2026 State Qualifying Handbook

ATTENTION: Please refer to Emergency Rule 1SER26-3 regarding candidate qualifying. If you have questions, please contact the Bureau of Election Records at (850) 245-6280.

FLORIDA
DIVISION OF
ELECTIONS

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

Chapter 1: Background 1

Chapter 2: Offices that Qualify with the Division 2

Statewide Offices 2

Multi-County State Offices 2

Judicial (Nonpartisan) 2

Multi-County Special District 2

Chapter 3: Resign-to-Run Law 3

Governing Law 3

What does “Qualify” Mean? 3

Who is an “Officer?” 3

Exceptions to the Resign-to-Run Law 3

Resignation Process 4

Address Information 4

Effective Date of the Resignation 4

Chapter 4: Qualifying Options 5

Qualifying Fee Method 5

Petition Method 5

Write-In Candidate 5

Chapter 5: Qualifying Process 6

Where and When to File 6

How to File 6

Forms 7

Prohibition on Qualifying for Multiple Offices 9

Qualifying Fee 9

Returned Check 10

Missing or Incomplete Information 10

Qualifying Status Look-up 10

Chapter 6: Governor and Lieutenant Governor 11

Qualifications 11

Qualifying Dates 11

Qualifying Papers 11
Qualifying Fee 12
Lieutenant Governor Running Mate 12
Chapter 7: Attorney General 13
Qualifications 13
Qualifying Dates 13
Qualifying Papers 13
Qualifying Fee 14
Chapter 8: Chief Financial Officer 15
Qualifications 15
Qualifying Dates 15
Qualifying Papers 15
Qualifying Fee 16
Chapter 9: Commissioner of Agriculture 17
Qualifications 17
Qualifying Dates 17
Qualifying Papers 17
Qualifying Fee 18
Chapter 10: State Attorney 19
Qualifications 19
Qualifying Dates 19
Qualifying Papers 19
Qualifying Fee 20
Chapter 11: Public Defender 21
Qualifications 21
Qualifying Dates 21
Qualifying Papers 21
Qualifying Fee 22
Chapter 12: State Senator and State Representative 23
Qualifications 23
Qualifying Dates 23
Qualifying Papers 23

Qualifying Fee 24
Chapter 13: Justice of the Supreme Court and Judge of District Court of Appeal 25
Qualifications 25
Qualifying Dates 25
Qualifying Papers 25
Special Requirements 26
Chapter 14: Circuit Judge 27
Qualifications 27
Qualifying Dates 27
Qualifying Papers 27
Qualifying Fee 27
Chapter 15: Multi-County Special District 28
Qualifying Dates 28
Qualifying Papers 28
Qualifying Fee 28
Appendix A: Legal References and Rules Cited 30
Florida Statutes 30
Florida Election Code 30
Constitution of the State of Florida 30
Florida Administrative Code 30
Forms 30
Division of Elections 31
Appendix B: Emergency Rule 1SER26-3, F.A.C. 32
1SER26-3 (1S-2.0001) Designation of Division of Elections as Filing Office for Department of State; Requirements for Candidate Qualifying Papers; Withdrawal of Candidacy. 32
Appendix C: Directive 2026-02 34

Chapter 1: Background

This handbook explains the qualifying procedures for state candidates who qualify with the Florida Department of State's Division of Elections 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.

However, the information herein is intended only as a reference guide. To the extent that this handbook covers material beyond that contained in law or rule, the Florida 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' advisory **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's website at **https://dos.fl.gov/elections/forms-publications**.

Please direct any 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

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 2027)

Multi-County State Offices

- State Attorney (20th Circuit)
- Public Defender (20th Circuit)
- State Senator (only even numbered districts)
- State Representative (all districts)

Judicial (Nonpartisan)

- Judge, District Court of Appeal (only those whose terms expire January 2027)
- Circuit Judges (only those whose terms expire January 2027)

Multi-County Special District

- Varies by district

Chapter 3: Resign-to-Run Law

Governing 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. Also, 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(3) and (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

- Political party offices.
- Persons serving without salary on an appointed board or authority.
- Persons holding 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 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.
  - Submit a copy of the resignation to the Governor and to 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 Florida 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's effective date must state when the resignation is to 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.)*

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 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 neither required to pay a qualifying fee or party assessment, nor 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 that 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 Division before the end of the 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.

*(Emergency Rule **1SER26-3(1) and (2)**, F.A.C.)*

How to File

It is a 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, fee are timely submitted, a candidate or someone on their behalf should hand-deliver the paperwork directly to the Division or use a commercial express courier delivery service that ensures delivery 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 with the qualifying deadline.

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 prior to the start of the pre-qualifying period, these documents must be filed again with the Division before the close of qualifying.

*(Sections **99.061(8)** and **105.031(6)**, Fla. Stat.;*
*Emergency Rule **1SER26-3(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 Sections 99.061(7)(a)7. and 105.031(5)(a)6., Florida Statutes, the candidate must, at the time of subscribing to the oath or affirmation, 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.

- Form 6, **Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests** for the year 2025. Visit the Commission on Ethics for information on the current Form 6. The 2025 Full and Public Disclosure is required to be filed electronically. Either a copy of the electronically filed Form 6 or the receipt of electronic filing must be provided to the Division during qualifying.
    - Special district candidates file the Form 1, **Statement of Financial Interests** for the year 2025. For special district candidates, either a copy of the electronically filed Form 1 or the receipt of electronic filing must be provided to the Division during qualifying. (*See* **Chapter 15: Multi-County Special District**)

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 fee must be:

- Paid by a properly executed check drawn on 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 check must be signed by the campaign treasurer or deputy treasurer. A check signed by a candidate who has not been designated as the treasurer or deputy treasurer is **not** acceptable.

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**.

*(Sections **99.061(7)** and **105.031(5)**, Fla. Stat., and Emergency Rule **1SER26-3(4)**, F.A.C.)*

Returned Check

If a candidate's qualifying fee check is returned by the bank for any reason, the filing officer must immediately notify the candidate. Notwithstanding the end of qualifying, the candidate shall 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 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 paperwork that does not include all required items prior to the last day of qualifying, the filing officer must make a reasonable effort to notify the candidate of the missing or incomplete items and must 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 Candidate Oath where they can be reached for questions about their qualifying paperwork.

Qualifying Status Look-up

A person's qualifying status as a candidate can be found on the Division's online **Candidate Tracking System**.

Chapter 6: Governor and Lieutenant Governor

A governor and a lieutenant governor shall be elected at a state-wide general election in each calendar year the number of which is even but not a multiple of four beginning on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the succeeding year.

*(**Art. IV, § 5**, Fla. Const.)*

Qualifications

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

*(**Art. IV, § 5**, Fla. 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(1) and (8)**, Fla. Stat.)*

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:

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

2. Candidate Oath (choose the oath as it applies):
   Form DS-DE 301A-E State and Local Partisan Office – With Party Affiliation
   Form DS-DE 301B-E State and Local Partisan Office – No Party Affiliation
   Form DS-DE 301C-E State and Local Partisan Office – Write-In Candidate

3. **Form 6**, Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2025. Visit the Commission on Ethics (COE) for information on the current Form 6. For candidates that file their 2025 Full and Public Disclosure electronically, either a copy of the electronically filed Form 6 or the receipt of electronic filing must be provided to the Division during qualifying.

*(Section **99.061(7)**, Fla. Stat., and Emergency Rule **1SER26-3(3)**, F.A.C.)*

Qualifying Fee

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

- **Party Affiliation Candidates: $8,484.00** (6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025); or
- **No Party Affiliation Candidates: $5,656.00** (4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025).

*(Section **99.092**, Fla. Stat.)*

Lieutenant Governor Running Mate

No later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time), August 27, 2026, each candidate for Governor shall designate a Lieutenant Governor as a running mate.

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

1. Written designation by the gubernatorial candidate of a Lieutenant Governor running mate;

2. Candidate Oath (choose the oath as it applies):
   Form DS-DE 301A-E State and Local Partisan Office – With Party Affiliation
   Form DS-DE 301B-E State and Local Partisan Office – No Party Affiliation
   Form DS-DE 301C-E State and Local Partisan Office – Write-In Candidate

3. **Form 6**, Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2025. Visit the Commission on Ethics (COE) for information on the current Form 6. For candidates that file their 2025 Full and Public Disclosure electronically, either a copy of the electronically filed Form 6 or the receipt of electronic filing can be provided during qualifying.

*(Section **99.063**, Fla. Stat., and Emergency Rule **1SER26-3(3)**, F.A.C.)*

Chapter 7: Attorney General

An Attorney General (Cabinet office) shall be elected at a state-wide general election in each calendar year the number of which is even but not a multiple of four beginning on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the succeeding year.

*(**Art. IV, § 5**, Fla. Const.)*

Qualifications

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

*(**Art. IV, § 5**, Fla. 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(1) and (8)**, Fla. Stat.)*

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:

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

2. Candidate Oath (choose the oath as it applies):
   Form DS-DE 301A-E State and Local Partisan Office – With Party Affiliation
   Form DS-DE 301B-E State and Local Partisan Office – No Party Affiliation
   Form DS-DE 301C-E State and Local Partisan Office – Write-In Candidate

3. **Form 6**, Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2025. Visit the Commission on Ethics (COE) for information on the current Form 6. For candidates that file their 2025 Full and Public Disclosure electronically, a copy of the electronically filed Form 6 or the receipt of electronic filing must be provided to the Division during qualifying.

*(Section **99.061(7)**, Fla. Stat., and Emergency Rule **1SER26-3(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: $8,399.28** (6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025); or
- **No Party Affiliation Candidates: $5,599.52** (4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025).

*(Section **99.092**, Fla. Stat.)*

Chapter 8: Chief Financial Officer

A Chief Financial Officer (Cabinet office) shall be elected at a state-wide general election in each calendar year the number of which is even but not a multiple of four beginning on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the succeeding year.

*(**Art. IV, § 5**, Fla. Const.)*

Qualifications

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

*(**Art. IV, § 5**, Fla. 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(1) and (8)**, Fla. Stat.)*

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:

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

2. Candidate Oath (choose the oath as it applies):
   Form DS-DE 301A-E State and Local Partisan Office – With Party Affiliation
   Form DS-DE 301B-E State and Local Partisan Office – No Party Affiliation
   Form DS-DE 301C-E State and Local Partisan Office – Write-In Candidate

3. **Form 6**, Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2025. Visit the Commission on Ethics (COE) for information on the current Form 6. For candidates that file their 2025 Full and Public Disclosure electronically, a copy of the electronically filed Form 6 or the receipt of electronic filing must be provided to the Division during qualifying.

*(Section **99.061(7)**, Fla. Stat., and Emergency Rule **1SER26-3(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: $8,399.28** (6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025); or
- **No Party Affiliation Candidates: $5,599.52** (4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025).

*(Section **99.092**, Fla. Stat.)*

Chapter 9: Commissioner of Agriculture

A Commissioner of Agriculture (Cabinet office) shall be elected at a state-wide general election in each calendar year the number of which is even but not a multiple of four beginning on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the succeeding year.

*(**Art. IV, § 5**, Fla. Const.)*

Qualifications

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

*(**Art. IV, § 5**, Fla. 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(1) and (8)**, Fla. Stat.)*

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:

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

2. Candidate Oath (choose the oath as it applies):
   Form DS-DE 301A-E State and Local Partisan Office – With Party Affiliation
   Form DS-DE 301B-E State and Local Partisan Office – No Party Affiliation
   Form DS-DE 301C-E State and Local Partisan Office – Write-In Candidate

3. **Form 6**, Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2025. Visit the Commission on Ethics (COE) for information on the current Form 6. For candidates that file their 2025 Full and Public Disclosure electronically, a copy of the electronically filed Form 6 or the receipt of electronic filing must be provided to the Division during qualifying.

*(Section **99.061(7)**, Fla. Stat., and Emergency Rule **1SER26-3(3)**, F.A.C.)*

Qualifying Fee

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

- **Party Affiliation Candidates: $8,399.28** (6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025); or
- **No Party Affiliation Candidates: $5,599.52** (4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025).

*(Section **99.092**, Fla. Stat.)*

Chapter 10: State Attorney

Qualifications

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 (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(1) and (8)**, Fla. Stat.)*

Qualifying Papers

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

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

2. Candidate Oath (choose the oath as it applies):
   Form DS-DE 301A-E State and Local Partisan Office – With Party Affiliation
   Form DS-DE 301B-E State and Local Partisan Office – No Party Affiliation
   Form DS-DE 301C-E State and Local Partisan Office – Write-In Candidate

3. **Form 6**, Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2025. Visit the Commission on Ethics for information on the current Form 6. The 2025 Full and Public Disclosure is required to be filed electronically. Either a copy of the electronically filed Form 6 or the receipt of electronic filing must be provided to the Division during qualifying.

*(Section **99.061(7)**, Fla. Stat., and Emergency Rule **1SER26-3(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: $13,399.08** (6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025); or
- **No Party Affiliation Candidates: $8,932.72** (4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025).

*(Section **99.092**, Fla. Stat.)*

Chapter 11: Public Defender

Qualifications

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 (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(1) and (8)**, Fla. Stat.)*

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:

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

2. Candidate Oath (choose the oath as it applies):
   Form DS-DE 301A-E State and Local Partisan Office – With Party Affiliation
   Form DS-DE 301B-E State and Local Partisan Office – No Party Affiliation
   Form DS-DE 301C-E State and Local Partisan Office – Write-In Candidate

3. **Form 6**, Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2025. Visit the Commission on Ethics for information on the current Form 6. The 2025 Full and Public Disclosure is required to be filed electronically. Either a copy of the electronically filed Form 6 or the receipt of electronic filing must be provided to the Division during qualifying.

*(Section **99.061(7)**, Fla. Stat., and Emergency Rule **1SER26-3(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: $13,399.08** (6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025); or
- **No Party Affiliation Candidates: $8,932.72** (4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025).

*(Section **99.092**, Fla. Stat.)*

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 (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(1) and (8)**, Fla. Stat.)*

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:

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

2. Candidate Oath (choose the oath as it applies):
   Form DS-DE 301A State and Local Partisan Office – With Party Affiliation
   Form DS-DE 301B State and Local Partisan Office – No Party Affiliation
   Form DS-DE 301C State and Local Partisan Office – Write-In Candidate

3. **Form 6**, Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2025. Visit the Commission on Ethics for information on the current Form 6. The 2025 Full and Public Disclosure is required to be filed electronically. Either a copy of the electronically filed Form 6 or the receipt of electronic filing must be provided to the Division during qualifying.

*(Section **99.061(7)**, Fla. Stat., and Emergency Rule **1SER26-3(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: $1,781.82** (6% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025); or
- **No Party Affiliation Candidates: $1,187.88** (4% of annual salary as of July 1, 2025).

*(Section **99.092**, Fla. Stat.)*

Chapter 13: Justice of the Supreme Court and Judge of 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 ten years.

Note: No justice or judge shall serve after reaching seventy-five years of age except upon temporary assignment.

*(**Art. V, § 8**, Fla. 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 **105.031(1) and (6)**, Fla. Stat.)*

Qualifying Papers

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

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-E Candidate Oath – Judicial Office

3. **Form 6**, Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests for the year 2025. Visit the Commission on Ethics for information on the current Form 6. The 2025 Full and Public Disclosure is required to be filed electronically. A copy of the electronically filed Form 6 or the receipt of electronic filing must be provided to the Division during qualifying.

4. **Form** DS-DE 96, Affidavit of Intention, must be filed at the time of qualifying if the candidate does not anticipate receiving any contributions or making any expenditures in connection with the campaign.

*(Sections **105.031(5)** and **105.08**, Fla. Stat.;*
*Emergency Rule **1SER26-3(3)**, F.A.C.)*

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. If contributions or expenditures are received after filing the above sworn statement, a statement to that effect must be filed, a campaign account opened at the depository previously designated, and campaign treasurer's reports filed.

Form DS-DE 97, Affidavit of Compliance, must still be filed as a final report within 90 days following the general election.

*(Section **105.08**, Fla. Stat.)*

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 seventy-five years of age except upon temporary assignment.

*(**Art. V, § 8**, Fla. 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 **105.031(1) and (6)**, Fla. Stat.)*

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:

1. **Form** DS-DE 9, Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository. (If the 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 2025. Visit the Commission on Ethics for information on the current Form 6. The 2025 Full and Public Disclosure is required to be filed electronically. Either a copy of the electronically filed Form 6 or the receipt of electronic filing must be provided to the Division during qualifying.

*(Sections **105.031(5)**, Fla. Stat., and Emergency Rule **1SER26-3(3)**, F.A.C.)*

Qualifying Fee

All candidates, except persons certified to qualify by the petition method or seeking to qualify as write-in candidates, must also pay a qualifying fee in the amount of **$8,033.44**. (4% of the annual salary as of July 1, 2025).

*(Section **99.092**, Fla. Stat.)*

Chapter 15: Multi-County Special District

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(3) and (8)**, Fla. Stat.)*

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:

1. **Form** DS-DE 302NP-E Candidate Oath – Nonpartisan Office

2. Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests for the year 2025. Visit the Commission on Ethics for information on the current Form 1. The 2025 Statement of Financial Interests is required to be filed electronically. A copy of the electronically filed Form 1 or the receipt of electronic filing must be provided to the Division during qualifying.

Note: 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 make campaign expenditures, or who begins raising or expending campaign funds, must file a **Form** DS-DE 9.

*(Section **99.061(3) and (7)**, Fla. Stat.;*
*Emergency Rule **1SER26-3(3)**, F.A.C.)*

Qualifying Fee

In addition to the above referenced items, all special district candidates, except persons certified to qualify by the petition method or seeking to qualify as write-in candidates, 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.

*(Section **99.061(3)**, Fla. Stat.)*

Appendices

Appendix A: Legal References and Rules Cited

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.
- 99.063 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

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 Judicial Eligibility.
- Art. V, § 17 State attorneys.
- Art. V, § 18 Public defenders.

Florida Administrative Code

Emergency Rule 1SER26-3 Designation of Division of Elections as Filing Office for Department of State; Requirements for Candidate Qualifying Papers; Withdrawal of Candidacy

Forms

- DS-DE 9 Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository
- DS-DE 301A-E State and Local Partisan Office – With Party Affiliation
- DS-DE 301B-E State and Local Partisan Office – No Party Affiliation
- DS-DE 301C-E State and Local Partisan Office – Write-In Candidate
- DS-DE 302NP-E Candidate Oath – Nonpartisan Office
- DS-DE 303JU-E 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 1 Statement of Financial Interests
- Form 6 Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests

Division of Elections

- Advisory Opinions
- Rules
- Directives
  - Directive 2026-02 Implementation of § 99.021, Fla. Stat.
- Qualifying Information
- Publications

Appendix B: Emergency Rule 1SER26-3, F.A.C.

1SER26-3 (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. 07/08/2026) (https://files.floridados.gov/media/711170/dsde301a-e-state-local-partisan-oath-pty-aff-jul-08-2026.pdf), entitled, "Candidate Oath – State and Local Partisan Office – With Party Affiliation."

3. DS-DE 301B-E (Eff. 07/08/2026) (https://files.floridados.gov/media/711171/dsde301b-e-state-local-partisan-oath-no-pty-aff-jul-08-2026.pdf), entitled, "Candidate Oath – State and Local Partisan Office – Without Party Affiliation."

4. DS-DE 301C-E (Eff. 07/08/2026) (https://files.floridados.gov/media/711172/dsde301c-e-state-local-partisan-oath-write-in-jul-08-2026.pdf), entitled, "Candidate Oath-State and Local Partisan Office-Write-In Candidate."

5. DS-DE 305A-E (Eff. 07/08/2026) (https://files.floridados.gov/media/711176/dsde305a-e-committeemen-committeewomen-oath-state-jul-08-2026.pdf), entitled, "Candidate Oath – Committeemen and Committeewomen."

6. DS-DE 305B-E (Eff. 07/08/2026) (https://files.floridados.gov/media/711177/dsde305b-e-committeemen-committeewomen-oath-district-jul-08-2026.pdf), entitled, "Candidate Oath – Committeemen and Committeewomen - District."

7. DS-DE 305C-E (Eff. 07/08/2026) (https://files.floridados.gov/media/711178/dsde305c-e-committeemen-committeewomen-oath-precinct-jul-08-2026.pdf), entitled, "Candidate Oath – Committeemen and Committeewomen - Precinct."

8. DS-DE 302NP-E (Eff. 07/08/2026) (https://files.floridados.gov/media/711173/dsde302np-e-nonpartisan-oath-jul-08-2026.pdf), entitled, "Candidate Oath – Nonpartisan Office."

9. DS-DE 304SB-E. (Eff. 07/08/2026) (https://files.floridados.gov/media/711175/dsde304sb-e-school-board-oath-jul-08-2026.pdf), entitled "Candidate Oath – School Board Nonpartisan Office."

10. DS-DE 303JU-E (Eff. 07/08/2026) (https://files.floridados.gov/media/711174/dsde303ju-e-judicial-oath-jul-08-2026.pdf), entitled, "Candidate Oath – Judicial Office."

11. DS-DE 300A-E (Eff. 07/08/2026) (https://files.floridados.gov/media/711167/dsde300a-e-fed-oath-pty-aff-jul-08-2026.pdf), entitled "Candidate Oath – Federal Office – With Party Affiliation."

12. DS-DE 300B-E (Eff. 07/08/2026) (https://files.floridados.gov/media/711168/dsde300b-e-fed-oath-no-pty-aff-jul-08-2026.pdf), entitled, "Candidate Oath – Federal Office – Without Party Affiliation."

13. DS-DE 300C-E (Eff. 07/08/2026) (https://files.floridados.gov/media/711169/dsde300c-e-fed-oath-write-in-jul-08-2026.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, 7-8-26.

Appendix C: 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.

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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