

Office of the Secretary of State Elections Division



FEDERAL AND STATE CANDIDATE QUALIFYING FAQs

1. When is the qualifying period for all candidates for the 2026 election cycle?

March 2nd to March 6th, 2026 at the State Capitol for partisan candidates and at the Floyd Twin Towers and Macon Secretary of State Offices for nonpartisan candidates beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 2nd and ending at noon on Friday, March 6th.

2. Is there a candidate filing fee?

Yes. US Congressional, Statewide, and State District offices have a qualifying fee.

3. I am a political body candidate or independent candidate, how many signatures do I need to collect to run for federal and state office?

Statewide Candidates:

Signatures totaling 1% of the number of registered voters eligible to vote in the last election for the office sought.

District Candidates:

Signatures totaling 5% of the number of registered voters eligible to vote in the last election for the office sought.

4. What is the law governing candidate qualifications and nomination of candidates in Georgia?

- O.C.G.A. § 21-2-5 (qualifications of federal and state office candidates)
- O.C.G.A. § 21-2-132 (filing notice of candidacy)
- O.C.G.A. § 21-2-132.1 (certification of presidential electors for independent candidates)
- O.C.G.A. § 21-2-170 (nomination of candidates by petition)

5. When can nomination petitions be circulated?

Collection of signatures on nomination petitions for candidacy may be circulated beginning January 15, 2026. Nomination petitions are due at 12:00 p.m. on July 14, 2026.

6. Do the signatures on nomination petitions have to be collected in person?

Signatures must be signed in wet ink by registered voters eligible to vote for the office sought.

7. Do the signatures have to be notarized?

No, each signature does not have to be notarized. The signature of the person circulating the petition and collecting signatures must be notarized prior to submission.

8. Filing location for nomination petitions

Original nomination petitions for federal and state independent and political body candidates are due by noon on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 in the Elections Division located at 2 MLK Dr., SE, West Tower, Suite 802, Atlanta, GA 30334 only. Once filed, a nomination petition shall not be amended or supplemented. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-170(f)

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9. How do I obtain a voter list to help plan my campaign activities?

Voter lists are available to the public and may be ordered at <https://georgiasecretaryofstate.net/collections/voter-list-1>

10. How do I qualify as a Write-in Candidate?

Beginning January 1st, a candidate may file an intent to run as a Write-in Candidate and file an affidavit of publication pursuant to O.C.G.A § 21-2-133.

11. What are the qualifications and disqualifications for holding public office in Georgia?

View the document detailing the qualifications and disqualifications for each federal and state office in Georgia at <https://sos.ga.gov/candidate-resources-qualifying-public-office>

12. How do I check my voting district or confirm if my voting district has recently changed?

View the MVP – My Voter Page to see your voter registration and voting district at <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>. Check the Legislative and Congressional Maps produced by the Reapportionment Office at <https://www.legis.ga.gov/joint-office/reapportionment>.