

## Qualifying by Petition FAQ

### ***What is qualifying by petition?***

Pursuant to [99.095](#), Florida Statutes (included in this section), a person seeking to qualify for nomination to any office may qualify to have their name placed on the ballot by means of the petitioning process.

If you have submitted the required number of eligible signatures, you will not be required to pay the qualifying fee and will be entitled to have your name printed on the ballot.

### ***What must be filed by candidates qualifying by petition?***

Candidates qualifying by petition must file Form DS-DE 9: Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository and Form DS-DE 84: Statement of Candidate, and Acknowledgement for Electronic Filing of Campaign Finance Reports, unless you have already filed these forms. Candidates qualifying by petition must provide a Petition Certification Form and all other qualifying forms as detailed in the Qualifying section of this notebook. Form DS-DE 104 (included in this section) is the form required to be used to obtain signatures.

### ***How many petitions must I collect?***

Except in a year of apportionment as specified in Sections [99.095](#) and [99.09651](#), F.S., a candidate shall obtain the number of signatures of voters in the geographical area represented by the office sought equal to at least 1 percent of the total number of registered voters of that geographical area, as shown by the compilation by the Department of State for the immediately preceding general election.

**Note:** It is recommended for candidates to obtain at least 15 – 20% more signatures than required to allow for those that do not meet eligibility requirements. Candidates are encouraged to submit petitions periodically to the Supervisor of Elections while they are being gathered.

### ***When must candidates submit their petitions by?***

Candidates are encouraged to submit petitions periodically while they are being gathered. However, the signed petitions must be submitted to the Supervisor of Elections Office prior to 12:00 p.m. (noon), May 11, 2020, for verification. The Supervisor of Elections will notify the candidate, in writing, whether the required number of signatures has been obtained prior to the first day of qualifying (June 8, 2020).

### ***Who do candidates submit their petitions to?***

Candidates submit their petitions to the Supervisor of Elections for verification. Prior to the qualifying period, if the candidate has obtained the required number of signatures, the Supervisor of Election will notify the candidate and provide them with a petition certification form. The candidate will submit that petition certification form from the Supervisor, along with their qualifying papers, to the City Clerk during the qualifying period.

***How do I verify that the correct number of petitions has been reached?***

The Supervisor of Elections will notify you, in writing, whether the required number of signatures has been obtained prior to the first day of qualifying (June 8, 2020).

***What payment is required for qualifying by petition?***

The Supervisor of Elections shall be paid in advance the sum of 10 cents for each signature checked. If you are unable to pay such charges without imposing an undue burden on personal resources or upon resources otherwise available to you, you may file written certification of such inability given under oath to the supervisor and be entitled to have the signatures verified at no charge ([99.097](#), F.S.) (A copy of the Affidavit of Undue Burden is included in this section)

Note: If an undue burden oath has been filed and payment is subsequently made to any person to solicit signatures on a petition, the undue burden oath is no longer valid and a fee for all signatures previously submitted shall be paid by the candidate.

Prior to disposing of campaign funds, pursuant to 106.141, Florida Statutes, any candidate who filed an oath stating that he or she was unable to pay the election assessment or fee for verification of petition signatures, or who qualified through the petition process and was not required to pay an election assessment, shall reimburse the state or local governmental entity, whichever is applicable, for such waived assessment or fee for verification or both. Such reimbursement shall be made first for the cost of petition verification and then, if funds are remaining, for the amount of the election assessment. The remaining funds shall be disbursed in the manner prescribed.

***When can I start collecting signatures to qualify as a petition candidate?***

Before collecting any signatures, all candidates must file the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository (Form DS-DE 9) with the filing officer. Each petition must be submitted before noon of the 28th day preceding the first day of the qualifying period for the office sought to the Supervisor of Elections of the county in which such petition was circulated.

***Who can I contact with questions regarding the qualifying by petition process or specific eligibility/signature requirements?***

If you have any questions regarding eligibility requirements for the petition process please contact the [Volusia County Supervisor of Elections](#).

More information is also available in the 2020 Candidate Petition Handbook included in this section.