



Republic of Liberia
NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION

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Candidate Nomination Regulations

MAY 6, 2016
Monrovia, Liberia

Preamble

Whereas, Article 89 of the January 6, 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia established the National Elections Commission as an autonomous public commission;

Whereas, Chapter 2, Section 2.9 (g) of the New Elections Law of 1986 further empowers the National Elections Commission to conduct all elections for elected public offices, including chieftaincy elections and all referendums and declare the results thereof;

Whereas, Chapter 2, Section 2.9 (h) of the 1986 Elections Law empowers the National Elections Commission to formulate and enforce electoral guidelines;

Whereas, Chapter 2, Section 2.9 (d) of the 1986 Elections Law empowers the National Elections Commission to give accreditation and register all political parties and independent candidates who meet the minimum requirements to exercise political franchise under the provisions of the Constitution;

Whereas, Chapter 2, Section 2.9(e) of the 1986 Elections Law empowers the National Elections Commission to reject, and if already registered, revoke the certificate of accreditation of political party or independent candidate, upon objections made by any person or group of persons;

Whereas, Chapter 2, Section 2.9(n) of the 1986 Elections Law empowers the National Elections Commission to screen all candidates for elective public offices and accredit their candidacies, and/or reject the candidacy of anyone who is not qualified under the law and the guidelines laid down by the National Elections Commission.

Whereas, Subchapter (e) of the Regulations and Guidelines relating to Political Parties and Independent Candidates empowers the NEC to take all lawful steps which it considers necessary to verify that an independent aspirant is qualified to be registered as candidate under the Constitution and Elections Law;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby promulgated as follows:

General Provisions

Article 1. Purpose and Citation

1.1. These Regulations establish the rules governing the process of candidate nomination in the elections of President of Liberia, Senate and House of Representatives.

1.2. These Regulations shall be cited as "Candidate Nomination Regulations" and shall come into force on the day of its publication.

Article 2. Definitions

2.1. In these Candidate Nomination Regulations, unless context otherwise requires:

"Alliance" or "Coalition" - means two (2) or more political parties accredited by the NEC as a single entity for the purpose of participating in an election, while maintaining their individual identities;

"Aspirant" or "Potential Candidate" means any eligible Liberian citizen who is applying to become a candidate for elections, who has been endorsed or nominated by a political party, alliance or coalition or who intends to run as an independent candidate whether for president of Liberia, Senate, or House of Representatives.

"Candidate" means any eligible Aspirant who has been duly registered as a candidate by the NEC.

"Campaign" - means to canvass for votes;

"Candidate Nomination Application" - means a request by a political party, coalition, alliance, and any aspirant or potential candidate to the NEC to stand for elections, submitted on the forms approved by the NEC;

"Candidate Nomination Center" means a place designated and publicized by the NEC, staffed to process Candidate Nomination Applications.

"Candidate Nomination Period" means a period announced by NEC when Candidate Nomination Applications are received at the Candidate Nomination Center.

"Domicile" - means the residence in the constituency or county of an aspirant or potential candidate who seeks elective public office in which he/she lives and pays taxes;

"Election Day" means the day set for voting in an election.

"Elections Law" means New Elections Law of 1986 with subsequent amendments of 2003, 2004 and 2015.

"NEC" means the National Elections Commission;

"Political party" means an association duly registered as a political party by the NEC pursuant to Section 1.2 (b) of the New Elections Law.

"Voter" means any qualified Liberian citizen who has been duly registered by the National Elections Commission as a voter and in possession of a valid Voter Registration Card and whose name appears on a Voter Registration Roll.

"Registration Card" means a card issued by the National Elections Commission to an elector as an identification which entitles him/her to vote during an election.

"Residence" means the place where an aspirant or potential candidate lives.

Eligibility

Article 3. Who May Contest Elections

3.1. All registered political parties, coalitions, alliances and independent candidates who have headquarters in the Nation's Capital, as required by Article 79(c) of the 1986 Liberian Constitution, and are in good standing as required by Chapter 5A and Section 7.10 of the New Elections Law shall be entitled to contest the elections.

3.2. In order to contest an election, political parties, coalitions, and/or alliances that have already registered with the NEC must nominate candidates.

3.3. In order for political parties, coalitions, or alliances to nominate a candidate, or for an independent candidate to apply for an elected office, he/she must:

- a) Meet the candidate eligibility criteria established in the Constitution, Elections Law, other laws and the NEC Regulations;
- b) Fulfill the application requirements; and
- c) Appear in person for the nomination at the NEC Candidate Nomination Center.

3.4. A political party, coalition or alliance shall nominate only one (1) candidate for an elective office.

Article 4. Candidate Nomination Place and Time

4.1. The nomination process shall be centralized. All applicants wishing to be processed as candidates must appear in person at the Nomination Center during the Nomination Period specified by the NEC.

4.2. Nomination process shall start at 9:00AM and end at 5:00 PM daily.

Article 5. Nomination Fees

5.1. Any person wishing to be processed as a candidate, must pay a non-refundable fee to the NEC, as follows:

- a) Presidential Candidates – US \$2,500 or its Liberian Dollar equivalent;
- b) Vice Presidential Candidates – US \$1,500 or its Liberian Dollar equivalent;
- c) Senatorial Candidates – US \$750 or its Liberian Dollar equivalent;
- d) House of Representatives – US \$500 or its Liberian Dollar equivalent;

Article 6. Independent Candidate Bank Deposit

6.1. During the Candidate Nomination Process, an Independent Candidate shall provide proof to the NEC showing a current updated bank balance of not less than:

US\$10,000 or its Liberian Dollars equivalent for President and Vice-Presidential Candidates;

US\$7,500 or its Liberian Dollars equivalent for Senatorial Candidates;

US\$5,000 or its Liberian Dollars equivalent for House of Representatives Candidates.

Collecting and Submitting Application Packages

Article 7. Application Packages

7.1. The political parties, coalitions, alliances and independent candidates shall collect Nomination packages at the Nomination Center specified by the NEC.

7.2. Each political party, coalition, and alliance must designate a person to collect the Nomination Package, which will consist of the following forms:

- a) Letter of Intent **(CN-01)**
- b) Questionnaire Domicile/Residency Form **(CN-02)**,
- c) Candidate Financial Disclosure Form **(CN-03)**,
- d) Political Party Endorsement Form (Individual) **(CN-04)**,
- e) Declaration to Abide by Political Parties' Code of Conduct **(CN-05)**,
- f) Nomination Application Checklist (for Affiliated Candidates) **(CN-06)**,
- g) Nomination Application Checklist (for Independent Candidates) **(CN-07)**.

7.3. In order to collect the package, the person designated by a political party, coalition, or alliance shall present to the Liaison Officer of the NEC, Letter (CN-13) issued by the Chairman of the affiliated group.

7.4. Independent candidates must present to the Liaison Officer of the NEC, Letter (CN-14) to be allowed to collect nomination packages from the NEC.

Article 8. Nomination Application

8.1. Candidate shall appear in person at the Nomination Center and present the identification card and full package of the application.

8.2. Application documents shall include:

For Political Party, Coalition, Alliance Candidate	Independent Candidate
1. Letter of Intent; 2. Sworn Declaration or Affidavit attesting to Citizenship; 3. Sworn Declaration or Affidavit attesting to Domicile; 4. Tax Clearance; 5. Candidate's Financial Disclosure Form; 6. Original voter registration card, passport, or national or international driver's license; 7. Candidate Questionnaire regarding Residency and Domicile; 8. Receipt showing payment of registration fee to the NEC; 9. Proof of ownership of real property valued at 25,000. (For Presidential/Vice-Presidential Candidates only); 10. Endorsement Form (Individualized); 11. Declaration by candidate to abide by the political party code of conduct.	1. Letter of Intent; 2. Sworn Declaration or Affidavit attesting to Citizenship; 3. Sworn Declaration or Affidavit attesting to Domicile; 4. Tax Clearance; 5. Candidate's Financial Disclosure Form; 6. Original voter registration card, passport, or national or international driver's license; 7. Candidate Questionnaire regarding Residency and Domicile; 8. Receipt showing payment of registration fee to the NEC; 9. Proof of ownership of real property valued at 25,000. (For Presidential/Vice-Presidential Candidates only); 10. Candidate's Objective Statement; 11. Information on established office within the constituency;

	12. Bank receipt showing a balance not less than: - 10,000 USD for Presidential and Vice-Presidential Candidates. - 7,500 USD for Senatorial Candidates. - 5,000 USD for House of Representatives Candidates.
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8.3. The Liaison Officer, while receiving applications for nomination from potential candidates, shall use the Nomination Application Checklist (CN-06 for Affiliated Candidates or CN-07 for Independent Candidates) to verify and certify that all of the forms and documents that have been submitted are correct and complete.

8.4. NEC Liaison Officer who receives the Candidate Nomination forms and documents shall check and confirm that all the forms and documents are present and properly completed.

Article 9. Data Entry

9.1. Electronic file shall be immediately created for each potential candidate, his/her photograph taken and symbol assigned.

9.2. If a potential candidate is endorsed by a political party, coalition or alliance, he/she shall use the symbol of the party, coalition or alliance.

9.3. In the case of an independent candidate, he/she has a choice of selecting a symbol from a list of symbols provided by the NEC or he/she may provide the NEC with an electronic copy on the CD with his/her preferred symbol.

9.4. Once all details of the potential candidate are entered into the electronic system, the NEC Liaison officer will print out the form with the candidate's information and a unique software generated ID number for the candidate, and ask the candidate to check if the particulars recorded on the printout are correct.

9.5. Potential Candidate shall sign the printout to confirm that all particulars entered, including his/her photo and symbol are correct.

9.6. Upon receipt of the Candidate Nomination Application, Notice of Receipt of Nomination Application Form (CN-08) shall be given to the potential candidate.

Article 10. Transparency of the Candidate Nomination Process

10.1. Representatives of Media organizations, Registered Political Parties, independent candidates, civil society organizations duly accredited by the NEC may attend and observe the Candidate Nomination process after requesting and obtaining access permit.

10.2. The NEC Liaison Officer is responsible for granting access to the Candidate Nomination Center. The number of persons permitted in the Candidate Nomination Center at any given time is at the discretion of the Liaison Officer.

10.3. Any of the permitted persons authorized to observe, monitor, and report on the Candidate Nomination process shall display at all times, their valid accreditation cards issued by the NEC.

Provisional List of Candidates

Article 11. Scrutiny of the Candidate Nomination Applications

11.1. During the Candidate Nomination Period, the NEC may take all lawful steps that it deems necessary, including the holding of hearings, to verify that information and documentation submitted by potential candidates are accurate and that the candidate is qualified under the Constitution, the New Elections Law, other laws of Liberia and NEC Regulations.

11.2. In the event that an application is defective, within three (3) days of receipt of the application, the NEC shall inform the candidate of the deficiency and the nature of the deficiency. The NEC shall afford the candidate an opportunity to remedy the deficiencies, provided that such candidate submits all relevant papers to the NEC prior to the close of the nomination period.

11.3. Candidates who submit deficient nomination applications shall only have up to the end of the Nomination Period to correct any errors or deficiencies. Candidates who submit their applications on the last day of the nomination period will only have an opportunity to correct any deficiencies before the close of the final day of the Candidate Nomination process.

11.4. The NEC shall notify all aspirants in writing of its decision to accept or reject their requests to stand for elections. An aspirant whose application has been rejected may appeal the NEC's decision to the Supreme Court within three (3) days of the NEC's determination.

Article 12. Provisional List of Candidates

12.1. Once the Candidate Nomination Period ends and after the scrutiny and correction of application deficiencies, the NEC shall publish the Provisional List of Candidates. The Provisional List of Candidates shall be published on the NEC website, newspapers, broadcast on local community radio stations and NEC's local magisterial offices across the country.

12.2. The Provisional List of candidates will include: the name of the candidate, the photograph of the candidate, the electoral symbol of each candidate, the office the candidate is contesting for, and, in case of all elective public offices with the exception of the President and the Vice president, the county or constituency where the candidate is contesting for office.

12.3. During the display of the Provisional List of Candidates, the candidates can review the list for any inaccuracies. Candidates whose information on the Provisional List is incorrect, may appear in person within three (3) days of the publication and request the NEC to correct the information.

Article 13. Challenge to the Provisional List of Candidates

13.1. An independent candidate, political party, coalition, alliance or any qualified voter may challenge the eligibility of candidates included in the Provisional List after the list is published.

13.2. The following constitutes grounds for challenges, if the candidate:

- a) Is not a Liberian citizen;
- b) Has dual citizenship;
- c) Has not reached the constitutionally required age to be nominated; or
- d) Has not satisfied the domiciliary requirement mandated by the Liberian Constitution and the Elections Law.
- e) Has not satisfied requirements of the Elections Law or other laws of Liberia.

13.3. Any Challenge to a candidate on the Provisional List must be submitted to the NEC within three (3) days of its publication. Any challenge to the list must state the ground for the challenge and be accompanied by all relevant documentary evidence to support the facts alleged in the challenge.

Final List of Candidates

Article 14. Complaints

14.1. The NEC shall take the final decision on the issue after evaluating and reviewing the challenge made against a candidate in accordance with its complaint regulations.

14.2. Final list of candidates shall be publicized by NEC on NEC web-site, print media, local community radio stations and at NEC's local magisterial offices across the country after determining all challenges and corrections.

14.3. If a challenger or a challenged is not satisfied with the decision of the NEC, he/she may appeal to the Supreme Court within three (3) days of the publication of the final list.

Amendments and Entry into Force

Article 15. Amendments

15.1. These regulations may be amended or revised at any time and published by the NEC. All amendments and revisions shall become effective upon publication.

Article 16. Entry into Force

16.1. These Regulations shall come into effect upon publication by the NEC on its web-site and shall be binding on all stakeholders including citizens, political parties, alliances and coalition of Liberia.

Approval of Candidate Nomination Regulations:

DONE UNDER OUR HANDS AND SEAL OF THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION (NEC) ON
THIS 6 DAY OF MAY, A.D. 2016.

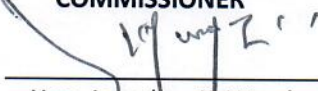
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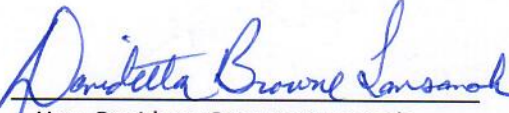
Hon. Boakai Amadu Dukuly
COMMISSIONER



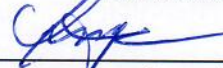
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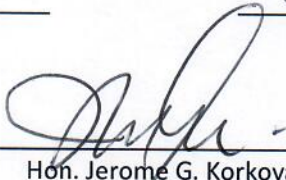
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