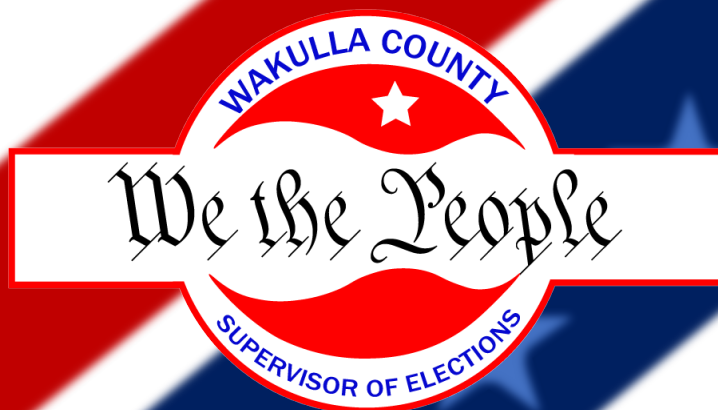


2026

Candidate Handbook

Wakulla County



The Honorable Joe Morgan, MFCEP

Wakulla County Supervisor of Elections

3115B Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL 32327

Website: WakullaVotes.gov

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JOE MORGAN, MFCEP

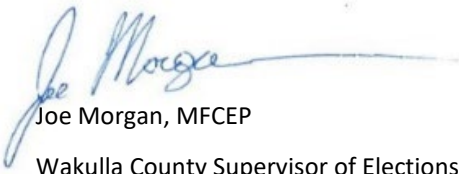
A WORD FROM SUPERVISOR MORGAN

Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to public service. Public service is not often given the value it really deserves yet is essential to our representative government.

My office is here to provide you with all the information, paperwork, and technical assistance that you may need, however, we cannot get involved in campaign management and the political side of campaigns.

Being a successful candidate means staying organized and prepared. There are many state laws and local ordinances that will govern your campaign. This handbook is designed to provide you with a guide to begin your journey.

Again, congratulations on your choice to serve the citizens of our great county and best wishes for a successful campaign.



Joe Morgan, MFCEP
Wakulla County Supervisor of Elections

2026 ELECTION DATES AND INFORMATION

Primary Election		
Book Closing	Early Voting	Election Day
July 20, 2026	August 8-15, 2026 8:30am-4:30pm	August 18, 2026 7 AM – 7 PM
General Election		
Book Closing	Early Voting	Election Day
October 5, 2026	October 24-31, 2026 8:30am-4:30pm	November 3, 2026 7 AM – 7 PM

IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR CANDIDATES

TOPIC	DATES	DESCRIPTION
PETITION DEADLINE (F.S. 99.095)	Noon on 05/11/2026	Local Candidates
QUALIFYING PAPERWORK (F.S. 99.061(8))	Local Candidates 05/25/2026	Qualifying papers may be accepted and held 2 weeks prior to qualifying period.
QUALIFYING PERIOD (F.S. 99.061)	Noon on 04/20 to Noon 04/24/2026	Judicial Candidates
	Noon on 06/08 to noon on 06/12/2026	Local Candidates

CANDIDATE RESPONSIBILITIES

This guide has been provided as a reference guide and is not a substitute for Florida election law. If the candidate chooses to seek public office, it is the candidate's responsibility to understand the rules and laws of the State of Florida that govern the candidate's campaign.

Please use this reference guide, review the Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook published by the Division of Elections and study Chapter 106.F.S. to become familiar with campaign finance, advertising, and reporting requirements.

QUALIFYING DOCUMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS

(F.S. 99.021, 99.061, 99.095, 106.21, 106.23)

Candidates can file their DS-DE9 and DS-DE 84 at any time before qualifying week.

A candidate can announce his or her intentions to become a candidate prior to filing a Form DS-DE 9, if no contributions and expenditures have been made and a bank account has not been opened.

FORM DS-DE 9, APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN DEPOSITORY

- **MUST** be filed with the filing officer **PRIOR** to opening a campaign account

DO NOT collect contributions or make expenditures until the form is filed.

- Special District candidates who do not collect contributions and whose only expense is the signature verification fee for the petition method or qualifying fee are not required to file the DS-DE 9 (FS 99.061(3))

**DO NOT OPEN A CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT UNTIL
THE CANDIDATE FILES THE DS-DE 9 FORM WITH OUR OFFICE.**

THESE DOCUMENTS CAN BE PREFILED ANY TIME PRIOR TO QUALIFYING.

(If candidate plans on campaigning prior to qualifying)

Documents	Candidate	The Candidate should know...
DS-DE 9** Appointment of Campaign Treasurer & Designation of Campaign Depository	County/Constitutional, Judicial, City and Special Districts	✓ Must be filed prior to opening a Campaign Bank Account and prior to accepting contributions, making expenditures, or circulating petitions. ✓ Once filed, the campaign treasurer will be required to file campaign financial reports online
DS-DE 83 Statement of Candidate for Judicial Office	Judicial Only	
DS-DE 84 Statement of Candidate	County/Constitutional, City and Special District	✓ Can be filed at the same time with the DS-DE 9 ✓ Must be filed within ten (10) days of filing the DS-DE 9

THESE DOCUMENTS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED UNTIL THE QUALIFYING PERIOD.

(Along with above documents, either prefiled or filed during qualifying)

Documents	Candidate	The Candidate should know...
Candidate Oath	County/Constitutional, Judicial, City and Special Districts	✓ Form varies according to partisan, nonpartisan, school board & judicial offices. ✓ Candidates must print their name as they wish it to appear on the ballot ✓ Includes an oath that no outstanding fines, fees, or penalties (over \$250) are due for ethics violations (s. 99.021(1)(d), F.S.).
Disclosure of Financial Interests	City/County/Constitutional, Judicial,	✓ FORM 6-Candidates
	Special Districts	✓ FORM 1-Special District Candidates
Qualifying Fee, OR	County/Constitutional, City and Special District	✓ Must be drawn from campaign account. ✓ Personal check for Special District Candidates filing an Affidavit of Intent ✓ Qualifying fee can be paid by petition method
Petition Method <i>Deadline is May 11, 2026 at Noon!</i>	County/Constitutional, City and Special District	✓ Refer to "QUALIFYING BY PETITION METHOD" for more information. ✓ No qualifying fee is necessary if candidate qualified by Petition Method

**Exception: Special district candidates who do not collect contributions and whose only expense is the signature verification fee or filing fee are not required to file the DS-DE-9 [99.061(3)]. Instead, they will need to complete an Affidavit of Intent.

Pursuant to Florida Statutes 99.061:

- ✓ All items required for qualifying must be received in correct and complete order by the end of qualifying or the candidate will not be deemed qualified.
- ✓ The filing officer performs a ministerial function in reviewing qualifying papers. In determining whether a candidate is qualified, the filing office shall review the qualifying papers to determine whether all items required have been properly filed and whether each item is complete on its face.
- ✓ The filing officer may not determine whether the contents of the qualifying papers are accurate.

QUALIFYING BE PETITION METHOD

(F.S. 99.095, Rule 1S-2.045)

A person seeking to qualify as a candidate for any office (does not include municipal candidates) and who meets the petition requirements is not required to pay the qualifying fee, party assessment, or election assessment. Candidates who fail to qualify by the petition method will be required to pay the qualifying fee. For petition guidance, please refer to the Candidate Petition Handbook provided by the Division of Elections and Rule 1S-2.045.

HELPFUL THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PETITIONS.

- ✓ Petition Deadlines: No petitions are accepted after the due date.
- ✓ Signatures may not be obtained until the candidate has filed the DS-DE 9 with the filing officer.
- ✓ Candidates must use the Candidate Petition Form (DS-DE 104) to obtain valid signatures of registered voters in the county of district they are running for. The format of the petition is prescribed by the Division of Elections and shall be used by all candidates (sample above).
- ✓ Candidates are responsible for printing the petitions.
- ✓ It is recommended that the candidate plan to collect at least 10% over the number of required petitions. This will ensure that the candidate can meet the number of valid petitions necessary to qualify. The candidate will receive a petition certification once petition requirements have been met. The petition certification is required during the official qualifying period, or the candidate pays the filing fee.
- ✓ Do not wait until the last minute to submit petitions. Bringing signed petitions in batches allows candidates to get updated totals of the valid petitions received and assist in projecting how many more are needed.
- ✓ Petition Verification Fee: Pursuant to Florida Statute 99.097(4), a signature verification fee of \$.10 (ten cents) for each petition verified must be paid in advance to the Supervisor of Elections, unless the candidate has filed an oath (DS-DE 19A) stating that such charges impose an undue burden on their personal resources.
 - Candidates who have filed DS-DE 9: payment must be paid by a check drawn from the candidate's campaign account.
 - Special District Candidates who filed an Affidavit of Intent must follow the petition process, but the petition fee may be paid by personal check.

The image shows a sample of the Candidate Petition Form (DS-DE 104). The form is titled "CANDIDATE PETITION" and includes several sections for the candidate to fill out. A large red "SAMPLE" watermark is overlaid on the form. The sections include: "I, _____ the undersigned, a registered voter (print name as it appears on your voter information card)", "In said state and county, petition to have the name of _____ placed on the Primary/General Election Ballot as a: [check/complete box, as applicable]", "Nonpartisan [] No party affiliation [] Party candidate for the office of _____", "Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY) or Voter Registration Number (if applicable) _____", "City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip Code _____", "Signature of Voter _____", and "Date Signed (MM/DD/YY) [to be completed by Voter] _____". The form also includes a footer with "Rule 1S-2.045, F.A.C." and "DS-DE 104 (Rev. 09/11)".

QUALIFYING INFORMATION

(F.S. 99.092(1) and NPA 99.0955(2))

Office	Salary 2026	Qualifying Fee 6% Major Party	Qualifying Fee 4% No Party	Qualifying Fee 1% Election Assessment	Certified Petition Signatures Needed to Qualify (1% of qualified electors in GEN 2024)
County Seats					
County Commission, Dist. 2, 4	\$45,544	\$2,733	\$1,822	N/A	237 valid petitions
School Board Member, Dist. 1, 3, 5	\$36,226	N/A	\$1,449	N/A	237 valid petitions
Soil & Water Conservative District Seat 1,2	NONE	N/A	N/A	\$25	25 valid petitions
<i>City of Sopchoppy: Candidates qualify with the City of Sopchoppy</i>					
Council Member (Seat 5)					
<i>City of St Marks: Candidates qualify with the City of St Marks</i>					
City Commissioner, Seats 3, 4					

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

County Commission Partisan Office: Term 4 Years	School Board Nonpartisan Office: Term 4 Years	Special District Nonpartisan Office: Term 4 Years
Candidates must reside in the district for which they are qualifying at the time of the election in November	Candidates must reside in the district for which they are qualifying at the time of assuming office. School board members take office on the second Tuesday after the general election.	Candidates must reside in the district for which they are qualifying at the time of qualifying

Per FS 99.021 and DE 94-04, March 3, 1994, Opinion from the Division of Elections/ Qualifications for Selected Offices Must be Met; Residency, DE 78-31, DE 92-10 & DE 94-04

WHO CAN BE A CANDIDATE?

Candidates for county and special district offices must be registered voters in Wakulla County. Those seeking a partisan office may not have been a registered member of any other political party, including those running under No Party Affiliation (NPA), for 365 days before the beginning of qualifying preceding the General Election for which the person seeks to qualify.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING SCHEDULE

Once the DS-DE 9 form is filed with our office, the candidate will be required to file campaign finance reports online. Candidates will continue to file campaign finance reports as scheduled until they have been elected, unopposed or withdrawn from the race.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING FILING SCHEDULE

The candidate is responsible for making sure reports are filed correctly and on time. Fines are automatically imposed on reports filed late and must be paid from the candidate's personal account and not from the campaign account. Once the Election office receives and accepts the candidate's report, it becomes a public record and will be posted on our website and will be available for inspection by the press and the public.

Final Reports will be required within 90 days of a candidate who is either unopposed, withdrawn, elected, or defeated, and this Termination Report disposes of all funds in their campaign account. For more information regarding this report, please refer to F.S. 106.07 (Campaign Financing).

	RPT Code	Starts	Ends	Due	Notes
Quarterly	2025-Q3	07/01/25	09/30/25	10/10/25	
	2025-Q4	10/01/25	12/31/25	1/12/26	
	2026-Q1	01/01/2026	03/31/2026	04/10/2026	
	2026-Q2	04/01/2026	05/31/2026	06/10/2026	
Bi-Weekly for the Primary Election	2026-P1	06/01/2026	06/12/2026	06/19/2026	60 th Day prior to Primary Election
	2026-P2	06/13/2026	06/26/2026	07/03/2026	Bi-Weekly
	2026-P3	06/27/2026	07/10/2026	07/17/2026	Bi-Weekly
	2026-P4	07/11/2026	07/17/2026	07/24/2026	25 th Day prior to Primary Election
	2026-P5	07/18/2026	07/24/2026	07/31/2026	Weekly
	2026-P6	07/25/2026	07/31/2026	08/07/2026	11 th Day prior to Primary Election
	2026-P7	08/01/2026	08/13/2026	08/14/2026	4 th Day prior to Primary Election
Bi-Weekly for the General Election	2026-G1	08/14/2026	08/21/2026	08/28/2026	Bi-Weekly
	2026-G2	08/22/2026	09/04/2026	09/11/2026	Bi-Weekly
	2026-G3	09/05/2026	09/18/2026	09/25/2026	Bi-Weekly
	2026-G4	09/19/2026	10/02/2026	10/09/2026	25 th Day prior to General Election
	2026-G5	10/03/2026	10/16/2026	10/23/2026	11 th Day prior to General Election
	2026-G6	10/17/2026	10/29/2026	10/30/2026	4 th Day prior to General Election
Final Reports	2026-TQC	06/01/2026	09/10/2026	09/10/2026	Qualifying ended on 06/12/2026 and candidate ran unopposed
	2026-TRP	08/14/2026	11/16/2026	11/16/2026	Candidacy ended Primary Election
	2026-TRG	10/30/2026	02/01/2027	02/01/2027	Candidate ended General Election

POLICIES REGARDING CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORTS

POLICY ON ELECTRONIC FILING

Our office requires online filing of campaign treasurer reports to make campaign contributions and expenditures readily available to the public. Campaign Finance Reports for all local races and committees will be displayed on our website. A numeric ID and password are required to access the reporting system (these will be the candidate's sign-in credentials). Electronic Signature PINs (personal identification number) are required for the submission of financial reports. PINs are assigned to candidates/committee chairs and treasurers. Please refer to the Acknowledgement of Electronic Pin Filing Information document for more information regarding sign-in credentials and PINs.

POLICY ON LATE REPORTS

The day after the report is due, the report is subject to a fine each day late according to Florida Statutes. If a required report is not filed timely, the relevant penalty sections in Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, shall apply.

Late fees as designated by F.S. 106.07:

- *The fine is \$50 per day for the first 3 days late and, thereafter, \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25 percent of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report.*
- *For the reports immediately preceding each special primary election, special election, primary election, and general election, the fine is \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25 percent of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report.*

If the report remains unfiled, the matter will be forwarded to the Florida Elections Commission and could be determined to be a willful violation. All fines assessed must be paid within twenty (20) days after receipt of the notice of payment due and payment must be made by the personal funds of the candidate. The Florida Elections Commission will be notified if fines have not been remitted in a timely manner and they will pursue the fines.

POLICY ON JUSTIFYING LATE REPORTS

Reports must be filed timely. There are no justifiable reasons for filing late reports unless otherwise determined by the Florida Election Commission. Please refer to the Acknowledgment of Electronic Filing Information document for more information regarding electronic filing, late reports, and the unavailability of the electronic filing system.

POLICY ON REPORTS THAT NEED AMENDING

When it is determined that a report needs amending, our office will initially contact the campaign treasurer by telephone or email and request the report be amended. Within seven (7) days of notification an addendum to the report must be filed. If the amended report is not received within this time frame, the matter will be referred to the Florida Election Commission and could be determined to be a willful violation.

POLICY ON REVIEW OF REPORTS

The Supervisor of Elections Office checks the following information: summary page for balances; contributions and expenditure pages for date ranges, complete addresses, correct contributor types, correct contribution and expenditure types, and contribution limits. Our office does not review reports for typos.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ELECTRONIC FILING INFORMATION

WEBSITE (ID#) _____

PASSWORD _____

Candidate PIN# for financial reporting _____

Treasurer/Deputy Treasurer PIN for reporting _____

SIGN-IN CREDENTIALS

Each person will be issued sign-in credential, a log-in name and password, by the Supervisor of Elections Office to access the system. The candidate is responsible for safeguarding this sign-in information and for notifying the Supervisor of Elections Office should this information be lost or compromised. Only one log-in name and password will be issued for both the candidate and the treasurer (or committee chair and treasurer, as applicable).

PIN (PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER)

The sign-in credentials will serve as a PIN. This PIN is considered the same as the candidate's signature on a paper filed report.

REPORTS

Reports must be completed and filed electronically through the Wakulla County Supervisor of Elections electronic filing system not later than midnight (Eastern Standard Time) of the day designated. When the candidate's report is electronically filed, the "FILING SUBMITTED PAGE" may be printed and retained for the candidate's records as the electronic filing receipt.

ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES FOR INOPERABLE ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEMS

If the electronic filing system is inoperable on the date a report is due, the report will be accepted as timely filed no later than midnight (Eastern Standard Time) of the first business day the electronic filing system becomes operational again. No fine will be levied during the period the electronic filing system was inoperable. A report shall be deemed filed through the electronic filing system up the issuance of an electronic filing receipt indicating and verifying that the report was filed.

PENALTIES

All reports filed via this system are under oath by the candidate and the treasurer, chair and treasurer of political committees and county executive committees of a political party and are subject to all relevant penalties in Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

Any reports filed through the electronic filing system are certified as correct within the meaning of Section 106.07(5) or 106.29(2), Florida Statutes. Persons filing reports are subject to penalties as prescribed in Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

VOTE-BY-MAIL AND EARLY VOTING REPORT PORTAL REGISTRATION

A county-specific activity report contains information about each voter who requests a vote-by-mail ballot for a scheduled election. The reports do not include information about voters with address protection under the law. Each report contains cumulative information from the previously submitted daily activity reports. To register for an account to receive this information, register with the Florida Division of Elections at <https://countyballotfiles.floridados.gov/VoteByMailEarlyVotingReports/VoteByMailHome>

CANDIDATE CHECKLIST

CANDIDATE TO-DO LIST

When becoming a candidate for office, required filings are dictated by state statute and a successful candidate should review the State of Florida Candidate Handbook that the candidate is provided when they submit their initial documents and file for office.

WHAT HAPPENS FIRST?

Nothing prohibits a person from announcing their intention to become a candidate prior to filing form DS-DE 9, as long as:

- NO bank account is open
- NO contributions are received
- NO expenditure is made
- NO signatures are obtained on a candidate petition

TIMING IS IMPORTANT: WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE

FIRST STEPS

1. File the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository (Form DS-DE 9). This form lists the candidate's information, including the office sought, the political party affiliation (as appropriate), the bank that will hold the campaign account, and the name of the campaign treasurer. Upon filing this form, the candidate becomes a *filed* candidate. The candidate may then open a campaign account, collect contributions, make expenditures, and collect petitions.
 - a. Soil and Water Conservation District candidates will file an Attestation of Intent if they do not intend to collect or spend money. They are exempt.
2. Next, the candidate must file the Statement of Candidate (Form DS-DE 84) within 10 days of filing Form DS-DE 9. This form affirms that the candidate has read and understands Florida campaign finance laws and rules.
 - a. If the candidate is seeking judicial office, they must also file the Statement of Candidate for Judicial Office (Form DS-DE 83) within 10 days.
 - b. Soil and Water Conservation District candidates must file this form.

THE CANDIDATE HAS OFFICIALLY FILED, NOW WHAT?

1. The candidate will start to submit regular campaign finance reports as they can now start accepting contributions and making expenditures. The candidate will be provided with their login credentials as this process is completed online. The calendar of deadlines is included in this handbook.
2. Start thinking about Qualifying.
 - a. Candidates must qualify to seek nomination or election to office. During qualifying, the candidate will finalize their ballot readiness by submitting required forms and fees. The candidate must complete the qualifying process by noon on the last day of the qualifying period (those dates in also in this handbook). If they fail to qualify, their candidacy will end, and they will not make the ballot.
 - b. Consider the qualifying cost.
 - i. The candidate may pay a qualifying fee, which is determined by the office they are seeking. If they are running for office with a party affiliation, there is a party assessment fee they must pay as well.
 - ii. The candidate can waive qualifying fees by gathering the signatures of voters on candidate petitions.
 1. Gather petitions—the number of valid petitions needed are in this handbook.

- a. Submit petitions to the Supervisor of Elections office for verification. Our office will verify that the petitions are completed and valid. The candidate should not wait until the deadline to submit their petitions.
2. Pay verification fee: the candidate must pay a fee of \$0.10 per petition and the fee is due at the time they submit their petitions. If they are unable to pay, they may file an Affidavit of Undue Burden (Form DS-DE 19A)
- iii. If the candidate wants to run as a write-in candidate, there are no fees required. However, as a write-in candidate, their name will not appear on the ballot. Instead, there will be a blank space for voters to write their name.

PREPARE TO QUALIFY FOR OFFICE

1. Make sure to note the qualifying dates on the campaign calendar (they are in this handbook).
2. Our office will begin accepting qualifying forms and fees during the pre-qualifying period, which takes place 14 days prior to the official qualifying dates (we will process these forms on the first day of qualifying week).
3. Forms the candidate will need to complete and submit during qualifying if running for a:

a. County Office

- i. Candidate Oath
 1. DS-DE 301A: State and Local Partisan Office with Party Affiliation
 2. DS-DE 301B: State and Local Partisan Office No Party Affiliation
 3. DS-DE 301C: State and Local Partisan Office Write-In Candidate
- ii. Form 6
 1. Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interest (for previous calendar year).
 2. Filed online before the candidate comes in to qualify and brings the VERIFICATION AND RECEIPT SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTRONIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FILING SYSTEM form or a printed copy of the submitted form.
- iii. Qualifying Fee on check from campaign account or Certificate of Petition Qualifying

b. School Board Office

- i. Candidate Oath
 1. DS-DE 304SB: School Board Nonpartisan Office
- ii. Form 6
 1. Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interest (for previous calendar year).
 2. Filed online before the candidate comes in to qualify and brings the VERIFICATION AND RECEIPT SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTRONIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FILING SYSTEM form or a printed copy of the submitted form.
- iii. Qualifying Fee on check from campaign account or Certificate of Petition Qualifying

c. Special District: Soil and Water Conservation District Seat

- i. Candidate Oath
 1. DS-DE 302NP: Candidate Oath-Nonpartisan Office
- ii. Form 1
 1. Statement of Financial Interest (for previous calendar year).
 2. Filed online before the candidate comes in to qualify and brings the VERIFICATION AND RECEIPT SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTRONIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FILING SYSTEM form or a printed copy of the submitted form.
- iii. Qualifying Fee or Certificate of Petition Qualifying

d. City of Sopchoppy or City of St. Marks Municipal Office

- i. The candidate will qualify with that city. Contact the City of Sopchoppy or the City of St. Marks for more information.

KEY POINT TO REMEMBER

- Please provide a telephone number and email address where the candidate can be reached during the day and after regular working hours. Our office will try to contact the candidate if there is a problem with their paperwork.
- The qualifying fee cannot be returned to a candidate unless the candidate withdraws in writing before the close of qualifying. A Statement of Withdrawal must contain the candidate's signature and be notarized.
- Time is of the essence in qualifying as a candidate. To be deemed timely filed with the SOE, qualifying documents must be received at the SOE office as specified in this handbook by close of the qualifying period. The U.S. Postal Service's designated mail pickup/delivery hours do not correspond to the qualifying deadline.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a contribution?

- A gift, subscription, conveyance, deposit, loan, payment, or distribution of money or anything of value, including contributions in-kind, having an attributable monetary value in any form, made for the purpose of influencing the results of an election.
- Services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering time on behalf of a candidate or political committee is not a contribution, this includes accountant fees, attorney fees and editorial endorsements.
- An in-kind contribution is something that a person has and wants to give or lend to a candidate for a campaign. The limits are the same as the limits for monetary contributions, and if someone gives them money and in-kind contributions, the combined total cannot exceed the \$1,000 limit.

What is the limit a person may contribute to my campaign account?

- A person may give the campaign no more than \$1,000 for each election in which the candidate is opposed (F.S. 106.08).
- A person may not make or accept a cash contribution or contribution by means of a cashier's check more than \$50 per election. (This includes money from the candidate to the campaign.)
- Federal law prohibits contributions from foreign nationals to any federal, state, or local candidate, unless the foreign national possesses a green card.

Can debit cards be used for campaigns?

Debit cards may be used in lieu of campaign checks and are considered bank checks if:

- Obtained from the same bank as the primary campaign depository.
- Issued in the name of the treasurer, deputy treasurer, or authorized user.
- States the Name of the Campaign Account of the Candidate.
- No more than three are issued.
- The person using the card does not receive cash as part of, or independent of, any transaction for goods or services.

All debit card receipts must contain:

- The last four digits of the debit card number.
- Exact amount of expenditure.
- Name of payee.
- Signature of campaign treasurer, deputy treasurer, or authorized user.
- Exact purpose of expenditure.
- If any of this information is not included on the receipt, it may be handwritten on or attached to the receipt by the authorized user before submitting it to the campaign treasurer. The debit card user shall be responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the information and for ensuring that such expenditure is authorized (F.S. 106.11(2)(a)).

What is an expenditure?

An expenditure is a purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, transfer of funds by a campaign treasurer or deputy treasurer between a primary depository and a separate interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit, or gift of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing the results of an election or making an electioneering communication. A candidate must pay all campaign expenditures from their campaign account.

**APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER
AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN
DEPOSITORY FOR CANDIDATES**

(Section 106.021(1), F.S.)

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

NOTE: This form must be on file with the filing officer before opening the campaign account.

OFFICE USE ONLY

1. CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

☐ Initial Filing of Form ☐ Re-filing to Change: ☐ Treasurer/Deputy ☐ Depository ☐ Office ☐ Party

2. Name of Candidate (in this order: First, Middle, Last):
(Please Print or Type Name)

3. Address (include PO Box or Street, City, State, Zip Code):

4. Telephone:

()

5. Candidate's Voter Registration #:

_____ (not required for qualifying purposes)

6. Email Address:

7. Office Sought (include district, circuit, group, or seat #):

8. If a candidate for a nonpartisan office, check the box if applicable:

☐ I intend to run as a Write-In Candidate.

9. If a candidate for partisan office, check the box and fill in the name of the party as applicable: I intend to run as a

☐ Write-In Candidate. ☐ No Party Affiliation Candidate. ☐ _____ Party candidate.

10. I have appointed the following person to act as my: ☐ Campaign Treasurer ☐ Deputy Treasurer

11. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer:

12. Telephone:

()

13. Email Address:

14. Mailing Address:

15. City:

16. State:

17. Zip Code:

18. I have designated the following bank as my (check appropriate box): ☐ Primary Depository ☐ Secondary Depository

19. Name of Bank:

20. Address:

21. City:

22. County:

23. State:

24. Zip Code:

UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, I DECLARE THAT I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING FORM FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF THE CAMPAIGN DEPOSITORY AND THAT THE FACTS STATED IN IT ARE TRUE.

25. Date:

26. Signature of Candidate:

X

27. Treasurer's Acceptance of Appointment (fill in the blanks and check the appropriate box)

I, _____ do hereby accept the appointment designated above as:

(Please Print or Type Name)

☐ Campaign Treasurer.

☐ Deputy Treasurer.

28. Date:

29. Signature of Campaign Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

X

DS-DE 9 (Rev. 09/23)

Rule 1S-2.0001, F.A.C.

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

(Section 106.023, F.S.)

(Please print or type)

OFFICE USE ONLY

I, _____,

candidate for the office of _____;

have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

I swear or affirm that I meet, or will meet at the time of election for the office sought or at the time of assuming the office, as applicable, all statutory and constitutional qualifications for the office sought.

Signature of Candidate

Date

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF _____

Signature of Officer Administering Oath

Affix Seal Below or, if judge, provide name, title, and court (s. 92.50, F.S.)

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me by means of

online notarization ☐ OR physical presence ☐

this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Personally Known ☐ OR Produced Identification ☐ Type of Identification Produced: _____

Each candidate must file a statement with the qualifying officer within 10 days after the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository is filed. Willful failure to file this form is a first degree misdemeanor and a civil violation of the Campaign Financing Act which may result in a fine of up to \$1,000, (ss. 106.19(1)(c), 106.265(1), Florida Statutes).

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POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST, RESIGN TO RUN LAW AND THE HATCH ACT

Below are resources that can be used by both potential candidates and candidates to determine if a conflict of interest exists; if a candidate is subject to Florida's resign-to-run law; or if a person may be precluded by the federal Hatch Act from holding their current job while also running as a candidate in a partisan office. Potential candidates are encouraged to consult with their employer and/or their employer's attorney, the agency attorney for the office being sought, or their personal attorney prior to filing qualifying documents.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Florida Commission on Ethics issues official advisory opinions to assist in avoiding a prohibited conflict of interest for public officers, candidates for office and public employees. Advisory opinions may be requested by letter presenting a question based on a real situation and including a detailed description of the situation to the:

Florida Commission on Ethics
Kerrie Stillman, Executive Director
PO Drawer 15709
Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709
850.488.7864

FLORIDA RESIGN TO RUN LAW

Pursuant to Florida law, no officer may qualify as a candidate for another state, district, county or municipal public office if the terms, or any part thereof, run concurrently with each other without resigning from the office they presently hold. If required, written resignations are due at least 10 days prior to the first day of the qualifying period for the intended office.

The Florida Department of State, Division of Elections is authorized to provide advisory opinions relating to any provisions or possible violations of the Florida election laws. For more information, contact:

Office of General Counsel
Florida Department of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough St
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250
850.245.6536

FEDERAL HATCH ACT

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel is an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency and issues general guidance and advisory opinions to persons seeking advice about political activity under the Hatch Act. For more information, contact:

Hatch Act Unit
United States Office of Special Counsel
1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 218
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505
E-mail: hatchact@osc.gov

The resources listed above are for informational purposes only and are not inclusive of all potentially relevant agencies. Individual circumstances may vary. If applicable, an employee or appointed board member should request an advisory opinion from their respective agency to ensure there is not a conflict of interest prior to running for office.

2026 OFFICES UP FOR ELECTION



Federal Offices (Partisan)

U.S. Senator

U.S. House of Representative, Dist. 2

Governor and Cabinet (Partisan)

Governor and Lieutenant Governor

Attorney General

Chief Financial Officer

Commissioner of Agriculture

Florida House of Representatives (Partisan)

State House of Representatives, Dist. 7

Judicial Retention (Nonpartisan)

Justice of the Supreme Court: whose term expires 01/27

First District Court of Appeals: whose term expires 01/27

Circuit Judges (Nonpartisan)

Circuit Judge, 2nd Judicial Circuit, Groups 4,6,7,9,13 and 16

County Offices (Partisan)

County Commission, Dist. 2, 4

School Board Member, Dist. 1, 3 and 5

Special District/ City Offices (Nonpartisan)

Wakulla Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Seat 1, 2, 3 and 5

City of St. Marks, Seats 3, 4

City of Sopchoppy, Seats 2, 5

HELPFUL WEB LINKS

Florida Division of Elections	https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/
Florida Commission on Ethics	https://ethics.state.fl.us/
Wakulla County Supervisor of Elections	https://www.wakullavotes.gov/

It is the candidate's responsibility to read the election code and observe all the requirements therein. If there are campaign questions, refer to the Florida Statutes and advisory rules. If the candidate is unable to find the answers in the Florida Statutes, contact the qualifying officer. It is not the responsibility of this office to interpret Florida Statutes contained within Florida Law. For an interpretation or legal opinion contact the Division of Elections at (850) 245-6200.