



STATE OF MINNESOTA  
Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State  
Marin Luther King, Jr. Building

September 25, 2008

Mr. Gene Zarwell  
PMB 98, 1153 Rt. 3 North  
Gambrills, MD 21054

Dear Mr. Zarwell:

Thank you for the information regarding your presidential campaign that you submitted to the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State.

The filing period for presidential candidates ended on September 9, 2008.

Individuals may still file a request to have their write-in votes counted. Minnesota requires the document, ***Written Request by Write-in Candidates for Federal and State Office***, and must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on October 28, 2008.

Please see the 2008 Presidential Ballot Access Information, as well as the write-in form that has been included with this mailing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Breems".

Nancy Breems  
Elections Division

## 2008 PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT ACCESS INFORMATION

### **How do candidates for president and vice president get on the ballot in Minnesota?**

The method for gaining ballot access for president and vice president depends on whether the candidate is affiliated with one of the three major parties in Minnesota. For major-party presidential candidates, their ten electors are to be nominated at delegate conventions under the supervision of the party's state central committee. On or before the date of Minnesota's primary (currently scheduled for September 9, 2008), the chair of a major political party shall certify to the secretary of state the names of persons nominated as presidential electors and the names of the party candidates for president and vice-president (*M.S. 208.03*).

Minor party and independent presidential electors must be nominated by petition. The names of the candidates for president and vice-president must be added to the political party or political principle stated on the nominating petition (*M.S. 204B.07, subd. 2*). At least 2,000 valid signatures of eligible voters are required on the petition (*M.S. 204B.08, subd. 3a*). Nominating petitions with the required signatures may be gathered and filed with the Office of Secretary of State from July 1, 2008, to September 9, 2008 (*M.S. 204B.09, subd. 1c*). Signatures for the nominating petition may not be gathered until the filing period begins on July 1, 2008 (*M.S. 204B.08, subd. 1*).

### **Where are nominating petitions for minor-party presidential and vice-presidential candidates located?**

The Minnesota Office of Secretary of State has the official petition forms, which comply with requirements found in *Minnesota Rules 8205*. Interested candidates may come to the Office to obtain the petition or make arrangements to have the petition mailed. Petitions will not be available for electronic access and will not be faxed because of the specific paper and font sizes required.

### **Is there an Affidavit of Candidacy required for the office of president and vice-president?**

There is no Affidavit of Candidacy requirement to file for the office of president and vice-president in Minnesota. (*M.S. 204B.06, subd. 1b.*)

### **Is there a filing fee required for the office of president and vice-president?**

No filing fee is required for the office of president and vice-president in Minnesota (*M.S. 204B.11, subd. 1.*).

### **May candidates for president and vice-president withdraw?**

Yes. Presidential and vice-presidential candidates nominated by petition may withdraw. (See Op. Atty. Gen. 28C-5, September 26, 1968.)

### **May write-in votes be counted for presidential and vice-presidential candidates?**

Yes. The candidate must file a written request with the Office of Secretary of State to count write-in votes on or before the seventh day prior to the general election. A candidate who files a request must include the name of a vice-presidential candidate. The request must include the name of at least one candidate for presidential elector. The total number of names of candidates for presidential elector on the request may not exceed the total number of electoral votes (10) to be cast by Minnesota in the presidential election (*M.S. 204B.09, subd. 3*).

### **Is there a statewide primary for president and vice president in Minnesota?**

No. The presidential primary law was repealed in 1999. State political party precinct caucuses are currently scheduled to be held on February 5, 2008. At the caucus, participants may vote on a preference ballot for presidential candidates.



# Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

## WRITTEN REQUEST BY WRITE-IN CANDIDATES FOR FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICE

**Federal office** includes: President and Vice-President, U.S. Senator, and U.S. Representative.

**State office** includes: State Representative, Supreme Court Justice, Court of Appeals Judge, and District Court Judge.

*Please note that if candidates for President and Vice-President are running as write-in candidates, this request must include the name of the candidate for Vice-President and the name of at least one candidate for Presidential Elector. The total number of names for Presidential Elector may not exceed the total number of electoral votes cast by Minnesota in the presidential election.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ request that all write-in votes cast for me for the office of  
(Print name and address)  
\_\_\_\_\_ at the Minnesota state general election on November 4, 2008 be counted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 204B.09, subd. 3.

Name of candidate for Vice-President (if applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name and state of residence)

Name of candidate(s) for Presidential Elector (if applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**This form must be received by 5:00 p.m. on October 28, 2008 for write-in counts to be counted separately.**

**Submit this form to:**

**MN Secretary of State, Elections Division, 180 State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155**