

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

2020 HOW TO BECOME A CANDIDATE

Procedures to follow to become a candidate for political office:

- ✓ You must first file with the Supervisor of Elections office a Form DS-DE 9, which provides for an *Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository*. *** This form must be filed before opening a campaign account, accepting contributions, spending money or collecting signatures on petitions. ***
- ✓ Within 10 days after filing Form DS-DE 9, each candidate must file a *Statement of Candidate* Form DS-DE 84 or *Statement of Candidate for Judicial Office* Form DS-DE 83 indicating you have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes and Florida Code of Judicial Code.
- ✓ If you choose to qualify by the petition method for county office, you must obtain signatures of 1% of the total number of registered voters at the last general election. For local candidates in Okeechobee County the number of petitions needed is 206 based on 20,552 registered voters in the 2018 General Election
- ✓ If you choose to qualify by paying a qualifying fee instead of by petition method, a campaign check made payable to the Supervisor of Elections must be submitted during the qualifying week for the total amount of the fee.
 - Qualifying fees for:
 - Major party candidates will be 6% of the annual salary of the office sought.
 - Nonpartisan offices and candidates with no party affiliation will be 4% of the annual salary of the office sought.
 - Minor party candidates will be 4% of the annual salary of the office sought, unless the minor party chooses to assess the party fee, in which case it will be 6%.
 - Soil and Water District candidates will either pay a qualifying fee of \$25.00 or get 25 valid petitions.
- ✓ Write-in candidates will not be required to pay a qualifying fee or submit petitions. Write-in candidates shall qualify for the general election only and their name will not appear on the ballot. Write-in candidates must reside within the district represented by the office sought at the time of qualifying.
- ✓ Complete appropriate *Financial Disclosure* form.
- ✓ Sign appropriate notarized *Loyalty Oath/Oath of Candidate form*.
- ✓ Complete Candidate Qualifying Checklist.
- ✓ File periodic campaign treasurer's reports as outlined in Chapter 106.07, Florida Statutes.
- ✓ Meet specific legal requirements regarding campaign advertising and campaign financing.

All documents must be filed with the Qualifying Officer at the Supervisor of Elections Office.

All forms are available at <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/forms/index.shtml>

Contact Diane Hagan, Supervisor of Elections at 863.763.4014, should you need additional information.