

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM &  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 4206**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 7, 2023

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 4206.

Under current law, candidates to be voted for at the June primary election for the November general election are required to be nominated exclusively by the members of the same political party, by gathering a certain number of signatures on a nominating petition. However, petitions for candidates to be voted for by the voters of a political party throughout a municipality, ward, or election district currently are permitted to require fewer signatures, but must have a number of signatures equal to at least 5 percent of the total votes cast by the voters of that political party at the last primary election held for the election of that party's candidates for the General Assembly.

This bill narrows the type of municipality wherein the 5 percent threshold would be applicable for candidates to be voted for by the voters of a political party throughout a municipality. This bill does not change the applicability of the 5 percent threshold for candidates to be voted for by the voters of a political party within a ward or election district of a municipality.

Under the bill, in the case of petitions for candidates to be voted for by the voters of a political party throughout any municipality having a population that is less than 7,000 as ascertained by the last Federal census, or any ward or election district of any municipality, the number of required signatures must be equal to at least 5 percent of the total votes cast by the voters of that political party at the last primary election held for the election of that party's candidates for the General Assembly.

As amended by the committee, the bill provides that for a person to be nominated for any office or elected to any political party position at the primary election by having the person's name written or pasted upon the primary election ballot, that person is required to

receive a number of votes at least equal to the number of signatures required on a candidate nominating petition pursuant to the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments delete “must” and insert “shall” in the provision concerning write-in candidate vote requirements.