

Candidate Qualifying

When and where do I file my qualifying papers?

Pursuant to 99.061, Florida Statutes, Federal, Judicial, State Attorney and Public Defender candidates must file their qualifying papers with their qualifying officer any time between

Noon, May 2, 2016 through Noon, May 6, 2016

Pursuant to 99.061, Florida Statutes, Statewide, Multicounty (except State Attorney and Public Defender), County and Special District candidates must file their qualifying papers with their qualifying officer any time between

Noon, June 20, 2016 through Noon, June 24, 2016

Qualifying papers will be accepted in the Dade City, New Port Richey, and Land O' Lakes offices any time during the qualifying period. If you wish to qualify by mail, you may forward your completed papers to:

HONORABLE BRIAN E. CORLEY

Supervisor of Elections
P.O. Box 300
Dade City, FL 33526-0300

No qualifying papers will be accepted after the 12:00 Noon deadline.

What must I file when I qualify?

Law requires that a candidate file the following:

Candidate Oath - Party Affiliation **Form DS-DE 24**

OR

Candidate Oath - Write-In **Form DS-DE 24A**

OR

Candidate Oath - No Party Affiliation **Form DS-DE 24B**

OR

Candidate Oath - Nonpartisan **Form DS-DE 25**

OR

Candidate Oath For School Board Nonpartisan Office **Form DS-DE 25A** (School Board Write-In Candidates use **Form DS-DE 24F**)

OR

Judicial Office Candidate Oath **Form DS-DE 26** (Judicial Write-In Candidates use **Form DS-DE 26A**)

AND

Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests **CE Form 6** 2015

OR

Statement of Financial Interests 2015 (Special district offices only) **CE Form 1**

AND

Qualifying Fee (check drawn on campaign account)*

OR

Petition Certification Form on file with Supervisor of Elections

AND

Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository **Form DS-DE 9** *
(However, you may have already filed this form with the Supervisor of Elections).

AND

Statement of Candidate **Form DS-DE 84**; Judicial Candidates file both the **Form DS-DE 83** and **Form DS-DE 84** (However, you may have already filed these forms with the Supervisor of Elections).*

* Excluding Special District candidates who do not intend to collect or expend campaign funds.
An **Affidavit of Intention** must be submitted if a Special District Candidate chooses this option.

If my qualifying papers are filed with an error or omission, will I be considered disqualified?

Pursuant to 99.061(7), Florida Statutes, if the filing officer receives qualifying papers that do not include all items required, the filing officer shall make a reasonable effort to notify the candidate of the missing or incomplete items and shall inform the candidate that all required items must be received by the close of qualifying, Judicial Candidates - Noon, May 6, 2016 or County/Special District Candidates - Noon, June 24, 2016.

After filing as a candidate, may I later change the way my name is to appear on the ballot?

Pursuant to 99.061(7)(b), Florida Statutes, a candidate's name as it is to appear on the ballot may not be changed after the end of qualifying

What are the amounts of the qualifying fees for county offices?

Pursuant to 99.092, Florida Statutes, qualifying fees for 2016 Pasco County candidates are:

Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller	\$ 8,610.48
Property Appraiser	\$ 8,610.48
Sheriff	\$ 9,235.38
Superintendent of Schools	\$ 8,610.48
Supervisor of Elections	\$ 7,431.60
Tax Collector	\$ 8,610.48
County Commissioner	\$ 5,074.62
County Court Judge	\$ 5,520.80
School Board Member	\$ 1,578.20
Special District Candidates	\$25.00

Partisan candidates pay 6% of the annual salary of the office sought (99.092, Florida Statutes).

The qualifying fee is comprised as follows:

Filing Fee	3.0%
Party Assessment	2.0%
Election Assessment	<u>1.0%</u>
	6.0%

The 1.0% election assessment is deposited into the Elections Commission Trust Fund.

Nonpartisan candidates pay 4.0%. Fee breakdown is the same as partisan candidates less the 2% party assessment. (Excluding Special District Candidates)

May I get my qualifying fee back if I decide not to run?

Yes, 99.092(1), Florida Statutes, provides for reimbursement for the qualifying fee provided that you withdraw your candidacy before the qualifying period ends.

Is there an alternative method to qualify as a candidate?

Pursuant to 99.095, Florida Statutes, a person seeking to qualify for nomination to any office may qualify to have their name placed on the ballot for the primary by means of the petitioning process. There is a \$0.10 verification fee per petition submitted.

However, **NO** petition may be circulated prior to filing the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository (**Form DS-DE 9**)! Any petition signed prior to the filing of said form will not be accepted.

- A copy of the petition may be obtained from the Division of Elections website. The candidate is responsible for reproduction of the petition **Form DS-DE 104**. You must obtain valid signatures equal to at least one percent (1%) of the total number of Pasco County registered voters. (The registration statistics used in computing the requisite number of signatures are those for the 2014 General Election).
 - Special District candidates need 25 valid signatures to qualify by petition method.
- If you are qualifying by the petition process, the number of valid signatures you must secure is 3,049.
- The signed petitions must be submitted to the Supervisor of Elections prior to 12:00 Noon on May 23, 2016, for verification. (Noon, April 4, 2016 for Federal, Judicial, State Attorney, and Public Defender)
- The Supervisor of Elections will notify you, in writing, whether the required number of signatures has been obtained prior to the first day of qualifying.
- The Supervisor of Elections will retain a copy of your certification as part of your qualifying requirements.
- You will not be required to pay the qualifying fee or party assessment and will be entitled to have your name printed on the ballot.
- Additionally, you may file an Undue Burden Oath with the Supervisor of Elections exempting you from paying the ten cents (\$.10) per name checked. This oath must be filed with the Supervisor of Elections at the time petitions are submitted for verification. The form used will be the **Affidavit of Undue Burden**.

Note: If the candidate is running for an office which will be grouped on the ballot with two or more similar offices to be filled at the same election and the petition does not indicate the group or district office for which they are running, the signatures obtained on the petition will not be counted.

May I have my name placed on the ballot with no party affiliation?

- Yes, the Florida Statutes provide in Chapter 99.0955(1), that any registered elector may have their name placed on the general election ballot as a candidate with no party affiliation.
- You shall file qualification papers and pay the qualifying fee or qualify by the petition process during the times and under the circumstances prescribed in 99.061, Florida Statutes.