

By Senator Bernard

24-01616-25

2025956__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to candidate qualifying; amending s.
3 99.061, F.S.; authorizing a candidate to pay the
4 filing fee by a debit card linked to the candidate's
5 campaign account; revising the timeframe during which
6 a candidate may pay a filing fee if the initial
7 payment is rejected by a bank; amending s. 106.11,
8 F.S.; revising conditions under which debit cards are
9 considered bank checks for purposes of certain
10 campaign expenditures; providing an effective date.

11
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13
14 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section
15 99.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 99.061 Method of qualifying for nomination or election to
17 federal, state, county, or district office.—

18 (7) (a) In order for a candidate to be qualified, the
19 following items must be received by the filing officer by the
20 end of the qualifying period:

21 1. The filing fee ~~A properly executed check drawn upon the~~
22 ~~candidate's campaign account~~ payable to the person or entity as
23 prescribed by the filing officer in an amount not less than the
24 fee required by s. 99.092 by a properly executed check drawn
25 upon the candidate's campaign account or by a debit card linked
26 to the candidate's campaign account as provided in s. 106.11(2),
27 unless the candidate obtained the required number of signatures
28 on petitions pursuant to s. 99.095. The filing fee for a special
29 district candidate is not required to be drawn upon the

24-01616-25

2025956__

30 candidate's campaign account. If a candidate's payment is
31 rejected ~~check is returned~~ by the bank for any reason, the
32 filing officer must ~~shall~~ immediately notify the candidate and
33 the candidate must, irrespective of whether the qualifying
34 period has ended, have 48 hours from the time such notification
35 is received, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays,
36 ~~shall have until the end of qualifying~~ to pay the fee with a
37 cashier's check purchased from funds of the campaign account.
38 Failure to pay the fee as provided in this subparagraph shall
39 disqualify the candidate.

40 2. The candidate's oath required by s. 99.021, which must
41 contain the name of the candidate as it is to appear on the
42 ballot; the office sought, including the district or group
43 number if applicable; and the signature of the candidate, which
44 must be verified under oath or affirmation pursuant to s.
45 92.525(1) (a).

46 3. If the office sought is partisan, the written statement
47 of political party affiliation required by s. 99.021(1) (b); or
48 if the candidate is running without party affiliation for a
49 partisan office, the written statement required by s.
50 99.021(1) (c).

51 4. The completed form for the appointment of campaign
52 treasurer and designation of campaign depository, as required by
53 s. 106.021.

54 5. The full and public disclosure or statement of financial
55 interests required by subsection (5). A public officer who has
56 filed the full and public disclosure or statement of financial
57 interests with the Commission on Ethics before qualifying for
58 office may file a copy of that disclosure or a verification or

24-01616-25

2025956__

59 receipt of electronic filing as provided in subsection (5) at
60 the time of qualifying.

61 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
62 106.11, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

63 106.11 Expenses of and expenditures by candidates and
64 political committees.—Each candidate and each political
65 committee which designates a primary campaign depository
66 pursuant to s. 106.021(1) shall make expenditures from funds on
67 deposit in such primary campaign depository only in the
68 following manner, with the exception of expenditures made from
69 petty cash funds provided by s. 106.12:

70 (2) (a) For purposes of this section, debit cards are
71 considered bank checks, if:

72 1. Debit cards are obtained from the same bank that has
73 been designated as the candidate's or political committee's
74 primary campaign depository.

75 2. Debit cards are issued in the name of the treasurer,
76 deputy treasurer, or authorized user and contain the name of the
77 campaign account of the candidate or political committee.

78 3. No more than three debit cards are requested and issued.

79 4. The person using the debit card does not receive cash as
80 part of, or independent of, any transaction for goods or
81 services.

82 5. All receipts for debit card transactions contain:

83 a. The last four digits of the debit card number.

84 b. The exact amount of the expenditure.

85 c. The name of the payee.

86 d. The signature of the campaign treasurer, deputy

87 treasurer, or authorized user, if the receipt has a signature

24-01616-25

2025956__

88 line for the campaign treasurer, deputy treasurer, or authorized
89 user to sign.

90 e. The exact purpose for which the expenditure is
91 authorized.

92

93 Any information required by this subparagraph but not included
94 on the debit card transaction receipt may be handwritten on, or
95 attached to, the receipt by the authorized user before
96 submission to the treasurer.

97 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.