

2014 Federal Qualifying Handbook



September 2013
Florida Department of State
Division of Elections
R. A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
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This publication is available in alternate format upon request by contacting 850.245.6240

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Explanation

The information contained in this publication is intended as a quick reference guide only and is current upon publication. Chapters 97-106, Florida Statutes, the Constitutions of the United States and of the State of Florida, Division of Elections' opinions and rules, Attorney General opinions, and other sources should be reviewed in their entirety for complete information regarding qualifying.

This handbook explains the qualifying procedures for candidates who qualify with the Division of Elections as party candidates, no party affiliation candidates, or write-in candidates for federal offices. It gives the qualifications for each office, with both the regular and petition methods of qualifying, along with write-in procedures for each office that qualifies with the Division.

This is an interactive handbook. Each item listed in the table of contents is linked to that section in the handbook. Each form referenced is hyperlinked directly to the form on our website. To return to the table of contents, click on the page number at the bottom of each page.

Forms and publications are available on the Division of Elections' website at:

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/publications/index.shtml>

Please direct any questions to the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections at 850.245.6280.

PART II: UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

A Representative to Congress shall be elected in and for each congressional district at each general election.

(Section 99.091, Fla. Stat.)

Qualifications

1. Must be a citizen of the United States for at least 7 years.
2. Must be at least 25 years of age.
3. Must be a resident of the state when elected.

(Article 1, Section 2, U.S. Const.)

Qualifying Dates and Location

Noon, April 28, 2014 – Noon, May 2, 2014

Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, R. A. Gray Building, Room 316, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

(Section 99.061, Fla. Stat.)

Qualification Requirements

The following items must be received by the Division of Elections **no later than noon, May 2, 2014:**

Candidates Paying the Qualifying Fee:

1. Party Affiliation Candidates: Form [DS-DE 27](#), Federal Office Loyalty Oath, Oath of Candidate and Statement of Party; or

No Party Affiliation Candidates: Form [DS-DE 27B](#), Federal Office Loyalty Oath and Oath of Candidate.

2. Qualifying Fee:

Party Affiliation Candidates: \$10,440 – 6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2013; or

No Party Affiliation Candidates: \$6,960 – 4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2013.

The qualifying fee must:

- Be on a properly executed check;
- Be made payable to the Department of State;
- Be drawn upon the campaign account; and
- Be in an amount not less than the fee required.

Important: A cashier's check is not accepted for qualifying unless a candidate's original qualifying check is returned by the bank. If this occurs, the Department of State shall immediately notify the candidate and the candidate shall have until the end of qualifying to pay the fee with a cashier's check purchased from funds of the campaign account. Failure to pay the fee as provided will disqualify the candidate.

(Sections 99.061 and 99.092, Fla. Stat.)

Candidates Qualifying By the Petition Process¹:

Party Affiliation Candidates: Form [DS-DE 27](#), Federal Office Loyalty Oath, Oath of Candidate and Statement of Party; or

No Party Affiliation Candidates: Form [DS-DE 27B](#), Federal Office Loyalty Oath and Oath of Candidate.

(Sections 99.061, 99.095, 99.0955 and 99.097, Fla. Stat.)

Write-in Candidates:

[DS-DE 27A](#), Federal Office Loyalty Oath and Oath of Candidate for Write-in Candidates.

A write-in candidate is not entitled to have his or her name printed on any ballot; however, a space for the write-in candidate's name to be written in shall be provided on the general election ballot. A write-in candidate is not required to pay a qualifying fee, election assessment or party assessment, or file petitions.

(Section 99.061, Fla. Stat.)

Missing or Incomplete Information

If the filing officer receives qualifying papers that do not include all items as required prior to the last day of qualifying, 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. A candidate's name as it is to appear on the ballot may not be changed after the end of qualifying.

(Section 99.061(7)(b), Fla. Stat.)

¹ See [DS-DE 104](#) and the [Candidate Petition Handbook](#) for additional information.