



## STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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MEMORANDUM 2010-02

To: County Boards of Elections  
From: Gary O. Bartlett  
Subject: Candidate Order for 2010 Primary Election

G.S. 163-165.6 requires the State Board to adopt a process for random selection of placing names on primary ballots. The relevant portion of that law is set out below.

(c) Order of Candidates on Primary Official Ballots. - The order in which candidates shall appear on a county's official ballots in any primary ballot item shall be determined by the county board of elections using a process designed by the State Board of Elections for random selection.

On March 4, 2002, the State Board of Elections, by unanimous vote, adopted the procedure for random selection in regards to the order of candidate names in primaries. In 2002, candidates were listed in reverse alphabetical order starting with the last letter of the alphabet. The order lasted for a two-year period. The next year the order reverted to regular alphabetical order but started with the second letter of the alphabet and ended with the letter preceding the letter that started the order. Then the plan alternates every two years between reverse and regular alphabetical order.

For the primaries being conducted in 2010 and 2011 the ballot order will be:

**XWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBAZY**

Candidates are to be listed by the first letter of their last name. If two or more candidates have the same first letter of their last name, use the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> letter in normal alphabetical order.

School Board elections will be in the normal alphabetical order. The above arrangement only applies to primaries. On general election ballots, candidates are still listed in alphabetical order of the parties they represent (See G.S. 163-165.6).

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