

**25-610. Official general ballots for national, state and municipal offices; form; rotation of names of candidates; duties of secretary of state; rules and regulations.** (a) The secretary of state shall furnish to each county election officer forms for ballots in their respective counties. The secretary of state shall prepare a rotation of the different candidates appearing on the official general ballot for the national and state offices for each such office. Such rotation shall be developed and arranged so that each candidate shall have an equal opportunity as near as practicable for the respective offices to which they are nominated. In case there is more than one candidate for any national or state office, the secretary of state shall divide the state or part thereof, into as many divisions as there are names to go on the ballot for each particular office. In making such division the secretary of state shall divide, in regular order, the alphabetical list of counties into the required number of divisions, in such a manner that all divisions are as nearly equal as convenient in the number of registered voters in such division as compiled by the office of the secretary of state. The secretary of state, in certifying the list of names of candidates to the county election officers, shall assign, in regular order from the alphabetical list of candidates for each office, the ballot position for each candidate in such a manner that every candidate for any office shall occupy a different ballot position in each division. When, in the case of candidates for national or state offices elected on less than a statewide basis, the secretary of state finds it impossible to make a division which allows each such candidate in any given district an equitable or fair opportunity to have such candidate's name first on the ballot in the respective counties of the district, the secretary of state shall order the county election officers in the various counties of the district to rotate the names of the candidates for such district offices according to precinct to obtain an equitable division. The names of candidates for the same office but for different terms of service therein shall be arranged in groups according to the length of their respective terms. In the case of the governor and lieutenant governor running together, when the word "candidate" is used in this section, it shall mean pair of candidates.

(b) The secretary of state shall establish the general election ballot styles for general elections in odd-numbered year elections for municipalities by rules and regulations adopted on or before July 1, 2016.

**History:** L. 1973, ch. 153, § 17; L. 1975, ch. 204, § 5; L. 1984, ch. 139, § 1; L. 1990, ch. 120, § 3; L. 2015, ch. 88, § 34; July 1.