FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

MEMORANDUM

TO: Candidates for 2026 Special Election for State Senate, District 14

FROM: Bureau of Election Records

DATE: October 28, 2025

SUBJECT: Qualifying Tips

Please refer to the 2024 State Qualifying Handbook for specific forms and requirements:

2024 State Qualifying Handbook – Chapter 8, State Senator and State Representative
(Attention: Form 6, Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for year 2024, is required. A copy of the electronically filed Form 6, or receipt of that filing must be provided to the Division of Elections during qualifying.)

Qualifying will be held from **8:00 am, November 17, 2025 – Noon, November 18, 2025**.

The Division of Elections may accept qualifying papers beginning the date the Executive Order is issued.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure qualifying papers are timely received in this office and are complete and properly notarized (as applicable). All qualifying fees and paperwork must be complete and received in the Division of Elections in Room 316 no later than **Noon, November 18, 2025** (Eastern Time), for a candidate to be qualified. **Note: Timely hand delivery to our office is the only guarantee.**

Our location and mailing address is: Division of Elections
R.A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

For your Special Election Reporting Calendar and other general information, please refer to the Notice of Special Election for State Senate – District 14: Special Elections - Division of Elections

Candidate Oath forms – The candidate must file the appropriate Statewide or Multicounty Candidate Oath Forms as it applies to your candidacy no later than the close of qualifying.

- **Notable requirements at the time of qualifying:**
  - The candidate must provide their ***address of legal residence*** on the Candidate Oath.
    - A Public Records Exemption Request must be on file for the address to be confidential.
  - The candidate must affirm any outstanding fines, fees, or penalties on the Candidate Oath and provide the amounts and names of entities, as applicable.
  - If the candidate wishes to use a nickname on the ballot, the candidate must complete the Affidavit of Nickname on the Candidate Oath.

Timely Filing – The U.S. Postal Service does not deliver directly to the Division of Elections. To ensure the qualifying items are timely submitted, a candidate or someone on their behalf should hand-deliver directly to the Division. The Division does not accept qualifying papers via facsimile or email. The R.A. Gray Building is open to the public during regular business hours. NOTE: Overnight deliveries to the R.A. Gray building are made only by FedEx and UPS; however, they are not made directly to the Division of Elections office in Room 316.

Qualifying Fees – Must be on a properly executed check payable to the Department of State or Division of Elections and drawn upon the candidate's **campaign** account. Personal checks, cashiers' checks, certified checks, cash, and money orders are **not valid** for qualifying. On the qualifying check (including a starter check), ensure the face of the check specifies that the check is from the campaign account, even if it is handwritten on the check (*e.g.*, "Campaign Account of John Doe").

Notarized Oath – Oath forms require notarization. Carefully review these documents for proper notarization. Common mistakes include but are not limited to: the state rather than the county entered in venue; failure to indicate physical or online notarization; notary indicates online notarization but is not registered to provide online notarization; and the notary seal with expiration date and name is not legible due to a light stamping, or stamping on a dark line.

Name on the Ballot – On the Candidate Oath, type or print your name the way you wish it to appear on the ballot. A candidate's name as it is to appear on the ballot may not be changed after the end of qualifying. The Affidavit of Nickname must be complete for a nickname to appear on the ballot.

Contact Information – Provide a telephone number and email address on the Candidate Oath where you can be reached during the day and after normal working hours. The Bureau will make an effort to contact you if there is a problem with your paperwork.

Qualifying Status – To check your qualifying status: https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates

Withdrawal – In order for a qualifying fee to be returned, the candidate must withdraw in writing before the close of qualifying. The withdrawal statement must contain the candidate's signature. The withdrawal may be scanned and emailed to ElecRecords@DOS.fl.gov or faxed to 850.245.6260.

If you have any questions, please call the Bureau of Election Records at **850-245-6280**.