

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to candidate qualifying; amending ss.
99.061 and 105.031, F.S.; requiring certain candidates
to provide the filing officer a statement disclosing
dual citizenship for nomination and election to
federal, state, county, multicounty, district, or
judicial office or to a district school board;
reenacting s. 99.012(1)(b), F.S., relating to
definition of the term "qualifying," to incorporate
the amendments made to ss. 99.061 and 105.031, F.S.,
in references thereto; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

1. A properly executed check drawn upon the candidate's
campaign account payable to the person or entity as prescribed
by the filing officer in an amount not less than the fee
required by s. 99.092, unless the candidate obtained the

26 required number of signatures on petitions pursuant to s.
27 99.095. The filing fee for a special district candidate is not
28 required to be drawn upon the candidate's campaign account. If a
29 candidate's check is returned by the bank for any reason, the
30 filing officer shall immediately notify the candidate and the
31 candidate shall have until the end of qualifying to pay the fee
32 with a cashier's check purchased from funds of the campaign
33 account. Failure to pay the fee as provided in this subparagraph
34 shall disqualify the candidate.

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

41 3. If the office sought is partisan, the written statement
42 of political party affiliation required by s. 99.021(1) (b); or
43 if the candidate is running without party affiliation for a
44 partisan office, the written statement required by s.
45 99.021(1) (c) .

46 4. The completed form for the appointment of campaign
47 treasurer and designation of campaign depository, as required by
48 s. 106.021.

49 5. The full and public disclosure or statement of
50 financial interests required by subsection (5). A public officer

51 who has filed the full and public disclosure or statement of
52 financial interests with the Commission on Ethics before
53 qualifying for office may file a copy of that disclosure or a
54 verification or receipt of electronic filing as provided in
55 subsection (5) at the time of qualifying.

56 6. If the candidate is a citizen of another country in
57 addition to being a citizen of the United States, a statement
58 disclosing any other country the candidate is also a citizen of.

59 **Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section**
60 **105.031, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

61 105.031 Qualification; filing fee; candidate's oath; items
62 required to be filed.—

63 (5) ITEMS REQUIRED TO BE FILED.—

64 (a) In order for a candidate for judicial office or the
65 office of school board member to be qualified, the following
66 items must be received by the filing officer by the end of the
67 qualifying period:

68 1. Except for candidates for retention to judicial office,
69 a properly executed check drawn upon the candidate's campaign
70 account in an amount not less than the fee required by
71 subsection (3) or, in lieu thereof, the copy of the notice of
72 obtaining ballot position pursuant to s. 105.035. If a
73 candidate's check is returned by the bank for any reason, the
74 filing officer shall immediately notify the candidate and the
75 candidate shall, the end of qualifying notwithstanding, have 48

76 hours from the time such notification is received, excluding
77 Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, to pay the fee with a
78 cashier's check purchased from funds of the campaign account.
79 Failure to pay the fee as provided in this subparagraph shall
80 disqualify the candidate.

81 2. The candidate's oath required by subsection (4), which
82 must contain the name of the candidate as it is to appear on the
83 ballot; the office sought, including the district or group
84 number if applicable; and the signature of the candidate, duly
85 acknowledged.

86 3. The loyalty oath required by s. 876.05, signed by the
87 candidate and duly acknowledged.

88 4. The completed form for the appointment of campaign
89 treasurer and designation of campaign depository, as required by
90 s. 106.021. In addition, each candidate for judicial office,
91 including an incumbent judge, shall file a statement with the
92 qualifying officer, within 10 days after filing the appointment
93 of campaign treasurer and designation of campaign depository,
94 stating that the candidate has read and understands the
95 requirements of the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct. Such
96 statement shall be in substantially the following form:

97
98 Statement of Candidate for Judicial Office
99

100 I, ...(name of candidate)..., a judicial candidate, have

received, read, and understand the requirements of the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct.

...(Signature of candidate)...

...(Date)...

5. The full and public disclosure of financial interests required by s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or the statement of financial interests required by s. 112.3145, whichever is applicable. A public officer who has filed the full and public disclosure or statement of financial interests with the Commission on Ethics or the supervisor of elections prior to qualifying for office may file a copy of that disclosure at the time of qualifying.

6. If the candidate is a citizen of another country in addition to being a citizen of the United States, a statement disclosing any other country the candidate is also a citizen of.

Section 3. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to sections 99.061 and 105.031, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 99.012, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

99.012 Restrictions on individuals qualifying for public office.—

(1) As used in this section:

(b) "Qualify" means to fulfill the requirements set forth in s. 99.061(7)(a) or s. 105.031(5)(a).

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Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.