



## Q: Who can run for office?

Age and residency qualifications vary by position, but you must be a registered voter to run.

## Q: What do I have to do to run for office?

The first step is to **file** for office by submitting paperwork that officially declares your candidacy. This can be done at any time, but must be done before you start campaigning. After filing, you are required to submit regular financial reports detailing campaign contributions and expenditures.

**Qualifying** takes place during a scheduled time period and is the process by which you assure your name will be on the ballot. That's when additional paperwork, along with any required fees or petitions will be due.

## Q: Does it cost money to be a candidate?

Not necessarily. You have to pay a qualifying fee *or* collect petitions to have your name placed on a ballot. The fee is waived if you submit enough petitions.

## Q: How are the qualifying fees set?

Fees are based on a percentage of the salary of the office you're seeking, and whether you are running with a political party affiliation.

## Q: Which offices are partisan and which are nonpartisan?

School board, judicial and municipal offices are nonpartisan. All other elected offices in Hillsborough County are partisan. However, you may choose to run for any office with no party affiliation, even if you are a registered member of a political party.

## Q: Will the Supervisor of Elections Office help me fill out the required forms?

We'll give you forms and official candidate guidelines provided by the state. However, we are by law a ministerial agency, which means we cannot advise you on your paperwork.

For more information, visit [VoteHillsborough.org](http://VoteHillsborough.org) or contact:

[candidate@hcsoe.org](mailto:candidate@hcsoe.org)  
(813) 744-5900, ext. 4465

# RUNNING IN 2018

## ★ *A closer look...*

### FILING

*What?* Declaring you're a candidate for office, so you can begin campaigning.

*When?* Anytime

*Which offices will be on the ballot in 2018?*

- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Representative Districts 12, 14, 15, 16
- State Officials: Governor, Attorney General, CFO, Commissioner of Agriculture
- State Senator Districts 18 & 20
- State Representative Districts 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 70
- Circuit Court Judge Groups 12, 14, 16, 25, 26, 28, 32, 35, 42, 43, 44, 45
- Sheriff
- County Commission Districts 2, 4, 5, 7
- School Board Districts 2, 4, 6
- County Court Judge Groups 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 15
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts 1, 3, 5
- Community Development District Supervisors
- Special District Trustees

*Who files with Hillsborough County?*

- Sheriff
- Supervisor of Elections
- Clerk of Court & Comptroller
- Tax Collector
- Property Appraiser
- County Commissioner
- County Court Judge
- School Board Member
- Soil and Water Conservation Supervisor
- Community Development District Supervisor
- Special Taxing Districts Trustee

***(Candidates for other offices file with the State of Florida.)***

*What forms are required?*

- DS-DE 9 (appointing a campaign treasurer and designating a bank)
- DS-DE 84 (attesting that you have read and understand campaign finance law)
- DS-DE 83-**judicial candidates only** (attesting you have read and understand the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct)

*What fees are required?* None.

### QUALIFYING

*What?* Assuring your name will be on the ballot.

*When?*

- Judicial candidates  
Noon, April 30 – Noon, May 4, 2018
- All other candidates  
Noon, June 18 – Noon, June 22, 2018

*Who qualifies with Hillsborough County?*

Anyone who files with us must qualify with us.

*What is required?*

All filing forms (if not already filed), plus

- A candidate oath
- A statement of financial interest
- Payment of a qualifying fee,  
or a certificate of qualifying by petition

*How is the fee determined?*

According to Florida Statute, the qualifying fee for partisan offices is 6% of the annual salary of the office sought. The fee for nonpartisan offices is 4% of the salary of the office sought.

*How does qualifying by petition work?*

You must obtain valid signatures (on petition forms created by the state) from at least 1% of the total number of registered voters in the geographic area of the office you're running for. After you submit the petitions to our office, we will verify them.

The deadline for judicial candidates to submit petitions is noon on April 2, 2018. The deadline for all other candidates is noon on May 21, 2018. The qualifying fee is waived if you qualify by petition.