



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**  
802 LEHUA AVENUE  
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782  
[www.hawaii.gov/elections](http://www.hawaii.gov/elections)

**FACTSHEET**  
**NONPARTISAN CANDIDATES**  
**QUALIFICATION FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION**

*NOTE: This provision does not apply to nonpartisan candidates for City & County of Honolulu Offices, County of Maui offices, County of Kauai offices, Board of Education offices, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs offices.*

Individuals not affiliated with any qualified political party in Hawaii may run as nonpartisan candidates. Nonpartisan candidates must file nomination papers and pay a filing fee to qualify for the office and will appear on a separate nonpartisan ballot in the Primary Election.

To qualify for the General Election, nonpartisan candidates must meet one of the following qualifications:

**Method 1:** receive at least ten percent (10%) of the total votes cast for the office for which the person is a candidate at the Primary Election; **OR**

**Method 2:** receive a vote equal to the lowest vote received by the partisan candidate who was nominated in the Primary Election for the office.

*NOTE: If more nonpartisan candidates qualify to run in the General Election than there are offices (seats) available, there shall be certified as candidates those receiving the highest number of votes, but not more candidates than there are offices (seats) to be elected [HRS §12-41(b)].*

See page 2 and 3 for Example of calculations.

## SAMPLE ELECTION CONTEST: Senatorial District A

| Candidates          | # of Votes Received | Qualify for General | Reason   |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| Democrat A          | 300                 | No                  | Lost Democratic Primary  |
| Democrat B          | 725                 | Yes                 | Won Democratic Primary   |
| Republican          | 500                 | Yes                 | Won Republican Primary   |
| Green               | 50                  | Yes                 | Won Green Primary  |
| Libertarian         | 225                 | Yes                 | Won Libertarian Primary  |
| Nonpartisan A       | 50                  | No                  | Qualified under Method 2 but lost Primary to Nonpartisan Candidate B |
| Nonpartisan B       | 75                  | Yes                 | Qualified under Method 2 and won Nonpartisan Primary                 |
| <b>Total Votes:</b> | <b>1,925</b>        |                     |  |

### EXPLANATION:

#### Method 1:

Requirement: The nonpartisan candidate must receive at least ten percent (10%) of the total number of votes cast for the office.

Calculation:  $1,925 \text{ votes} \times 10\% = 192.5$  or 193 votes required.

Result: Neither nonpartisan candidate qualifies under this method.

**Method 2:**

Requirement: The nonpartisan candidate must receive a vote equal to or greater than the lowest vote received by the partisan candidate who was nominated in the Primary Election for the office.

Calculation: The Green Party candidate received the least number of votes of all partisan candidates who won their primaries and were nominated for the General Election. Therefore, the nonpartisan candidate must match or exceed the number of votes received by the Green Party candidate to qualify for the General Election.

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Green Candidate:         | 50 votes |
| Nonpartisan Candidate A: | 50 votes |
| Nonpartisan Candidate B: | 75 votes |

Result: Although both nonpartisan candidates matched the number of votes received by the Green Party candidate, only nonpartisan candidate B qualifies under this method.

Because there is only one seat available for this Senatorial race, the nonpartisan candidate receiving the highest number of votes qualifies to advance to the General Election.

Thus, only nonpartisan candidate B will be placed on the General Election ballot.

This Fact Sheet is intended for informational purposes only and should not be used as an authority on the Hawaii election law and candidate deadlines. Requirements and/or deadlines may change pending changes in legislation. Consult the Hawaii Revised Statutes and other sources for more detailed and accurate requirements.

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