

HB 2618 -- PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

SPONSOR: Baker

This bill reinstates the presidential preference primary election, to be held statewide on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each presidential election year.

Anyone who files a request to be included on the presidential primary ballot is not prohibited from filing or appearing on any ballot as a party candidate for nomination to another office.

The bill specifies that on or before the 10th Tuesday prior to the date of the presidential preference primary, the Secretary of State must announce the official list of presidential candidates for each established political party.

Candidates seeking to be placed on the presidential preference primary ballot must, between the 15th and 11th Tuesdays prior to the election, submit a written request to be included on the ballot to the Secretary of State, along with either a receipt of \$5,000 filing fee payment to the state committee of the established political party on whose ballot the candidate wishes or a petition signed by at least 5,000 registered Missouri voters.

All primary election laws not inconsistent with the provisions of the bill will be applicable to the conduct of the presidential preference primary.

All costs of a presidential preference primary will be paid by the state, except that, costs must be shared proportionately by the state and any political subdivisions and special districts holding an election on the same date. For any county with more than 500 polling places, the state must assist in assuring adequate poll workers and equipment.

This bill is similar to HB 1525 (2024) and HB 267 (2023).