

**Elections—Primaries—Nicknames—Abbreviations—Candidates.**

Candidate at the primary nominating election may have

his name appear upon the ballot in any manner that he desires provided he uses his proper surname and given name or initials thereof.

Mr. W. E. Harmon,  
Secretary of State,  
Helena, Montana.

June 7, 1932.

My dear Mr. Harmon:

I have your request for an opinion regarding whether a candidate filing a nominating petition may have his name appear upon the primary ballot with a so-called nickname or abbreviation.

I do not find anything in the statutes that touches upon the subject. The reference to arranging the names upon the ballot in alphabetical order clearly refers to the surnames and not to given names or nicknames. (Chapter 14, laws of 1927.)

It is my opinion that in the absence of a statute to the contrary, a candidate may have his name appear upon the ballot in any manner that he desires, providing, of course, that he uses his proper surname and given name, or initials thereof.

Very truly yours,

L. A. FOOT,  
Attorney General.