

Names

1. May a candidate have her name printed on the ballot as “Mrs. John _____”?

It is our opinion that “Mrs. _____” is “in apparent conformity” as a name and will be valid unless objection is properly made as provided by statute.

2. May a candidate have his name printed on the ballot as “Dr. J. W. _____”?

“Dr.” is an example of what we feel is too clearly a title to become a question of fact as to whether it is part of a name. A title may be part of the full description by which a person is known in the community, and yet never become part of the name. Our conclusion in this regard may be said to apply to such titles as Colonel, Professor, or similar others. It is our conclusion that the above designations are not “in apparent conformity” as names, and the Secretary of State, County Clerk or Election Commissioner shall refuse to certify them, even though objection is not made.

3. May a candidate have his name printed on the ballot as “John G. ‘Jack’ _____”?

This type of filing is an obvious attempt to add to the person’s name an additional identification, not a part of the name. Once again, there may be a question of fact that arises where the candidate expresses the desire to be listed upon the ballot as “Jack _____.” The determinative factor, again, is whether that is the name by which he calls himself, and is generally known in the community. “John G. ‘Jack’ _____” is not in “apparent conformity” as a name, and the Secretary of State, County Clerk or Election Commissioner shall refuse to certify it, even though no objection is made. “Jack _____” raises a question of fact, and the Secretary of State, County Clerk or Election Commissioner may not refuse to certify it, in the absence of properly made objections.

Taken from an official letter prepared by the office of the Attorney General.