

Are You Thinking About Running for County Office in 2016?

Running for political office can be a very exciting and rewarding time for an individual, and we want to make it as easy as possible for you by making sure you are well-informed about laws and issues surrounding your candidacy. This document gives some preliminary information to consider before deciding whether or not to pursue elected office.

COUNTY OFFICES TO BE FILLED IN 2016

County Offices – Sheriff, Clerk of Court and Comptroller, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, Superintendent of Schools

County Commission - Districts 1, 3, 5

School Board – Districts 2, 3

Soil & Water Board - Seats 1, 3, 5

2016 STATE/MULTI-COUNTY/COUNTY/DISTRICT QUALIFYING DATES

Noon, June 20, 2016 - Noon, June 24, 2016

****Note: Qualifying papers will be accepted beginning June 6, 2016, pursuant to Section 99.061(8), F.S.***

The Supervisor of Elections "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 time." (99.061(8), FL Statutes)

WHAT IS THE FIRST THING I MUST DO

Very Important!! You ***MUST*** file a Form ***DS-DE 9*** Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates with the Supervisor of Elections ***BEFORE*** you collect any money toward your candidacy, spend any money in furtherance of your candidacy, collect signatures to qualify by the petition process, or open a bank account. Within ten (10) days of filing this, you must also file Form ***DS-DE 84*** Statement of Candidate in which you affirm that you have been provided access to, read, and understand the requirements of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, which covers campaign finance laws.

Once you have filed the above-mentioned form (DS-DE 9) with the Supervisor of Elections, let your campaign begin! Make sure you are well-educated on political disclaimers that must appear on signs, advertisements, mail outs, and other campaign items. Also make sure you complete all campaign finance reports completely, correctly, and in a timely manner. Late filing fees can be quite costly and must be paid out of your personal funds, not your campaign account.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT

Once you open your campaign account, you are required to file campaign finance reports with the Supervisor of Elections on or before the designated due dates. If you have no activity in your campaign account for a certain reporting period, you may file a waiver of report. The Jackson County Supervisor of Elections office requires that all campaign finance reports be filed electronically via the Supervisor of Elections website: www.jacksoncountytsoe.org.

CAMPAIGN REPORT LATE FILING FEES

Pursuant to F.S. 106.07 (8) (b)

A candidate who does not file a report on the designated due date will be subject to a fine of \$50 per day for the first 3 days late and thereafter \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the report. However, for reports immediately preceding the primary and general elections, the fine will be \$500 per day for each late day, again not to exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report. Such fine shall be paid to the filing office within 20 days after receipt of the notice of payment due, unless an appeal is made to the Florida Elections Commission pursuant to paragraph (c). All fines are to be paid out of the candidate's personal funds and not the campaign funds. These fines cannot be reported as campaign expenditures.

QUALIFYING FEE or PETITIONS

1.) Pay the qualifying fee

or

2.) Complete the petition process – obtain petition signatures of 1% of the total number of registered voters in the district, in which the candidate is seeking office, as of the last general election.

QUALIFYING FEE: Payable from the candidate's campaign account. For partisan candidates the qualifying fee is 6% of the annual salary, and for nonpartisan candidates the qualifying fee is 4% of the annual salary. Checks are made payable to the Jackson County Supervisor of Elections.

PETITION PROCESS: Before collecting any signatures the candidate **MUST** file a form **DS-DE 9**, Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository, with the Supervisor of Elections. The format of the petition shall be prescribed by the Division of Elections and shall be used by candidates to reproduce petitions for circulation. Signatures may be collected from any registered voter within the district in which the candidate is seeking office. The Supervisor of Elections office shall be paid 10 cents for each signature checked.

Once the candidate has obtained the number of certified signatures, the Supervisor of Elections office will provide a certification that the candidate has obtained the signatures necessary for the petition process.

Contact Information

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