

**204D.13 WHITE BALLOT; PARTISAN OFFICES.**

Subdivision 1. **Order of offices.** The candidates for partisan offices shall be placed on the white ballot in the following order: senator in Congress shall be first; representative in Congress, second; state senator, third; and state representative, fourth. The candidates for state offices shall follow in the order specified by the secretary of state. Candidates for governor and lieutenant governor shall appear so that a single vote may be cast for both offices.

Subd. 2. **Order of political parties.** The first name printed for each partisan office on the white ballot shall be that of the candidate of the major political party that received the smallest average number of votes at the last state general election. The succeeding names shall be those of the candidates of the other major political parties that received a succeeding higher average number of votes respectively. For the purposes of this subdivision, the average number of votes of a major political party shall be computed by dividing the total number of votes counted for all of the party's candidates for statewide office at the state general election by the number of those candidates at the election.

Subd. 3. **Nominees by petition; placement on ballot.** The names of candidates nominated by petition for a partisan office voted on at the state general election shall be placed on the white ballot after the names of the candidates for that office who were nominated at the state primary. Prior to the state primary, the secretary of state shall determine by lot the order of candidates nominated by petition. The drawing of lots must be by political party or principle. The political party or political principle of the candidate as stated on the petition shall be placed after the name of a candidate nominated by petition. The word "nonpartisan" shall not be used to designate any partisan candidate whose name is placed on the white ballot by nominating petition.

Subd. 4. [Expired]

**History:** 1981 c 29 art 6 s 13; 1983 c 253 s 20; 1996 c 419 s 8,10; 1999 c 132 s 28,29; 2000 c 467 s 23