

721—21.10 (43) Application for status as a political party. A political organization which is not currently qualified as a political party may file an application for determination of political party status with the state commissioner of elections. The application may be filed after the completion of the executive council's canvass of votes for the general election, but not later than one year after the date of the election at which the organization's candidate for President of the United States or governor received at least 2 percent of the vote.

21.10(1) Application form. The application shall be substantially in the form titled "Application for Political Party Status" posted on the state commissioner's Web site.

21.10(2) Response. If the political organization meets the requirements established in Iowa Code section 43.2, the commissioner shall declare that the organization has qualified as a political party, effective 21 days after the application is approved. If the organization does not meet the requirements, the state commissioner shall immediately notify the applicant in writing of the reason for the rejection of the application.

21.10(3) Disqualification of political party. If at the close of nominations for the general election a political party has not nominated a candidate for the office of President of the United States, or for governor, as the case may be, the political party shall be disqualified immediately.

If the candidate of a political party for President of the United States or for governor, as the case may be, does not receive 2 percent of the votes cast for that office at a general election, the political party shall be disqualified. The effective date of the disqualification shall be the date of the completion of the state canvass of votes.

When a political party is disqualified, the state commissioner shall immediately notify the chairperson or central committee of the disqualified political party.

21.10(4) Notice of qualification and disqualification of political parties. The state commissioner of elections shall immediately notify the state registrar of voters, the voter registration commission, and the county commissioners of elections when a political party is qualified or disqualified. The notice shall include the name of the political party and the date upon which change in political party status becomes effective.

The state commissioner of elections shall also publish notice of the qualification or disqualification of a political party in a newspaper of general circulation in each congressional district. The publication shall be made within 30 days of the approval of an application for qualification or within 30 days of the effective date of a disqualification.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 43.2 and 47.1.