarize that alternative below.

B. SELECTING NOMINEES BY VOTE OF THE IPO CAUCUS.

If the IPO Caucus decides not to conduct the secure internet vote, then all nominees will be chosen by majority vote of the IPO Caucus, which will:

1. Accept additional written materials submitted by candidates;
2. Afford an opportunity for each qualified candidate nominee to meet with the Caucus, if desired; and then,
3. For each partisan office, either (1) select a nominee, (2) decline to nominate any candidate, or (3) fill any nomination vacancies, according to rules established by the IPO Caucus.

C. POST-SELECTION PROCESS.

An IPO officer will prepare a "Filing of Candidacy for Minor Political Party by Certificate of Nomination" (Form SEL 110) for each person selected as an IPO nominee, sign it, and transmit it to each nominee. If the nominee accepts the IPO nomination, he or she signs the Form SEL 110 and files it with the Secretary of State (for state offices) or with a county election office (for other offices).

A nominee can decline the IPO nomination by refusing to sign and file the Form SEL 110. In that case, the IPO will fill the vacancy pursuant to its Bylaws and state law.

V. TIME FOR DECIDING WHICH NOMINATION PROCESS WILL BE USED.

The IPO Caucus will decide by June 15 whether it will delegate nominating authority to the membership by means of an e-vote to select the nominees. If it does not announce an e-vote, then the IPO Caucus will soon thereafter notify all candidates for all offices of the dates upon which the IPO Caucus will choose nominees for particular offices.

VI. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS.

Please address all questions you may have to me, by email to linda@lindawilliams.net.

APPLICATION FOR 2010 NOMINATION BY INDEPENDENT PARTY OF OREGON

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY, ST, ZIP: _____
OFFICE SOUGHT: _____
PARTY MEMBERSHIP: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____
WEBSITE: _____

1. Have you already been nominated by any other party for the office you seek? If so, which party?
2. If you are cross-nominated by the Independent Party and another party, which party identifiers will you choose to appear next to your name on the general election ballot?

The Independent Party strives for local control over its nominating process and encourages candidates to recruit participating IPO members to support their nomination for public office.