

Are You Thinking About Running For An Office in 2018

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 gives you some preliminary information to consider before deciding whether or not to pursue elected office.

WHAT LOCAL COUNTY & CITY RACES TO EXPECT ON THE 2018 BALLOT

County Judge

County Commission - Districts 2, 3, 4

School Board - Districts 1, 2, 4

City Council - Districts 4, 5

Soil & Water Conservation District - Seat 1, 2, 4

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. Reports shall be filed no later than midnight on the date due and must be filed through the online candidate financial reporting portal which can be accessed on the Supervisor of Elections website - www.taylor-elections.com.

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 Federal 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 a campaign expenditure.

TERMINATION REPORTS

Termination reports are due with the Supervisor of Elections office within 90 days of a candidate becoming unopposed, withdrawing from their candidacy, being eliminated, or becoming elected to office. Any candidate failing to file a termination report by the due date will be subject to a \$50 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 late report.

2018 CALENDAR OF REPORTING DATES AND TERMINATION REPORTS

**Please see attached list of reporting due dates and termination due dates
- please note there is a separate list of dates for city candidates.**

QUALIFYING FEE or PETITIONS

Pay the qualifying fee as listed below based on the office seeking. Qualifying fees are 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 Taylor County Supervisor of Elections.

County Judge - $\$138,020.00 \times 4\% = \$5,520.80$

County Commissioners - $\$30,825.00 \times 6\% = \$1,849.50$

School Board - $\$27,079.00 \times 4\% = \$1,083.16$

City Council - \$25.00 plus 1% election assessment

$\$11,525.00 \times 1\% = \115.25

please note there is an addition 1% election assessment that city candidates must pay as required by the Florida Elections Commission (if the candidate is financially unable to pay the 1% election assessment a signed sworn statement may be completed)

Soil & Water Conservation District - \$25.00

OR

Complete the candidate petition process

- obtain certified petition signatures of 1% of the total number of registered voters in the district, in which the candidate is seeking as of the last general election. **(County Offices Only)**
- obtain certified petition signatures of 100 registered voters residing in the city district in which you are seeking as per requirements of the City Charter **(City Offices Only)**

PETITION SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR 2018:

**Candidate Petition Due Date (Judicial Only)
(Noon) April 2, 2018**

County Judge – 123 petitions

**12,303 registered voters as of 2016 General Election
(countywide)**

**Candidate Petition Due Date
(Noon) May 21, 2018**

School Board District 1 – 23 petitions

**2,252 registered voters as of 2016 General Election
(Precincts 12, 14)**

County Commissioner/School Board District 2 – 20 petitions

**2,026 registered voters as of 2016 General Election
(Precincts 2, 8)**

County Commissioner District 3 – 34 petitions

**3,401 registered voters as of 2016 General Election
(Precincts 3, 4, 5, 10, 11)**

County Commissioner/School Board District 4 – 28 petitions

**2,815 registered voters as of 2016 General Election
(Precincts 1, 6, 7)**

City Council – 100 petitions in lieu of paying \$25.00 filing fee along with sworn statement of inability to pay

(Districts 4, 5)

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.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT – CITY CANDIDATES ONLY:

Reside within the limits of the city and within the boundaries of the district for which the candidate seeks to qualify for at least six (6) months prior to the date of their qualifying for office.

Per City Charter – six months prior to qualifying = December 18, 2017

Contact Information

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[Division of Elections Web Site](#)

www.election.dos.state.fl.us

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