

# 2018 State Qualifying Handbook



Florida Department of State  
Division of Elections  
R. A. Gray Building, Room 316  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250  
850.245.6240

(Rev. 4/12/2018)

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## Chapter 1: Background

The information contained in this publication is intended as a quick reference guide only. To the extent that this Handbook covers material beyond that contained in law or rule, the Division of Elections 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.

This handbook explains the qualifying procedures for candidates who qualify with the Division of Elections (Division) as party candidates, no party affiliation candidates, nonpartisan 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.

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

<http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/forms-publications/>

Please direct any questions to the Division at 850.245.6280.

## Chapter 2: Offices that Qualify with the Division

- Statewide Offices:
  - Governor and Lieutenant Governor
  - Attorney General
  - Chief Financial Officer
  - Commissioner of Agriculture
  - Justice of the Supreme Court  
(only those whose terms expire January 2019)
  
- Multi-County State Offices:
  - State Attorney
  - Public Defender
  - State Senator
  - State Representative
  
- Judicial (Nonpartisan):
  - Judge, District Court of Appeal  
(only those whose terms expire January 2019)
  - Circuit Judges (only those whose terms expire January 2019)
  
- Multi-County Special Districts:
  - Varies by district

## Chapter 3: Resign-to-Run Law

### Governing Law - [Sections 99.012 \(3\) and \(4\), Fla. Stat.](#)

No “officer” may qualify as a candidate for another state, district, county or municipal public office if the terms or any part of the terms run concurrently with each other without resigning from the office he or she presently holds. Also, any officer who qualifies for federal public office must resign from the office he or she presently holds if the terms, or any part, thereof, run concurrently with each other. (See, however, the “[Exceptions to the resign-to-run law.](#)”)

### 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

- 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 he or she presently holds is scheduled to expire and be filled by election in the same primary and general election period as the federal office he or she is seeking.

### Resignation Process

- The resignation must be in writing at least 10 days prior to the first day of qualifying for the office the officer seeks.
  - For elected district, county, or municipal officers, submit:
    - To the officer before whom he or she qualified for the office he or she holds.
    - Copy to the Governor and the Department of State.
  - For appointed district, county, or municipal officers, submit:
    - To the officer or authority which appointed him or her to the office he or she holds.
    - Copy to the Governor and the Department of State.
  - For all other officers, submit:
    - To the Governor
    - Copy to the Department of State.

## Address Information

Address for Governor's office
The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor The Capitol 400 S. Monroe St. Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001 Email: <a href="mailto:Rick.Scott@eog.myflorida.com">Rick.Scott@eog.myflorida.com</a> Fax: (850) 922-9002

Address for Department of State
Kristi Reid Willis, Chief, Bureau of Election Records Department of State R.A. Gray Building, Room 316, 500 S. Bronough Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250 Email: <a href="mailto:kristi.willis@dos.myflorida.com">kristi.willis@dos.myflorida.com</a> Fax: 850-245-6259 or -6290

## Effective date of the resignation:

The resignation must take effect 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.

**Resignation is irrevocable.** Once submitted, the resignation is irrevocable.

## Chapter 4: Qualifying Options

A qualified write-in candidate's name will not be listed on the ballot. A space will be available on the ballot where voters can write in a qualified candidate's name.

### 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. A person paying the qualifying fee must still satisfy other applicable requirements for qualifying.

### Petition Method

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

Please refer to the current Candidate Petition Handbook for more information:

<http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/forms-publications/publications/>

### 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.

## Chapter 5: Things to Remember

### Where to File

All qualifying fees and paperwork must be complete and received by the Division of Elections' physical location. The Division's physical location and mailing address is:

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

### When to File

It is a candidate's responsibility to ensure qualifying fees, if applicable, and paperwork are complete and timely received within the qualifying period. To be timely filed, the qualifying fee and paperwork must be received at the Division's physical location as specified above by the close of the qualifying period.

Candidates may submit qualifying fees, if applicable, and paperwork by hand-delivery or mail. The Division does not accept qualifying papers via facsimile. All documents must have original signatures.

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

To ensure that the qualifying fee, if applicable, and paperwork are timely submitted, a candidate or someone on his or her behalf should hand-deliver the paperwork directly to the Division or use a commercial express

courier delivery service that ensures delivery directly to the Division.

(Rule [1S-2.0001\(3\)](#), F.A.C.)

Any candidate oath, Financial Disclosure Form, or qualifying check filed with the Division earlier than the allowed 14-day pre-qualifying period is not valid for qualifying. If filed previously, originals of these documents must again be filed with the Division before the close of qualifying.

### Forms

- Within 10 days after filing the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository ([DS-DE 9](#)), a candidate must file a Statement of Candidate ([DS-DE 84](#)) with the Division. In addition to a Statement of Candidate, a judicial candidate must file a Statement of Candidate for Judicial Office ([DS-DE 83](#)). Willful failure to file these forms is a violation of [Chapter 106](#), Florida Statutes.

- Current forms are available on the Division's website at:

<http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/forms-publications/forms/>

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

- The Candidate Oath and Financial Disclosure forms should be reviewed carefully for proper notarization. Improper notarization may disqualify a candidate.
- A candidate should type or print on the applicable Candidate Oath form the way he or she wishes the name 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.

### Prohibition

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:

- On a properly executed check (A personal check, a cashier's check, a money order, and cash are **not** acceptable.);
- Made payable to the Department of State, Secretary of State, or Division of Elections;
- Drawn upon the campaign account (The check must be signed by the treasurer or a deputy treasurer. A check signed by a candidate who has not been designated as the treasurer or deputy treasurer is **not** acceptable.)
- 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. A fax withdrawal is acceptable (fax: 850- 245-6260).

### Returned Check

If a candidate's check is returned by the bank for any reason, the filing officer shall immediately notify the candidate. The candidate shall, the end of qualifying notwithstanding, have 48 hours from the time such notification 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 in this subparagraph shall disqualify the candidate.

(Section [105.031\(5\)\(a\)1](#), Fla. Stat. and *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 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.

Candidates should provide a telephone number and email address on the applicable Candidate Oath where they can be reached during the day and after normal working hours. The Division will make every effort to contact the candidate if there is a problem with the paperwork.

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

### Qualifying Status Look-up

A person's qualifying status can be determined on the Division's website at:

<http://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates/>

## Chapter 6: Governor and Lieutenant Governor

### Qualifications

1. Elector no less than 30 years of age.
2. Resident of the state for the preceding 7 years.

*(Art. IV, § 5, Fla. Const.)*

### Qualifying Dates

**Noon (ET), Monday, June 18, 2018 – Noon (ET), Friday, June 22, 2018**

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, Fla. Stat.)*

### Required Qualifying Documents

The following items must be complete and received by the Division no later than noon (ET), Friday June 22, 2018:

1. [Form DS-DE 9](#), Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository. (If the original [DS-DE 9](#) was previously filed with the Division, a copy is not required to be filed during the qualifying period.)

2. [Form DS-DE 301SL](#) Candidate Oath – State and Local Partisan Office
3. [Form 6](#), Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2017 (and any other forms applicable as identified on [Form 6](#)). A public officer who has filed the full and public disclosure or statement of financial interests for the year 2017 with the Commission on Ethics prior to qualifying for office may file a copy of that disclosure (in lieu of another original) at the time of qualifying.

### Candidates Paying the Qualifying Fee

In addition to the above referenced items, all candidates, except a person seeking to qualify by the petition method or as a write-in candidate, must pay the qualifying fee below, as applicable:

- **Party Affiliation Candidates:**  
\$7,816.38 (6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2017); or,
- **No Party Affiliation Candidates:**  
\$5,210.92 (4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2017).

## Lieutenant Governor Running Mate

No later than 5:00 p.m. (ET), Wednesday, September 6, 2018, each candidate for Governor shall designate a Lieutenant Governor as a running mate.

The following items must be complete and received by the Division by the deadline above:

1. Written designation by the gubernatorial candidate of a Lieutenant Governor running mate;
2. [Form DS-DE 301SL](#) Candidate Oath – State and Local Partisan Office
3. [Form 6](#), Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2017 (and any other forms applicable as identified on [Form 6](#)). A public officer who has filed the full and public disclosure or statement of financial interests for the year 2017 with the Commission on Ethics prior to qualifying for office may file a copy of that disclosure (in lieu of another original) at the time of qualifying.

*(Section [99.063](#), Fla. Stat.)*

## Chapter 7: Attorney General

### Qualifications

1. Elector no less than 30 years of age.
2. Resident of the state for the preceding 7 years.
3. Florida Bar member for the preceding 5 years.

*(Art. IV, § 5, Fla. Const.)*

### Qualifying Dates

**Noon (ET), Monday, June 18, 2018 –  
Noon (ET), Friday, June 22, 2018**

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, Fla. Stat.)*

### Required Qualifying Documents

The following items must be complete and received by the Division no later than noon (ET), Friday, June 22, 2018:

1. [Form DS-DE 9](#), Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository. (If the original [DS-DE 9](#) was previously filed with the Division, a copy is not required to be filed during the qualifying period.)

2. [Form DS-DE 301SL](#) Candidate Oath – State and Local Partisan Office
3. [Form 6](#), Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2017 (and any other forms applicable as identified on [Form 6](#)). A public officer who has filed the full and public disclosure or statement of financial interests for the year 2017 with the Commission on Ethics prior to qualifying for office may file a copy of that disclosure (in lieu of another original) at the time of qualifying.

### Candidates Paying the Qualifying Fee

In addition to the above referenced items, all candidates, except a person seeking to qualify by the petition method or as a write-in candidate, must pay the qualifying fee below, as applicable:

- **Party Affiliation Candidates:**  
\$7,738.32 (6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2017); or
- **No Party Affiliation Candidates:**  
\$5,158.88 (4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2017).

## Chapter 8: Chief Financial Officer

### Qualifications

1. Elector no less than 30 years of age.
2. Resident of the state for the preceding 7 years.

*(Art. IV, § 5, Fla. Const.)*

### Qualifying Dates

**Noon (ET), Monday, June 18, 2018 – Noon (ET), Friday, June 22, 2018**

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, Fla. Stat.)*

### Required Qualifying Documents

The following items must be complete and received by the Division no later than noon (ET), Friday, June 22, 2018:

1. [Form DS-DE 9](#), Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository. (If the original [DS-DE 9](#) was previously filed with the Division, a copy is not required to be filed during the qualifying period.)

2. [Form DS-DE 301SL](#) Candidate Oath – State and Local Partisan Office
3. [Form 6](#), Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2017 (and any other forms applicable as identified on [Form 6](#)). A public officer who has filed the full and public disclosure or statement of financial interests for the year 2017 with the Commission on Ethics prior to qualifying for office may file a copy of that disclosure (in lieu of another original) at the time of qualifying.

### Candidates Paying the Qualifying Fee

In addition to the above referenced items, all candidates, except a person seeking to qualify by the petition method or as a write-in candidate, must pay the qualifying fee below, as applicable:

- **Party Affiliation Candidates:**  
\$7,738.32 (6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2017); or
- **No Party Affiliation Candidates:**  
\$5,158.88 (4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2017).

## Chapter 9: Commissioner of Agriculture

### Qualifications

1. Elector no less than 30 years of age.
2. Resident of the state for the preceding 7 years.

*(Art. IV, § 5, Fla. Cons.)*

### Qualifying Dates

**Noon (ET), Monday, June 18, 2018 – Noon (ET), Friday, June 22, 2018**

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, Fla. Stat.)*

### Required Qualifying Documents

The following items must be complete and received by the Division no later than noon (ET), Friday, June 22, 2018:

1. [Form DS-DE 9](#), Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository. (If the original [DS-DE 9](#) was previously filed with the Division, a copy is not required to be filed during the qualifying period.)

2. [Form DS-DE 301SL](#) Candidate Oath – State and Local Partisan Office
3. [Form 6](#), Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2017 (and any other forms applicable as identified on [Form 6](#)). A public officer who has filed the full and public disclosure or statement of financial interests for the year 2017 with the Commission on Ethics prior to qualifying for office may file a copy of that disclosure (in lieu of another original) at the time of qualifying.

### Candidates Paying the Qualifying Fee

In addition to the above reference items, all candidates, except a person seeking to qualify by the petition method or as a write-in candidate, must pay the qualifying fee, below, as applicable:

- **Party Affiliation Candidates:**  
\$7,738.32 (6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2017); or
- **No Party Affiliation Candidates:**  
\$5,158.88 (4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2017).

## Chapter 10: State Attorney

### Qualifications

#### State Attorney

1. Elector and resident of the judicial circuit upon taking office.
2. Florida Bar member for the preceding five years.
3. Must devote full time to the duties of the office and must not engage in private practice.

*(Art. V, § 17, Fla. Const.)*

### Qualifying Dates

**Noon (ET), Monday, April 30, 2018 – Noon (ET), Friday, May 4, 2018**

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, Fla. Stat.)*

### Required Qualifying Documents

The following items must be complete and received by the Division no later than noon (ET), Friday, May 4, 2018:

1. [Form DS-DE 9](#), Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository. (If the original [DS-DE 9](#) was previously filed with the Division, a copy

is not required to be filed during the qualifying period.)

2. [Form DS-DE 301SL](#) Candidate Oath – State and Local Partisan Office
3. [Form 6](#), Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2017 (and any other forms applicable as identified on [Form 6](#)). A public officer who has filed the full and public disclosure or statement of financial interests for the year 2017 with the Commission on Ethics prior to qualifying for office may file a copy of that disclosure (in lieu of another original) at the time of qualifying.

### Candidates Paying the Qualifying Fee

In addition to the above referenced items, all candidates, except a person certified to qualify by the petition method or seeking to qualify as a write-in candidate, must pay the qualifying fee below, as applicable:

- **Party Affiliation Candidates:**  
\$9,248.40 (6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2017); or,
- **No Party Affiliation Candidates:**  
\$6,165.60 (4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2017).

## Chapter 11: Public Defender

### Qualifications

#### Public Defender

1. Elector and resident of the judicial circuit upon taking office.
2. Florida Bar member for the preceding five years.

*(Art. V, § 18, Fla. Const.)*

### Qualifying Dates

**Noon (ET), Monday, April 30, 2018 – Noon (ET), Friday, May 4, 2018**

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](#), Fla. Stat.)*

### Required Qualifying Documents

The following items must be complete and received by the Division no later than noon (ET), Friday, May 4, 2018:

1. [Form DS-DE 9](#), Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository. (If the original [DS-DE 9](#) was previously filed with the Division, a copy is not required to be filed during the qualifying period.)

2. [Form DS-DE 301SL](#) Candidate Oath – State and Local Partisan Office
3. [Form 6](#), Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2017 (and any other forms applicable as identified on [Form 6](#)). A public officer who has filed the full and public disclosure or statement of financial interests for the year 2017 with the Commission on Ethics prior to qualifying for office may file a copy of that disclosure (in lieu of another original) at the time of qualifying.

### Candidates Paying the Qualifying Fee

In addition to the above referenced items, all candidates, except a person certified to qualify by the petition method or seeking to qualify as a write-in candidate, must pay the qualifying fee below, as applicable:

- **Party Affiliation Candidates:**  
\$9,248.40 (6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2017); or,
- **No Party Affiliation Candidates:**  
\$6,165.60 (4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2017).

## Chapter 12: State Senator and State Representative

### Qualifications

1. Elector and resident of the district upon taking office.
2. Must be at least twenty-one years of age.
3. Must be a resident of Florida for at least two years prior to election.

*(Art. III, § 15, Fla. Const.)*

### Qualifying Dates

**Noon (ET), Monday, June 18, 2018 – Noon (ET), Friday, June 22, 2018**

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, Fla. Stat.)*

### Required Qualifying Documents

The following items must be complete and received by the Division no later than noon (ET), Friday, June 22, 2018:

1. [Form DS-DE 9](#), Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository. (If the original [DS-DE 9](#) was previously filed with the Division, a copy is not required to be filed during the qualifying period.)

2. [Form DS-DE 301SL](#) Candidate Oath – State and Local Partisan Office
3. [Form 6](#), Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2017 (and any other forms applicable as identified on [Form 6](#)). A public officer who has filed the full and public disclosure or statement of financial interests for the year 2017 with the Commission on Ethics prior to qualifying for office may file a copy of that disclosure (in lieu of another original) at the time of qualifying.

### Candidates Paying the Qualifying Fee

In addition to the above referenced items, all candidates, except a person certified to qualify by the petition method or seeking to qualify as a write-in candidate, must pay the qualifying fee below, as applicable:

- **Party Affiliation Candidates:**  
\$1,781.82 (6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2017);
- **No Party Affiliation Candidates:**  
\$1,187.88 (4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2017)

## Chapter 13: Justice of the Supreme Court and Judge of a District Court of Appeal

### Qualifications

1. Elector and resident of the territorial jurisdiction of the court upon taking office.
2. Florida Bar member for the preceding 10 years.
3. No justice or judge shall serve after reaching 70 years, except upon temporary assignment or to complete a term, one-half of which has been served.

### Qualifying Dates

**Noon (ET), Monday, April 30, 2018 – Noon (ET), Friday, May 4, 2018**

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 [105.031](#), Fla. Stat.)*

### Required Qualifying Documents

The following items must be complete and received by the Division no later than noon (ET), Friday, May 4, 2018:

1. [Form DS-DE 9](#), Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign

Depository. Even if a candidate does not anticipate collecting or expending funds in connection with the campaign, this form is still required to be filed; however, the campaign account does not have to be physically opened.

2. [Form DS-DE 303JU](#) Candidate Oath – Judicial Office
3. [Form 6](#), Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2017 (and any other forms applicable as identified on [Form 6](#)). A public officer who has filed the full and public disclosure or statement of financial interests for the year 2017 with the Commission on Ethics prior to qualifying for office may file a copy of that disclosure (in lieu of another original) at the time of qualifying.
4. [Form DS-DE 96](#), Affidavit of Intention must be filed at the time of qualifying if the candidates does not anticipate receiving any contributions or making any expenditures in connection with the campaign.

*(Sections [105.031](#) and [105.08](#), Fla. Stat.)*

### Special Requirements

If [Form DS-DE 96](#), Affidavit of Intention, is filed at the time of qualifying, the candidate is exempt from filing campaign treasurer's reports. However, [Form DS-DE 97](#), Affidavit of Compliance, must still be filed as a final report within 90 days following the general election. If contributions or expenditures are received after filing the above sworn statements, a statement to that effect must be filed, a campaign account opened at the depository previously designated, and campaign treasurer's reports filed.

## Chapter 14: Circuit Judge

### Qualifications

1. Elector and resident of the judicial circuit upon taking office.
2. Florida Bar member for the preceding five years.

**Note:** No judge shall serve after reaching 70 years of age except upon temporary assignment or to complete a term, one-half of which has been served.

*(Art. V, § 8, Fla. Const.)*

### Qualifying Dates

**Noon (ET), Monday, April 30 – Noon (ET), Friday, May 4, 2018**

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 [105.031](#), Fla. Stat.)*

### Required Qualifying Documents

The following items must be complete and received by the Division no later than noon (ET), Friday, May 4, 2018:

1. [Form DS-DE 9](#), Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository. (If the original [DS-DE 9](#) was previously filed with the Division, a copy

is not required to be filed during the qualifying period.)

2. [Form DS-DE 303JU](#) Candidate Oath – Judicial Office
3. [Form 6](#), Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2017 (and any other forms applicable as identified on [Form 6](#)). A public officer who has filed the full and public disclosure or statement of financial interests for the year 2017 with the Commission on Ethics prior to qualifying for office may file a copy of that disclosure (in lieu of another original) at the time of qualifying.

### Candidates Paying the Qualifying Fee

In addition to the above referenced items, all candidates, except a person certified to qualify by the petition method or seeking to qualify as a write-in candidate, must pay a qualifying fee in the amount of \$5,843.20 (4% of the annual salary as of July 1, 2017).

## Chapter 15: Multi-County Special District

### Qualifying Dates

Noon (ET), Monday, June 18, 2018 – Noon (ET), Friday, June 22, 2018

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](#), Fla. Stat.)

### Required Qualifying Documents

The following items must be complete and received by the Division no later than noon (ET), Friday, June 22, 2018:

1. [Form DS-DE 302NP](#) Candidate Oath – Nonpartisan Office
2. [Form 1](#), Statement of Financial Interests for the year 2017. A public officer who has filed a financial disclosure statement for 2017 with the Commission on Ethics or the Supervisor of Elections prior to qualifying for office may file a copy at the time of qualifying.

### Candidates Paying the Qualifying Fee

In addition to the above referenced items, all special district candidates, except a person certified to qualify by the petition method or seeking to qualify as a write-in candidate, must pay the qualifying fee below:

Special District: **\$25.00**

The qualifying fee for a special district candidate is not required to be drawn upon the candidate's campaign account.

***\*A special district candidate who does not collect contributions and whose only expense is the filing fee or signature verification fee is not required to file [Form DS-DE 9](#), Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository. However, a special district candidate who intends to accept campaign contributions and makes campaign expenditures, or who begins raising or expending campaign funds, must file a [Form DS-DE 9](#).***

(Section [99.061\(3\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

## Appendix A: Legal References and Rules Cited

### Florida Statutes

- [99.061](#) Method of qualifying for nomination or election to federal, state, county, or district office.
- [99.063](#) Candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.
- [105.031](#) Qualification; filing fee; candidate's oath; items required to be filed.
- [105.08](#) Campaign contribution and expense; reporting.

### Florida Election Code

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

### Constitutions

- [United State Constitution](#)
- [Constitution of the State of Florida](#)
  - [Art. III, § 15](#) Terms and qualifications of legislators.
  - [Art. IV, § 5](#) Election of governor, lieutenant governor and cabinet members; qualifications; terms.
  - [Art. V, § 8](#) Eligibility.
  - [Art. V, § 17](#) State attorneys.
  - [Art. V, § 18](#) Public defenders.

### Florida Administrative Code

- Rule [1S-2.0001](#)

### Forms

- [DS-DE 9](#) Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository
- [DS-DE 301SL](#) Candidate Oath – State and Local Partisan Office
- [DS-DE 302NP](#) Candidate Oath – Nonpartisan Office
- [DS-DE 303JU](#) Candidate Oath – Judicial Office
- [DS-DE 83](#) Statement of Candidate for Judicial Office
- [DS-DE 84](#) Statement of Candidate
- [DS-DE 96](#) Affidavit of Intention (Supreme Court & DCA only)
- [DS-DE 97](#) Affidavit of Compliance (Supreme Court & DCA only)
- [Form 6](#) Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2017

### Division of Elections

- [Advisory Opinions](#)
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