

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Ethics and Elections

BILL: SB 620

INTRODUCER: Senator Mayfield

SUBJECT: Candidate Qualifying

DATE: January 9, 2026

REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Biehl	Roberts	EE	Pre-meeting
2.		JU	
3.		RC	

I. Summary:

SB 620 adds to the list of items that a candidate must submit to the relevant filing officer in order to qualify. Specifically, if a candidate is a citizen of another country in addition to being a citizen of the United States, the candidate must submit a written statement disclosing such citizenship.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Current law prescribes the process by which a person seeking nomination or election to a public office may qualify to do so.¹ Such a person must file his or her qualification papers with, and pay the qualifying fee² to, the relevant filing officer.³ The law also provides a process by which a person can obtain a certain number of signed petitions in lieu of paying the qualifying fee.⁴

¹ Sections 99.061 and 105.031, F.S.

² The qualifying fee consists of the filing fee and election assessment, and party assessment, if applicable (ss. 99.061(1), 99.092(1), and 105.031(3), F.S.). Write-in candidates are exempt from the filing fee requirement (s. 99.092(1), F.S.).

³ The filing officer for a federal, state, or multicounty district office, other than a judicial office or school board member, is the Department of State (s. 99.061(1), F.S.). The filing officer for a county office, or for a district office that is not multicounty, is the local supervisor of elections (s. 99.061(2), F.S.). Except for candidates for judicial office, nonpartisan candidates for multicounty office qualify with the Department of State, and nonpartisan candidates for countywide or less than countywide office file with the supervisor of elections. Candidates for county court judge file with the supervisor of elections; all other judicial candidates file with the Department of State. Section 105.031(1), F.S.

⁴ Sections 99.095 and 105.035, F.S.

In order for a candidate⁵ for an office other than a judgeship or a school board member to be qualified, the following items must be received by the filing officer by the end of the qualifying period:⁶

- A properly executed check drawn upon the candidate's campaign account for the filing fee, unless the candidate qualified by petition.⁷
- The candidate's oath, as required by s. 99.021, F.S.⁸
- If the office sought is partisan, the written statement of political party affiliation required by s. 99.021(1)(b), F.S.; or if the candidate is running without party affiliation for a partisan office, the written statement required by s. 99.021(1)(c), F.S.
- The completed form for the appointment of campaign treasurer and designation of campaign depository.
- The candidate's financial disclosure.⁹

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

- Except for candidates for retention to judicial office, a properly executed check drawn upon the candidate's campaign account for the filing fee, unless the candidate qualified by petition.
- The candidate's oath, as required by s. 105.031(4), F.S.
- The loyalty oath required by s. 876.05, F.S.¹⁰
- The completed form for the appointment of campaign treasurer and designation of campaign depository.
- For a candidate for judicial office, a signed statement that he or she has read and understands the requirements of the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct.

⁵ Section 106.011(3), F.S., defines "candidate" to mean a person to whom any of the following applies: 1) a person who seeks to qualify for nomination or election by means of the petitioning process; 2) a person who seeks to qualify for election as a write-in candidate; 3) a person who receives contributions or makes expenditures, or consents for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures, with a view to bring about his or her nomination or election to, or retention in, public office; 4) a person who appoints a treasurer and designates a primary depository; or 5) a person who files qualification papers and subscribes to a candidate's oath as required by law. The definition excludes any candidate for a political party executive committee.

⁶ The qualifying period for the following offices is between the 120th and 116th days prior to the primary election: federal office, state attorney, public defender, or judicial office. The qualifying period for the following offices is between the 71st and 67th days prior to the primary election: state or multicounty district office, other than state attorney or public defender; county office or single-county district office; or school board. See ss. 99.061 and 105.031, F.S.

⁷ The filing fee for a special district candidate is not required be drawn upon his or her campaign account (s. 99.061(7)(a)1., F.S.).

⁸ Each candidate for an elected office in Florida must take and subscribe to in writing an oath or affirmation. Current law specifies oath formats for a candidate for federal office (s. 99.021(1)(a)2., F.S.), a candidate for a non-federal office other than a judicial office (s. 99.021(1)(a)1., F.S.), and a candidate for a state judicial office (s. 105.031(4)(b), F.S.). Generally, the oath or affirmation must, in substance, provide the name of the office for which the candidate is running; affirm that the candidate is a qualified elector of the county or court jurisdiction, as applicable; affirm that the candidate is qualified under the State Constitution and laws of Florida to hold the office for which he or she is running; affirm that the candidate has not qualified for any other public office in the state for which the term runs concurrently and that he or she has resigned from any office from which he or she is required to resign; and affirm that the candidate will support the constitutions of the United States and the State of Florida.

⁹ Section 99.061(7)(a), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 876.05, F.S., requires all persons who are employed by or are on the payroll of the state or any county, city, school board, school system, or institution of higher learning, except candidates for federal office, to swear or affirm that he or she will support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Florida.

- The candidate's financial disclosure.¹¹

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 620 adds to the list of items that a candidate must submit to the relevant filing officer in order to qualify. Specifically, if a candidate is a citizen of another country in addition to being a citizen of the United States, the candidate must submit a written statement disclosing such citizenship.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

¹¹ Section 105.031(5)(a), F.S.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill amends sections 99.061 and 105.031, Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
