



May 15, 2020

How is the order of candidates on the ballot determined?

A random lot draw conducted after the close of candidate filing at 5:00 PM on May 15, sets the order that applies to all candidates for each office. Each filing officer conducts their own lot draw to determine ballot orders.

What is a lot draw?

A lot draw is a random drawing of candidate names to determine the order the names listed in the Voters' Pamphlet and on ballots.

Which candidates are organized by lot draw?

The Secretary of State is the filing officer for state offices comprising more than one county. The county filing officer determines ballot order for all other offices.

How many candidates this year?

This year [76 offices](#) file with the Secretary of State. The other 272 file with their filing officer.

The lot draw order applies to offices in the Primary. If there is no primary for the office, the order applies to the General Election.

How do you conduct a lot draw?

At the Secretary of State's Office, we print a list of state candidates in the order candidates filed. The office with the most candidates is determined.

Numbers 1 -x are placed into individual bingo balls and inserted into a cage, mixing them up. These numbers represent the candidate's position on the printed list. First on the list = #1, second on the list = #2, etc.

Election administration staff randomly removes the bingo balls and the numbers within each ball are recorded in order. This determines the order in which candidates are printed on the ballot and other materials. For instance,

- If the first number drawn and removed from a bingo ball is "5," the first candidate on the printed list moves to the fifth position on the ballot.
- If the second number drawn is "8," the second candidate on the printed list moves to the eighth position on the ballot. And so on....

The numbers as they are drawn are written on the lot draw certificate. This order applies to all offices filed with the Secretary of State.

If an office has fewer candidates, or a candidate withdraws prior to the deadline on Monday, the other candidates will simply move up in the order.

When will the public know the results of the lot draw?

The State Elections Division will update its website with the certificate of lot draw order as soon as the lot draw is complete (Friday evening).

Some counties may not apply their lot draw order until Monday, so if you are looking for other offices, please be aware lot draw order may not appear for some offices until the following week.