Qualifying as a Candidate

Qualifying Week

Noon, May 2 – Noon, May 6, 2016
Qualifying for all judicial, state attorney and public defender candidates

Noon, June 20 – Noon, June 24, 2016
Qualifying for all statewide, multi-county, county and district candidates

The Qualifying Officer may accept and hold qualifying papers for 14 days prior to the qualifying period.

May qualifying – begin accepting paperwork on April 18, 2016
June qualifying – begin accepting paperwork on June 6, 2016

Qualifying Methods

- Pay a Qualifying Fee
- Petition Process
- Write-In Candidate

The Qualifying Fee

The qualifying fee is based on the salary of the office as of July 1, 2015 and can only be paid during the qualifying period drawn on the campaign account (exception: Special District candidates can pay with a personal check)

- For Partisan Candidates – 6% of salary
- For NPA and Non-Partisan Candidates – 4% of salary

A list of salaries of offices will be provided as soon as the updated information is made available from the Office of Economic and Demographic Research.

The Petition Process

Requires signatures from 1% of the registered voters in the geographical area represented by the office as of the previous General Election (exception: Special Districts require 25 signatures)

- Candidates who qualify with the Supervisor Of Elections – number of petitions required is based on the number of 2014 General Election qualified voters
- Candidates who qualify with the Division of Elections – see DOE web under Qualifying Information

Number of Petitions Required for St. Lucie County

Constitutional Officers	1823
County Commissioners	1823
School Board Members	1823
County Court Judges	1823
Special District and CDD's	25

Petitions must be submitted to the Supervisor of Elections in the county in which the voter is registered.

Petition Deadlines for the 2016 Elections

Deadline for Supervisor of Elections to accept petitions:

- Noon, April 04, 2016 (for May qualifying)
- Noon, May 23, 2016 (for June qualifying)

Deadline for Supervisor of Elections to certify petitions to the Division of Election:

- April 25, 2016 (for May qualifying)
- June 13, 2016 (for June qualifying)

Petition Verification Fees

Verification fee is 10 cents per petition
Payment for verifying petition signatures must be paid in advance
An accurate count of petitions turned in is necessary in order to charge correctly

Write-In Candidates

Write-In candidates are not required to pay a qualifying fee or submit petitions. A Write-In candidate must comply with finance laws and adhere to residential requirements for the office sought. A Write-In candidate qualifies for the General Election only and the candidate's name will NOT appear on the ballot.

Additional Forms Required and Information Provided during Qualifying

Loyalty Oath – Form DS-DE 24 - Designates how the candidate's name is to appear on the ballot. This form must be notarized and is completed during the qualifying appointment with the Supervisor of Election.

Financial Disclosure Form 6 - This is the financial disclosure of certain assets, liabilities and sources of income. It provides citizens a way to monitor potential conflicts of interest and keeps them informed on an annual basis.

Public Test Notification – Per Chapter 101.5612, F.S., notifying candidates of the date, time and location of the Pre-Election Day Public Logic and Accuracy Test of Automatic Tabulating Equipment.

Poll Watcher Information – Information about watchers at the polls and deadlines for designating Poll Watchers for the 2016 Election cycle.

Political Sign Information - Information will be provided on usage and removal of political campaign advertisements per Section 106.1435, F. S. Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie and County signage requirements will also be provided.

Canvassing Board Dates for the Primary and General Elections- designating the dates and times for canvassing of mail ballots received prior to election day, canvassing of overseas ballots, provisional ballots, certifying results of the elections, as well as conducting the post-election manual audits.

Qualifying Ends on June 24, 2016 at 12 noon. Anyone in line at that time is allowed to qualify; however, no corrections to qualifying papers will be allowed after the close of qualifying.