

2026 Federal Qualifying Handbook

ATTENTION: Please refer to Emergency Rule [1SER26-2](#) regarding candidate qualifying. If you have questions, please contact the Bureau of Election Records at (850) 245-6280.



Florida Department of State
Division of Elections
R.A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250
850.245.6200

(Rev. 05/20/2026)

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Chapter 1: Background

This handbook explains the qualifying procedures for candidates who qualify with the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, for **federal offices** as party candidates, no party affiliation candidates, or write-in candidates. 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.

However, the information herein is only intended as a reference guide. To the extent that this handbook covers material beyond that contained in law or rule, the Division of Elections (Division) offers such material to candidates merely as guidelines.

It is the responsibility of the person seeking to qualify to read, understand, and comply with applicable federal and state law requirements, procedures and timelines for qualifying. [Chapters 97-106](#), Florida Statutes, the [Constitution of the State of Florida](#) and Division of Elections' [opinions](#) and [rules](#), the texts of which control, should be reviewed in their entirety for complete information regarding qualifying.

It is also the responsibility of the person seeking to qualify to ensure that they are using the most current version of the form(s) required. All applicable [forms](#) and [publications](#) are available on the Division of Elections' website at <https://dos.fl.gov/elections/forms-publications>.

Please direct questions to the Bureau of Election Records at ElecRecords@DOS.fl.gov or through the help desk at **850.245.6280**.

Chapter 2: Offices that Qualify with the Division

- Federal Offices
 - United States Senator (one of two seats)
 - Representative in Congress (all districts)

Chapter 3: Resign-to-Run Law

Governing Law

Any “officer” who qualifies for federal public office must resign from the office they presently hold if the terms, or any part thereof, run concurrently with each other. However, there are exceptions to the Resign-to-Run Law.

(Section [99.012\(4\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

What does “Qualify” Mean?

Each person seeking to qualify for nomination or election to a federal, state, or multicounty district office, or candidates for judicial office (other than the office of county court judge) shall file their qualification papers with, and pay the qualifying fee, which shall consist of the filing fee and election assessment, and party assessment, if any has been levied to the Department of State, or qualify by the petition process pursuant to s. 99.095 with the Department of State.

(Sections [99.061](#) and [105.031](#), Fla. Stat.)

Who is an “officer?”

An “officer” means a person, whether elected or appointed, who has the authority to exercise the sovereign power of the state pertaining to an office recognized under the State Constitution or laws of the state. With respect to a municipality, an “officer” means a person, whether elected or appointed, who has the authority to exercise municipal power as provided by the State Constitution, state laws, or municipal charter.

(Section [99.012\(1\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

“Officers” include, but are not limited to: mayors, city and county commissioners, state legislators, supervisors of elections, sheriffs, property appraisers, judges, school board members, superintendents of school, state attorneys and public defenders, municipal fire chiefs, medical examiners, and elected hospital board and airport authority members.

Exceptions to the Resign-to-Run Law

The Resign-to-Run law does not apply to the following:

- Political party offices.
- Persons serving without salary on an appointed board or authority
- Persons holding any federal office.

- An elected officer running for federal office if the term of office they presently hold is scheduled to expire and be filled by election in the same primary and general election period as the federal office they are seeking.
- Persons seeking the office of President or Vice President of the United States.
(Section [99.012\(7\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

Resignation Process

The resignation must be submitted in writing at least 10 days prior to the first day of qualifying for the office sought.

- Elected and appointed district, county, or municipal officers:
 - Submit resignation to the officer before whom they qualified for the office they hold, or to the authority which appointed them to the office they hold.
 - Submit a copy of the resignation to the Governor and the Florida Department of State.
- All other officers:
 - Submit resignation to the Governor.
 - Submit a copy of the resignation to the Florida Department of State.
(Section [99.012\(3\)](#) and [\(4\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

Address Information

Address for Governor's Office	Address for Department of State
The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor The Capitol 400 S. Monroe St. Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001 Fax: (850) 922-9002	Bureau of Election Records Department of State R.A. Gray Building, Room 316, 500 S. Bronough Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250 Email: ElecRecords@DOS.fl.gov Fax: (850) 245-6259 or (850) 245-6260

Effective Date of the Resignation

The resignation must state when the resignation will take effect, which must be no later than the earlier of the following dates:

- The date the officer would take office, if elected; or
- The date the officer's successor is required to take office.

Once submitted, the resignation is irrevocable.

(Section [99.012\(3\)](#) and [\(4\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

Automatic Resignation

The failure of an officer who qualifies for federal public office to submit a resignation pursuant to the Resign-to-Run Law constitutes an automatic irrevocable resignation, effective immediately, from the office they presently hold.

(Section [99.012\(4\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

Chapter 4: Qualifying Options

Qualifying Fee Method

A person may pay a fee to qualify as a candidate. This qualifying fee is based on the salary of the office sought. Please refer to the qualifying requirements of each individual office sought for the specific amount of the fees.

(Section [99.092](#), Fla. Stat.)

Petition Method

A person may qualify as a candidate by petition method. A person satisfying the petition requirements is not required to pay the qualifying fee and party assessment, if otherwise applicable. However, the person must still satisfy other applicable requirements for qualifying.

Please refer to the current [Candidate Petition Handbook](#) for more information.

(Section [99.095](#), Fla. Stat.)

Write-In Candidate

A person may qualify as a write-in candidate. A write-in candidate is not required to pay a qualifying fee and party assessment or collect petitions. However, the write-in candidate must still satisfy other applicable requirements for qualifying.

By law, a qualified write-in candidate's name will not be listed on the ballot. However, a blank space will be available on the ballot where voters can write in the qualified candidate's name.

(Section [99.061\(4\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

Chapter 5: Qualifying Process

Where and When to File

All qualifying papers and, if applicable, fees must be complete and received by the Florida Division of Elections, before the end of qualifying period, at the following physical address:

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

To be timely filed, the qualifying papers and, if applicable, fees must be received at the address above within the qualifying period and no later than the close of the qualifying period.

*(Section [99.061\(8\)](#), Fla. Stat., and
Emergency Rule [1SER26-2\(1\) and \(2\)](#), F.A.C.)*

How to File

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure qualifying papers and, if applicable, fees are complete and timely filed.

Candidates may submit qualifying papers and, if applicable, fees by hand-delivery or mail. The Division does not accept qualifying papers via facsimile or email.

To ensure that the qualifying papers and, if applicable, fees are timely submitted, a candidate or someone on their behalf should hand-deliver directly to the Division or use a commercial express courier delivery service that delivers directly to the R.A. Gray Building.

Attention: The U.S. Postal Service does not deliver mail directly to the Florida Division of Elections. The U.S. Postal Service's designated hours for mail pick-up do not correspond to the qualifying deadline.

Any Candidate Oath form or qualifying check filed with the Division earlier than 14 days prior to the beginning of the qualifying period is not valid for qualifying. If filed prior to the start of the pre-qualifying period, these documents must be filed again with the Division before the close of qualifying.

*(Section [99.061\(8\)](#), Fla. Stat., and
Emergency Rule [1SER26-2\(1\) and \(2\)](#), F.A.C.)*

Forms

Current qualifying [forms](#) are available on the Division's website.

Do not use older versions of forms as this may delay or prevent a person from qualifying.

The **Candidate Oath Form** should be reviewed carefully for proper notarization. Improper notarization may prevent a person from qualifying.

- **Name on the Oath** – the candidate must include the candidate's legal given name or names, a shortened form of the candidate's legal given name or names, an initial or initials of the candidate's legal given name or names, or a bona fide nickname customarily related to the candidate and by which the candidate is commonly known, immediately followed by the candidate's legal surname.
 - Pursuant to Ch. [2026-26](#), § 10, Laws of Florida (HB 991), effective April 1, 2026, persons seeking to qualify for nomination as a candidate of a political party or no party affiliation must provide a statement that the person has not legally changed their name through a petition pursuant to § 68.07, Florida Statutes, (not including any change of name in proceedings for dissolution of marriage or adoption of children or based on a change of name conducted with a marriage certificate) during the 365-day period preceding the beginning of qualifying. Pursuant to [Directive 2026-02](#), any candidate who legally changed their name through a petition pursuant to § 68.07, Florida Statutes, during the 365-day period preceding the beginning of qualifying but before § 10 of HB 991 became effective on April 1, 2026, may qualify with the name they had immediately preceding the legal name change.
 - **Nickname** – if a candidate wishes to designate a nickname to be printed on the ballot, the candidate must file the affidavit on the second page of the oath, which must be verified under oath or affirmation, attesting that the nickname complies with the requirements of Section [99.0215](#), Florida Statutes. (Sections [99.021](#) and [99.0215](#), Fla. Stat.)
 - The candidate's name printed on the Candidate Oath will be printed on the ballot exactly as printed on the Oath and cannot be changed after the end of qualifying.
- Pursuant to Section [99.021\(1\)\(b\)](#), Florida Statutes, any person seeking to qualify for nomination as a candidate of any political party shall, at the time of subscribing to the oath or affirmation, state in writing:
 - The party of which the person is a member.
 - That the person has been a registered member of the political party for which they are seeking nomination as a candidate for at least 365 consecutive days preceding the beginning of qualifying before the general election for which the person seeks to qualify.

- That the person has paid the assessment levied against them, if any, as a candidate for said office by the executive committee of the party of which they are a member.
- That the person has not legally changed their name through a petition pursuant to s. 68.07 during the 365-day period preceding the beginning of qualifying. This subparagraph does not apply to any change of name in proceedings for dissolution of marriage or adoption of children or based on a change of name conducted with a marriage certificate.
- Pursuant to Section [99.021\(1\)\(c\)](#), Florida Statutes, any person seeking to qualify for office as a candidate with no party affiliation shall, at the time of subscribing to the oath or affirmation, state in writing that they are registered without any party affiliation and that they have **not**:
 - Been a registered member of any political party for at least 365 consecutive days preceding the beginning of qualifying before the general election for which the person seeks to qualify.
 - Legally changed their name through a petition pursuant to s. 68.07 during the 365-day period preceding the beginning of qualifying. This subparagraph does not apply to any change of name in proceedings for dissolution of marriage or adoption of children or based on a change of name conducted with a marriage certificate.
- **Statement of Outstanding Fines, Fees or Penalties** – each candidate, whether a party candidate, a candidate with no party affiliation, or a write-in candidate, shall, at the time of subscribing to the oath or affirmation, state in writing whether they owe any outstanding fines, fees, or penalties that cumulatively exceed \$250 for any violations of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution; the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees under part III of chapter 112; any local ethics ordinance governing standards of conduct and disclosure requirements; or chapter 106. If the candidate owes any outstanding fines, fees, or penalties exceeding the threshold amount specified in this paragraph, they must also specify the amount owed and each entity that levied such fine, fee, or penalty. For purposes of this paragraph, any such fines, fees, or penalties that have been paid in full at the time of subscribing to the oath or affirmation are not deemed to be outstanding. (Section [99.021\(1\)\(d\)](#), Fla. Stat.)
- Pursuant to Section [99.061\(7\)\(a\)7.](#), Florida Statutes, at the time of subscribing to the oath or affirmation, the candidate must state in writing whether they are a citizen of another country in addition to being a citizen of the United States, and, if so, disclose any other country of which the candidate is also a citizen.
- Pursuant to Section [99.061\(7\)\(a\)8.](#), Florida Statutes, at the time of subscribing to the oath or affirmation, the candidate must state in writing whether they previously held a federal office and, if so, disclose whether the candidate traded stocks while in such

office in a manner other than through a trust or similar mechanism which strictly limited their ability to influence or exercise control over decisions regarding the management of assets.

Prohibition on Qualifying for Multiple Offices

No person may qualify as a candidate for more than one public office, whether federal, state, district, county, or municipal, if the terms or any part thereof run concurrently with each other.

(Section [99.012\(2\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

Qualifying Fee

The qualifying fees must be:

- Paid by a properly executed campaign check drawn upon the campaign account. (A personal check, cashier's check, money order, and cash are **not acceptable**);
- Made payable to the Florida Department of State, Florida Secretary of State, or Florida Division of Elections;
- In an amount not less than the fee required.

The qualifying fee cannot be returned to a candidate unless the candidate withdraws, 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, alternatively, [faxed to 850.245.6260](tel:850.245.6260).

(Section [99.061\(7\)](#), Fla. Stat., and
Emergency Rule [1SER26-2\(4\)](#), F.A.C.)

Returned Check

If a bank returns a candidate's qualifying check for any reason, the filing officer shall immediately notify the candidate. Notwithstanding the end of qualifying, the candidate has 48 hours from the time the notice is received, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, to pay the fee with a cashier's check purchased from funds of the campaign account. Failure to pay the fee as provided shall disqualify the candidate.

(*Wright v. City of Miami Gardens*, 200 So.3d 765 (Fla. S. Ct. 2016))

Missing or Incomplete Information

If the filing officer receives qualifying papers that do not include all required items 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.

(Sections [99.061\(7\)\(b\)](#) and [105.031\(5\)\(b\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

Candidates should provide a telephone number and email address on the applicable Candidate Oath where they can be reached for questions about their qualifying papers.

Qualifying Status Lookup

A person's qualifying status as a candidate can be found on the Division's online [Candidate Tracking System](#).

Chapter 6: United States Senator

A United States Senator from Florida shall be elected at the general election held before the present term of office expires. Such election shall conform as nearly as practicable to the methods provided for the election for state officers.

(Section [99.081](#), Fla. Stat.)

Qualifications

1. Must be a citizen of the United States for at least nine years.
2. Must be at least 30 years of age.
3. Must be an inhabitant of the state when elected.

([Art. I, § 3](#), U.S. Const.)

Qualifying Dates

Noon (Eastern Time), Monday, April 20, 2026 – Noon (Eastern Time), Friday, April 24, 2026

Notwithstanding the qualifying dates stated above, the qualifying office may accept and hold qualifying papers submitted not earlier than 14 days prior to the beginning of the qualifying period, to be processed and filed during the qualifying period.

(Section [99.061\(8\) and \(9\)](#), Fla. Stat.;
[Directive 2026-01](#))

Qualifying Papers

The following items must be complete and received by the Division of Elections no later than noon (Eastern Time), Friday, April 24, 2026:

Candidate Oath – Federal Office (*Choose the applicable oath to complete.*)

- [Form](#) DS-DE 300A-E – With Party Affiliation
- [Form](#) DS-DE 300B-E – No Party Affiliation
- [Form](#) DS-DE 300C-E – Write-In Candidate

(Section [99.061\(7\)](#), Fla. Stat., and
Emergency Rule [1SER26-2\(3\)](#), F.A.C.)

Qualifying Fee

Candidates, except persons certified to qualify by the petition method or seeking to qualify as write-in candidates, must also pay the qualifying fee below, as applicable:

- **Party Affiliation Candidates: \$10,440** (6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025); or
- **No Party Affiliation Candidates: \$6,960** (4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025).
(Section [99.092](#), Fla. Stat.)

Chapter 7: Representative in Congress

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 seven years.
2. Must be at least 25 years of age.
3. Must be an inhabitant of the state when elected.

([Art. I, § 2](#), U.S. Const.)

Qualifying Dates

Noon (Eastern Time), Monday, June 8, 2026 – Noon (Eastern Time), Friday, June 12, 2026

Notwithstanding the qualifying dates stated above, the qualifying office may accept and hold qualifying papers submitted not earlier than 14 days prior to the beginning of the qualifying period, to be processed and filed during the qualifying period.

(Section [99.061\(8\) and \(9\)](#), Fla. Stat.;
[Directive 2026-01](#))

Qualifying Papers

The following items must be complete and received by the Division of Elections no later than noon (Eastern Time), Friday, June 12, 2026:

Candidate Oath – Federal Office (*Choose the applicable oath to complete.*)

- [Form](#) DS-DE 300A-E – With Party Affiliation
- [Form](#) DS-DE 300B-E – No Party Affiliation
- [Form](#) DS-DE 300C-E – Write-In Candidate

(Section [99.061\(7\)](#), Fla. Stat., and
Emergency Rule [1SER26-2\(3\)](#), F.A.C.)

Qualifying Fee

Candidates, except persons certified to qualify by the petition method or seeking to qualify as write-in candidates, must also pay the qualifying fee below, as applicable:

- **Party Affiliation Candidates: \$10,440** (6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025); or
- **No Party Affiliation Candidates: \$6,960** (4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025).
(Section [99.092](#), Fla. Stat.)

Appendices

Appendix A: Legal References and Rules Cited

(hyperlinks included below)

Florida Statutes

- [99.012](#) Restrictions on individuals qualifying for public office.
- [99.061](#) Method of qualifying for nomination or election to federal, state, county, or district office.
- [99.081](#) United States Senators elected in general election.
- [99.091](#) Representatives to Congress.
- [99.097](#) Verification of signatures on petitions.
- [103.011](#) Electors of President and Vice President.
- [103.021](#) Nomination for presidential electors.
- [103.022](#) Write-in candidates for President and Vice President.
- [103.101](#) Presidential preference primary.
- [105.031](#) Qualification; filing fee; candidate’s oath; items required to be filed.

Florida Election Code

[Chapters 97 – 106, Florida Statutes](#)

Constitutions

[United States Constitution](#)

- [Art. I, § 2](#)
- [Art. I, § 3](#)
- [Art. II, § 1](#)

[Constitution of the State of Florida](#)

Florida Administrative Code

Emergency Rule [1SER26-2](#) Designation of Division of Elections as Filing Office for Department of State; Requirements for Candidate Qualifying Papers; Withdrawal of Candidacy

Forms

Candidate Oath – Federal Office

- Form DS-DE 18A – President and Vice President Candidate Petition, No Party Affiliation
- Form DS-DE 18B – President and Vice President Candidate Petition, Minor Political Party
- Form DS-DE 306WP – Write-In for President and Vice President
- Form DS-DE 300A-E – With Party Affiliation
- Form DS-DE 300B-E – No Party Affiliation
- Form DS-DE 300C-E – Write-In Candidate

Division of Elections

- [Advisory Opinions](#)
- [Rules](#)
- [Directives](#)
 - [Directive 2026-01](#) Congressional Candidate Qualifying; Year of Apportionment
 - [Directive 2026-02](#) Implementation of § 99.021, Fla. Stat.
- [Qualifying Information](#)
- [Publications](#)

Appendix B: Emergency Rule [1SER26-2](#), F.A.C.

1SER26-2 (1S-2.0001) Designation of Division of Elections as Filing Office for Department of State; Requirements for Candidate Qualifying Papers; Withdrawal of Candidacy.

(1) Designation of Qualifying Office.

(a) The Department of State has designated the Division of Elections as the filing or qualifying office for candidates who must qualify with the Department of State. All qualifying items required to be filed with the Department of State shall be filed in hardcopy form with the Division of Election at its official physical location: Room 316, R.A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250. Items may not be submitted via email or fax.

(b) Each supervisor or elections and other qualifying officer shall designate one or more specific official locations that will serve as a qualifying office and publish the address of each office on the qualifying officer's website.

(2) Filing Timeline.

(a) Timely filing is of the essence in qualifying as a candidate. In order to be deemed timely filed with the qualifying office, qualifying items must actually be present at the qualifying office's official physical location by the close of the qualifying period. Candidates who file with the Division of Elections are advised that the U.S. Postal Service does not deliver mail directly to the Division and the U.S. Postal Service's designated hours for mail pick-up by the Division do not correspond to the qualifying deadline. To ensure that the items are timely received, it is advisable for candidates or someone on their behalf to hand-deliver directly to the qualifying office or use a delivery service that timely delivers directly to the qualifying office.

(b) Qualifying items shall be deemed filed with the qualifying office upon the date of actual receipt by the qualifying office, except for those qualifying items accepted and held during the 14-day period before the beginning of the qualifying period pursuant to Sections 99.061(8) and 105.031(6), F.S. The qualifying items that are received and held during the 14-day period before the beginning of the qualifying period shall not be deemed filed until the beginning of the qualifying period.

(3) Qualifying items.

(a) Qualifying items may be copies or contain copied portions of the originals.

(b) A current full and public disclosure of financial interests or statement of financial interests, as applicable, or receipt of such filing with the Florida Commission on Ethics, that covers the immediately preceding calendar or tax year and is on the applicable Florida Commission on Ethics' form for that year. For example, for a qualifying period that occurs in 2024, the current full and public disclosure or statement of financial interests form would be one that covers the 2023 calendar or tax year.

(c) The following qualifying forms are hereby incorporated by reference and are available by hyperlink below, or from the Division of Elections at: R.A. Gray Building, Room 316, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250, or (850)245-6200; or by download from the Division's webpage at: <http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/forms-publications/forms/>:

1. DS-DE 9 (09/23) (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-15784>), entitled, "Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates."

2. DS-DE 301A-E (Eff. 04/2026) (<https://dos.fl.gov/media/710430/dsde301a-e-state-local-partisan-oath-pty-aff-apr-2026.pdf>), entitled, "Candidate Oath – State and Local Partisan Office – With Party Affiliation."

3. DS-DE 301B-E (Eff. 04/2026) (<https://dos.fl.gov/media/710431/dsde301b-e-state-local-partisan-oath-no-pty-aff-apr-2026.pdf>), entitled, "Candidate Oath – State and Local Partisan Office – Without Party Affiliation."

4. DS-DE 301C-E (Eff. 04/2026) (<https://dos.fl.gov/media/710432/dsde301c-e-state-local-partisan-oath-write-in-apr-2026.pdf>), entitled, "Candidate Oath-State and Local Partisan Office-Write-In Candidate."

5. DS-DE 305A-E (Eff. 04/2026) (<https://dos.fl.gov/media/710436/dsde305a-e-committeemen-committeewomen-oath-state-apr-2026.pdf>), entitled, "Candidate Oath – Committeemen and Committeewomen."

6. DS-DE 305B-E (Eff. 04/2026) (<https://dos.fl.gov/media/710437/dsde305b-e-committeemen-committeewomen-oath-district-apr-2026.pdf>), entitled, "Candidate Oath – Committeemen and Committeewomen -

District.”

7. DS-DE 305C-E (Eff. 04/2026) (<https://dos.fl.gov/media/710438/dsde305c-e-committeemen-committeewomen-oath-precinct-apr-2026.pdf>) entitled, “Candidate Oath – Committeemen and Committeewomen - Precinct.”

8. DS-DE 302NP-E Corr. (Eff. 04/2026) (<https://dos.fl.gov/media/710433/dsde302np-e-corr-nonpartisan-oath-apr-2026.pdf>), entitled, “Candidate Oath – Nonpartisan Office.”

9. DS-DE 304SB-E Corr. (Eff. 04/2026) (<https://dos.fl.gov/media/710435/dsde304sb-e-corr-school-board-oath-apr-2026.pdf>), entitled “Candidate Oath – School Board Nonpartisan Office.”

10. DS-DE 303JU-E (Eff. 04/2026) (<https://dos.fl.gov/media/710434/dsde303ju-e-judicial-oath-apr-2026.pdf>), entitled, “Candidate Oath – Judicial Office.”

11. DS-DE 300A-E (Eff. 04/2026) (<https://dos.fl.gov/media/710427/dsde300a-e-fed-oath-pty-aff-apr-2026.pdf>), entitled “Candidate Oath – Federal Office – With Party Affiliation.”

12. DS-DE 300B-E (Eff. 04/2026) (<https://dos.fl.gov/media/710440/dsde300b-e-fed-oath-no-pty-aff-apr-2026.pdf>), entitled, “Candidate Oath – Federal Office – Without Party Affiliation.”

13. DS-DE 300C-E (Eff. 04/2026) (<https://dos.fl.gov/media/710429/dsde300c-e-fed-oath-write-in-apr-2026.pdf>), entitled, “Candidate Oath – Federal Office – Write-In Candidate.”

14. DS-DE 306WP (10/23) (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-15779>), entitled, “Candidate Oath – Write-In for President and Vice President.”

(4) Candidate withdrawal. A candidate may withdraw his or her candidacy by submitting a document specifying the candidate’s withdrawal from the particular public office he or she seeks to the qualifying office before which he or she qualifies (or has qualified) by mail, facsimile, email, photocopy, scanned copy or other type of electronic transmission that contains the signature of the candidate. The withdrawal is not effective until it is received by the qualifying office.

Rulemaking Authority 20.05(1)(e), 20.10(3), 97.012(1), 99.061(10), 103.022 FS. Law Implemented 20.05(1)(b), 99.021, 99.061, 99.095, 103.022, 105.031(1), 105.035 FS. History—New 12-6-84, Formerly 1C-7.001, 1C-7.0001, Amended 2-13-90, 11-7-10, 9-7-11, 1-1-14, 1-2-18, 8-25-21, 11-13-23, Supersedes 1S-2.0001, 1SER26-1, 4-8-26.

Appendix C: Directive [2026-01](#)



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Cord Byrd
Florida Secretary of State

TO: Supervisors of Elections

DATE: January 7, 2026

SUBJECT: Directive 2026-01—Congressional Candidate Qualifying;
Year of Apportionment

On January 7, 2026, Governor DeSantis issued a Proclamation pursuant to Article III, section 3(c)(1), Florida Constitution, calling for a special session to be held beginning on April 20, 2026, and extending no later than April 24, 2026. The Governor's Proclamation convenes the Legislature to redraw the state's congressional districts.

The qualifying period for congressional candidates for the 2026 election cycle is currently set to begin at noon on Monday, April 20, 2026. See § 99.061(1), Fla. Stat. Congressional candidates seeking 2026 ballot placement must know in a sufficiently timely manner from which voters they may obtain petition signatures or how many signatures they must obtain. Therefore, I conclude that the provisions in the Election Code referring to procedures to be followed in a "year of apportionment" apply to congressional candidates for the purpose of qualifying in such races in Florida during the regular 2026 election cycle. See §§ 99.061(9), 99.095, 99.09651, Fla. Stat.

In an apportionment year, the qualification requirements for a congressional candidate change in three significant ways. First, such a candidate may obtain signatures from electors who reside anywhere in the state (rather than from only those who reside within the district). See § 99.09651(3), Fla. Stat. Second, there is a different formula for calculating the minimum number of signatures required to qualify by petition. See § 99.09651(1), (2), Fla. Stat. Third, the qualifying dates for congressional candidates change. See § 99.061(9), Fla. Stat. These different requirements reflect that the timing of redrawing district boundaries conflicts with the ordinary process of identifying which and how many voters within a district would be required to qualify by petition.

Pursuant to my authority under section 97.012(1) and (16), Florida Statutes, I hereby direct the supervisors of elections in Florida to perform the duty of verifying signatures on petitions submitted to them by congressional candidates pursuant to section 99.095(3), Florida Statutes, to determine whether a petition's signature is from a voter registered within the county in which it was circulated. The petitions must state that the candidate is seeking the office of U.S. Representative, but they shall not include a district number, see § 99.09651(4), Fla. Stat.; however, if a petition includes a district number, the district designation may be disregarded as extraneous and unnecessary information for the applicable qualifying period.

Any congressional candidate in Florida seeking ballot placement for the 2026 election who seeks to qualify by the petition process may obtain signatures "from any registered voter in Florida regardless of party affiliation or district boundaries." See § 99.09651(3), Fla. Stat. Moreover, such a candidate will need to collect 2,564 signatures. See § 99.09651(1), (2), Fla. Stat. (requiring a candidate for Congress in an apportionment year to collect a number of signatures equal to one-third of one percent of the "ideal population," which is a number calculated by taking the total state population based on the most recent decennial census (21,538,187 in 2020) and dividing by the number of congressional districts apportioned to Florida (28). Finally, the qualifying dates for congressional candidates shall be from noon on June 8, 2026, to noon on June 12, 2026. See § 99.061(9), Fla. Stat.

Appendix D: Directive [2026-02](#)




FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

MEMORANDUM

TO: Candidates and Supervisors of Elections

FROM: Cord Byrd
Florida Secretary of State 

DATE: April 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Directive 2026-02 – Implementation of § 99.021, Fla. Stat.

1. I issue this directive in my capacity as the “chief election officer” of the State of Florida with the responsibility to “[o]btain and maintain uniformity in the interpretation and implementation of election laws,” section 97.012(1), Fla. Stat., and “[p]rovide written direction . . . to the supervisors of elections on the performance of their official duties with respect to the Florida Election Code.” *Id.* Section 97.012(16).
2. Specifically, I issue this directive to clarify the interpretation and implementation of section 99.021, Florida Statutes (2026), which HB 991 recently amended. Specifically, subparagraphs (1)(b)4. and (1)(c)2. were amended to provide in pertinent part that a candidate must swear or affirm that they have not

legally changed his or her name through a petition pursuant to s. 68.07 during the 365-day period preceding the beginning of qualifying. This subparagraph does not apply to any change of name in proceedings for dissolution of marriage or adoption of children or based on a change of name conducted with a marriage certificate.
3. Pursuant to 99.061(1)-(3), Florida Statutes, the Department of State is the qualifying officer for federal, state, and multicounty district offices and the Supervisors of Elections serve as the qualifying officers for county and certain district offices.

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4. The Department of State became aware that certain candidates who seek to qualify have legally changed their name in a way that is now prohibited but are otherwise qualified.

5. Accordingly, I issue the following Directive:

Any candidate who legally changed his or her name through a petition pursuant to s. 68.07 (not including any change of name in proceedings for dissolution of marriage or adoption of children or based on a change of name conducted with a marriage certificate) during the 365-day period preceding the beginning of qualifying but before HB 991 became effective on April 1, 2026, may qualify with the name they had immediately preceding the legal name change.

6. As always, my staff stands ready to assist you and answer questions you may have about candidates' compliance with section 99.021(1)(b)4., and (c)2., Florida Statutes.

7. This directive remains in effect until such time as it is superseded or revoked by subsequent directive, law, or final court order.

**For further assistance,
contact the Division of Elections
ElecRecords@DOS.fl.gov
Help Desk (850) 245-6280**