

2019
CANDIDATE QUALIFYING
GUIDE





Dear Fellow Mississippians:

Our office is pleased to provide you with the *2019 Mississippi Elections Candidate Qualifying Guide*, which outlines candidate qualifications and procedures.

This publication offers a wealth of information for both potential candidates of political offices in the State, as well as Mississippians interested in the process. We encourage you to take advantage of the resources offered by our agency, and I hope you find this guide useful.



If we can assist you with additional information regarding this Guide, please do not hesitate to call the Elections Division of the Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State at (601) 576-2550 or (800) 829-6786, or you may email us at elections@sos.ms.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Delbert".

Delbert Hosemann
Secretary of State

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About This Guide

This *Candidate Qualifying Guide* provides essential information primarily for those candidates seeking Statewide, State District, Legislative, County, County District and school district office in 2019. Candidates should familiarize themselves with the legal qualifications required to seek and hold office, as well as the qualifying procedures.

A brief overview of all candidates' qualifications and qualifying forms may be found on the Secretary of State's website located at <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Candidate-Information.aspx>; and candidate qualifying guides from previous election years may be found archived on the website located here: <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Publications.aspx>.

For Assistance



Mail

Mississippi Secretary of State's Office
Attn: Elections Division
Post Office Box 136
Jackson, MS 39205-0136



Location

Mississippi Secretary of State's Office
The Heber Ladner Building
401 Mississippi Street
Jackson, MS 39201



Phone

(601) 576-2550
(800) 829-6786



Fax

(601) 576-2545



E-mail

elections@sos.ms.gov

2019 ELECTIONS CALENDAR

Primary Election Day	Tuesday, August 6, 2019
Primary Runoff Election Day	Tuesday, August 27, 2019
General Election Day	Tuesday, November 5, 2019
Regular Special Election Day	Tuesday, November 5, 2019
Special Runoff Election Day	Tuesday, November 26, 2019

2019 CANDIDATE QUALIFYING DATES

Statewide, State District, and Legislative Office

Qualifying Period Begins Wednesday, January 2, 2019
Qualifying Period Ends 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 1, 2019

County and County District Office

Qualifying Period Begins Wednesday, January 2, 2019
Qualifying Period Ends 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 1, 2019

County School Board Districts*

Qualifying Period Begins Wednesday, August 7, 2019
Qualifying Deadline5:00 p.m., Friday, September 6, 2019

Municipal Separate School District Trustee*

Qualifying Period Begins Wednesday, August 7, 2019
Qualifying Deadline5:00 p.m., Friday, September 6, 2019

Consolidated/Consolidated Line School District Trustee*

Qualifying Period Begins Wednesday, August 7, 2019
Qualifying Deadline5:00 p.m., Friday, September 6, 2019

Special Municipal Separate School District*

Qualifying Period Begins Wednesday, August 7, 2019
Qualifying Deadline5:00 p.m., Friday, September 6, 2019

County Special Elections

Qualifying Deadline5:00 p.m., Friday, September 6, 2019

Elections for School Board Member and School District Trustee are specific to the actual School District. Please contact the respective school district from which you seek election or the Circuit Clerk's Office to determine whether an election will be held in 2019 and, if so, for which position(s) in the School District. The Office of the Secretary of State makes no representation regarding the schedule of any school board election.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE

All candidates must meet the following requirements to qualify for office:

- Qualified elector (registered voter) of the State of Mississippi and of the district of the office for which the candidate seeks election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XII, § 250.*
- Never have been convicted of bribery, perjury or other infamous crime, being defined as a crime punishable by a minimum of one (1) year confinement in the state penitentiary, unless pardoned for the offense. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. IV, § 44.*
- Never have been convicted of a felony in a court of this state; or, of a felony in a federal court or of a crime in a court of another state which is a felony under the laws of this state on or after December 8, 1992; excluding, however, a conviction of manslaughter or a violation of the United States Internal Revenue Code or any violation of the tax laws of this state, unless the offense also involved the misuse or abuse of an office or money coming into a candidate's hands by virtue of an office. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. IV, § 44.*

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS BY OFFICE

STATEWIDE

GOVERNOR

A qualified elector, at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States 20 years, and a resident of the state five (5) years next preceding the day of election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. V, §117, Art. XII, §250.*

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

A qualified elector, at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States 20 years, and a resident of the state five (5) years next preceding the day of election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. V, §128, Art. XII, §250.*

SECRETARY OF STATE, AUDITOR, TREASURER, INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

A qualified elector, at least 25 years old, and a citizen of the state five (5) years next preceding the day of election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. V, §§133 and 134, Art. XII, §250; Miss. Code Ann. §83-1-3.*

ATTORNEY GENERAL

A qualified elector, a practicing attorney for five (5) years, at least 26 years old, and a citizen of the state five years. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VI, §173, Art. XII, §250.*

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE

A qualified elector with a general knowledge of agriculture, mining, manufacturing, statistics, and general industries and an experienced and practical agriculturist. *Miss. Code Ann. §69-1-1; Miss. Const. of 1890, art. XII, §250.*

STATE DISTRICT

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER

A qualified elector, at least 25 years old, a resident of the Supreme Court district in which he/she seeks election, and a citizen of the state five (5) years preceding the day of election. *Miss. Code Ann. §77-1-1; Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VII, §186, Art. XII, §250.*

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER

A qualified elector and a resident of the Supreme Court district in which he/she seeks election. *Miss. Code Ann. §65-1-3.*

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

A qualified elector of the district and a practicing attorney admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Mississippi for two years. *Miss. Code Ann. §25-31-1.*

STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE

A qualified elector of the state four (4) years, at least 25 years old, and an actual resident of the district or territory represented for two (2) years before the election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. IV, §42.*

REPRESENTATIVE

A qualified elector and resident citizen of the state four (4) years, at least 21 years old, and a resident of the district represented for two (2) years before the election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. IV, §41.*

COUNTY

SHERIFF

Not a defaulter to the state or any county or municipality or to the United States and a qualified elector. *Miss. Code Ann. §19-25-3; Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. V, §§135 and 138.*

CHANCERY CLERK, CIRCUIT CLERK, TAX ASSESSOR/COLLECTOR

A qualified elector of the county in which he/she seeks election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. V §§135 and 138; Art. VI, §168; Art. XII, §250.*

COUNTY ATTORNEY

A qualified elector and a regular licensed and practicing attorney. *Miss. Code Ann. §19-23-9.*

SURVEYOR

A registered land surveyor and a qualified elector of the county in which he/she seeks election. *Miss. Code Ann. §19-27-1; Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. V §§135 and 138; Art. XII, §250.*

CORONER

A qualified elector, at least 21 years of age, possessing a high school diploma or its equivalent, of the county in which he/she seeks election. The minimum education requirement shall not apply to any Coroner holding office on July 1, 1986, who is re-elected in the 1987 general election and thereafter as long as he/she maintains continuous active service. *Miss. Code Ann. §19-21-103; Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. V, §§135 and 138; Art. XII, §250.*

COUNTY DISTRICT

SUPERVISOR

A qualified elector of the county and a resident in the district in which he/she seeks election. *Miss. Code Ann. §19-3-3; Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XII, §250.*

JUSTICE COURT JUDGE

A qualified elector, a resident of the county two years preceding the day of election, a high school graduate or its equivalent, and completion of a course of training required by law within six months of the beginning of the term of office. *Miss. Code Ann. §9-11-3; Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VI, §171 and Art. XII, §250.*

CONSTABLE

A qualified elector in the county and district in which he/she seeks election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VI, §171 and Art. XII, §250.*

SCHOOL DISTRICT

COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

A resident and qualified elector (registered voter) of the district from which election is sought, and have a high school diploma or its equivalent. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-5-1.*

No person who is a resident of the territory embraced within a municipal separate school district or a special municipal separate school district is eligible to be a member of the county board of education. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-5-3.*

Each school board member shall be required to complete a basic course of training and education for local school board members conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association within six (6) months of his selection. In addition, each school board member shall be required to file annually in the office of the school board a certificate of completion of a course of continuing education conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-306.*

CONSOLIDATED/CONSOLIDATED LINE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE

A bona fide resident and qualified elector (registered voter) of the district in which election is sought, and have a high school diploma or its equivalent. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XII, §250; Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-7-201, 37-7-306.*

Each school board member shall be required to complete a basic course of training and education for local school board members conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association within six (6) months of his selection. In addition, each school board member shall be required to file annually in the office of the school board a certificate of completion of a course of continuing education conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-306.*

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE

A bona fide resident and qualified elector (registered voter) of the district in which election is sought, and have a high school diploma or its equivalent. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XII, § 250; Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-7-201; 37-7-306.*

Each school board member shall be required to complete a basic course of training and education for local school board members conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association within six (6) months of his selection. In addition, each school board member shall be required to file annually in the office of the school board a certificate of completion of a course of continuing education conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-306.*

SPECIAL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE

A bona fide resident and qualified elector (registered voter) of the district in which election is sought, and have a high school diploma or its equivalent. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XII, § 250; Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-7-201, 37-7-306, 37-7-707*

Each school board member shall be required to complete a basic course of training and education for local school board members conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association within six (6) months of his selection. In addition, each school board member shall be required to file annually in the office of the school board a certificate of completion of a course of continuing education conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-306.*

QUALIFYING FOR OFFICE

Most individuals seeking elected office may choose to qualify as either a political party or independent candidate. A political party candidate participates in the August Primary Election (and possibly the Primary Runoff Election three (3) weeks thereafter), seeking to win a particular political party's nomination for a specific office. The winning candidates in the Primary Elections move forward and participate in the November General Election as the respective political party's nominees for the respective offices. An independent candidate participates only in the November General Election and, for the purposes of the ballot, has no designated political party affiliation.

In Mississippi, candidates for special election, judicial office (with the exception of candidates for Justice Court Judge), County School Board, Consolidated/Consolidated Line School District Trustee, Municipal Separate School District Trustee and Special Municipal Separate School District Trustee run as non-partisan candidates and only participate in the November General Election, with no designation of a political party affiliation on the ballot or otherwise.

POLITICAL PARTY/PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATES

An individual who chooses to seek election as a partisan candidate and therefore participate in a primary election to seek the nomination of a particular political party must file with the proper office a "Qualifying Statement of Intent for a Candidate for Party Nomination," together with the applicable qualifying fee, on or before the qualifying deadline, as is explained further below. Qualifying forms for party candidates are available from the respective political party's state office or on the Secretary of State's website located at <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Candidate-Qualifying-Forms.aspx>.

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

An individual who chooses to seek election as an independent candidate must file with the proper office a "Qualifying Statement of Intent for an Independent Candidate," a qualifying petition, which must be signed by a certain number of qualified electors (registered voters) from the state, county or district from which the candidate seeks election and the applicable qualifying fee, on or before the qualifying deadline, as is explained further below. The number of signatures required on the qualifying petition is dependent upon the specific office sought by the candidate. Each candidate must obtain the certification of the signatures from the Circuit Clerk's Office of the county from where the signatures were collected prior to filing his/her qualifying paperwork with the appropriate office.

Independent candidates should budget sufficient time to ensure the certification of petition signatures by the respective Circuit Clerk's Office well in advance of the qualifying deadline. Qualifying forms for independent candidates are available from the Circuit Clerk's Office or on the Secretary of State's website located at <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Candidate-Qualifying-Forms.aspx>.

WHAT, WHEN, AND WHERE TO QUALIFY FOR OFFICE

FOR STATEWIDE, STATE DISTRICT, & LEGISLATIVE OFFICE:

As a Political Party Candidate:

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent for a Candidate for Party Nomination, and
- 2) Qualifying fee made payable to the appropriate State Party:
 - a. Governor: \$1,000.00.
 - b. Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, Attorney General, and Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce: \$500.00.
 - c. Public Service Commissioner and Transportation Commissioner: \$500.00.
 - d. District Attorney: \$250.00.
 - e. State Senate and State House of Representatives: \$250.00.
- 3) Filed with the appropriate State Party,
- 4) No later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2019. If qualifying by mail, please note, March 1, 2019 is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline, meaning the State Party must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 1, 2019.
- 5) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 6) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Secretary of State's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the applicable deadline(s).

* * * * *

As an Independent Candidate:

- 1) Petition signed by not less than the statutory required number of qualified electors (registered voters) of the State of Mississippi (or district, if applicable), certified by the Circuit Clerks' Offices of the respective counties from which the signatures were collected,
 - a. Governor: not less than one thousand (1,000) qualified electors of the State.
 - b. Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, Attorney General, and Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce: not less than one thousand (1,000) qualified electors of the State.
 - c. Public Service Commissioner and Transportation Commissioner: not less than three hundred (300) qualified electors of the district.
 - d. District Attorney: not less than one hundred (100) qualified electors of the district.
 - e. State Senate and State House of Representatives: not less than fifty (50) qualified electors of the district.

- 2) Qualifying Statement of Intent for an Independent Candidate, and
- 3) Qualifying fee made payable to the Secretary of State:
 - a. Governor: \$1,000.00.
 - b. Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, Attorney General, and Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce: \$500.00.
 - c. Public Service Commissioner and Transportation Commissioner: \$500.00.
 - d. District Attorney: \$250.00.
 - e. State Senate and State House of Representatives: \$250.00.
- 4) Filed with the Secretary of State's Office,
- 5) No later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2019. If qualifying by mail, please note, March 1, 2019 is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline, meaning the Secretary of State must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent, petition and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 1, 2019.
- 6) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 7) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Secretary of State's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the applicable deadline(s).

FOR COUNTY AND COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICE¹:

As a Political Party Candidate:

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent for a Candidate for Party Nomination, and
- 2) Qualifying fee made payable in the amount of \$100.00 to the appropriate Party.
- 3) Filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office,
- 4) No later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2019. If qualifying by mail, please note, March 1, 2019 is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline, meaning the Circuit Clerk's Office must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 1, 2019.
- 5) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 6) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the applicable deadline(s).

¹ County and County District Office includes the offices of sheriff, chancery clerk, circuit clerk, tax assessor, tax collector, county attorney, county supervisor, surveyor, coroner, justice court judge and constable.

As an Independent Candidate:

- 1) Petition signed by not less than the statutory required number of qualified electors (registered voters) of the County (and district if applicable), certified by the Circuit Clerks' Offices of the respective county from which the signatures were collected,
 - a. Countywide office: not less than fifty (50) qualified electors of the county.
 - b. County district office: not less than fifteen (15) qualified electors of the district.
- 2) Qualifying Statement of Intent for an Independent Candidate, and
- 3) Qualifying fee made payable in the amount of \$100.00 to the County,
- 4) Filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office.
- 5) No later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2019. If qualifying by mail, please note, March 1, 2019 is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline, meaning the Secretary of State must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent, petition and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 1, 2019.
- 6) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 7) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the applicable deadline(s).

* * * * *

FOR COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, SPECIAL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE OR CONSOLIDATED/CONSOLIDATED LINE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE:

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent, and
- 2) Petition signed by not less than fifty (50) qualified electors (registered voters) of the district from which election is sought², certified by the Circuit Clerk's Office of the county from which the signatures were collected,
- 3) Filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office,
- 4) No more than ninety (90) days (Wednesday, August 7, 2019) nor later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixtieth (60th) day before the election (Friday, September 6, 2019).

² If there are less than one hundred (100) qualified electors (registered voters) of the district from which election is sought, the qualifying petition must be signed by not less than twenty percent (20.0%) of the qualified electors of the district.

- 5) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 6) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the applicable deadline(s).

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FOR MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE:

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent,
- 2) Petition, with Affidavit, signed by not less than fifty (50) qualified electors (registered voters) of the district from which election is sought³, certified by the Circuit Clerk's Office of the county from which the signatures were collected,
- 3) Filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office,
- 4) No more than ninety (90) days (Wednesday, August 7, 2019) nor later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixtieth (60th) day before the election (Friday, September 6, 2019).
- 5) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 6) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the applicable deadline(s).

³ If there are less than one hundred (100) qualified electors (registered voters) of the district from which election is sought, the qualifying petition must be signed by not less than twenty percent (20.0%) of the qualified electors of the district.

STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST

Excluding federal office holders, all elected officials, appointed officials and candidates seeking office are required to electronically file a Statement of Economic Interest with the Mississippi Ethics Commission. Candidates for elected office must file within fifteen (15) days of qualifying. Persons appointed to office must file within thirty (30) days of the appointment. Incumbents must file each and every year on or before May 1st.

Additional information may be obtained directly from the Mississippi Ethics Commission:

Mississippi Ethics Commission
600 North Street, Suite 100-C
Post Office Box 22746 (39225-2746)
Jackson, Mississippi 39202
Telephone: (601) 359-1285
Facsimile: (601) 359-1292
info@ethics.state.ms.us; www.ethics.state.ms.us

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Excluding candidates for federal office, Mississippi law requires all candidates for elective office to file campaign finance disclosure reports. Under the law, one is a candidate if he/she has filed qualifying papers or has spent or received *over \$200 in the aggregate* in furtherance of an election campaign. Following the qualifying deadline, all persons who have filed qualifying papers are candidates under the law, even if they have not received or spent any money whatsoever in furtherance of a campaign. Forms necessary for compliance with these laws are available from the Secretary of State's Office or the Circuit Clerk's Office. Campaign Finance reporting forms also may be downloaded from the Secretary of State's website located at <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Campaign-Finance-Lobbying.aspx>.

What information must be reported?

- All Reports of Receipts and Disbursements filed under state law must be complete and include:
- Name, address, contact information, the office sought and political party affiliation, if any, of the candidate,
 - The total amount of contributions received during the reporting period, both itemized and non-itemized, and an aggregate year-to-date total of all contributions,
 - The total amount of disbursements made during the reporting period, both itemized and non-itemized, and an aggregate year-to-date total of all disbursements, and
 - The total amount of cash on hand to date.

Itemized Contributions

A contribution must be included within the itemized total of contributions on the "Report of Receipts and Disbursements" and separately reported on the "Itemized Receipts" attachment to the

report if the year-to-date aggregate total of the contribution(s) received from a particular person, business or entity exceeds \$200.00. A contribution separately itemized on the “Itemized Receipts” must identify the contribution by contributor type, contributor name and address, date(s) and amount(s) for the reporting period and aggregate year-to-date total, and the occupation or employer of the contributor, if applicable.

Itemized Disbursements

A disbursement must be included within the itemized total of disbursements on the “Report of Receipts and Disbursements” and separately reported on the “Itemized Disbursements” attachment to the report if the year-to-date aggregate total of the disbursement(s) made to a particular person, business or entity exceeds \$200.00. A disbursement separately itemized on the “Itemized Disbursements” must be identified by the recipient’s name and address, the date(s) and amount(s) for the reporting period and aggregate year-to-date total, and purpose of the disbursement. *Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-807(d)(ii)(iii).*

Non-Itemized Contributions and Disbursements

Contributions and disbursements with year to date aggregate totals equal to or less than \$200.00 in a calendar year are not itemized. However, these amounts are included in the totals of all contributions and of all disbursements for the reporting period on the “Report of Receipts and Disbursements.”

When are reports due?

Reports are due in the appropriate office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the deadline. If a deadline falls on a weekend or legal holiday, the report is due at 5:00 p.m. on the first working day preceding the weekend or legal holiday. Statutory deadlines are provided on the front of each reporting form and on the schedule following hereafter.

The appropriate office must be in actual receipt of the report by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline. It is the responsibility of the candidate to make sure the report is delivered on time. *Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-807(e).*

Where to Report?

Candidates for **Statewide, State District, and Legislative Office** file with the Secretary of State’s Office.

Candidates for **County and County District Office** file with the Circuit Clerk’s Office.

What types of reports must a candidate file this year?

Candidates for **Statewide, State District, Legislative, County and County District Office and political committees supporting or opposing these 2019 candidates** must file the following campaign finance reports on the following deadlines:

- January 31, 2019 (2018 Annual Report), due if any money was raised or spent in 2018.
- May 10, 2019 Periodic Report, for the period January 1, 2019 through April 30, 2019.
- June 10, 2019 Periodic Report, for the period May 1, 2019 through May 31, 2019.
- July 10, 2019 Periodic Report, for the period June 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019.
- July 30, 2019 Primary Pre-Election Report (for opposed candidates only, and those political committees supporting or opposing those candidates), for the period July 1, 2019 through July 27, 2019.
- August 20, 2019 Primary Runoff Pre-Election Report, for the period July 28, 2019 through August 17, 2019 (for only those candidates whose names will appear on the Runoff Election ballot and those political committees supporting or opposing those runoff election candidates).
- October 10, 2019 Periodic Report, for the period July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019.
- October 29, 2019 Pre-Election Report (for opposed candidates only, and those political committees supporting or opposing those candidates), for the period October 1, 2019 through October 26, 2019.
- November 19, 2019 Pre-Runoff Election Report, for the period October 27, 2019 through November 16, 2019 (for only those candidates whose names will appear on the Runoff Election ballot and those political committees supporting or opposing those candidates).
- January 10, 2020 Periodic Report, for the period October 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

Candidates for **School District Offices** must file the following campaign finance reports on the following deadlines:

- October 29, 2019 Pre-Election Report, for the period January 1, 2019 through October 26, 2019.
- November 19, 2019 Pre-Runoff Election Report, for the period October 28, 2019 through November 16, 2019 (for only those candidates whose names will appear on a Runoff Election ballot).
- 2019 Annual Report due no later than January 31, 2020, for the period on January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

A candidate should simply check (√) the type of report being submitted on his/her form. A candidate may file a Termination Report at the same time as another scheduled report by placing a check in the blank preceding both the scheduled report and the Termination Report. Candidates and political committees are required to continue to file campaign finance disclosure reports in accordance with the applicable statutory schedule, which changes from year to year, unless and until a Termination Report is filed with the appropriate office. A Termination Report may only be filed if the candidate or political committee no longer accepts contributions or makes expenditures and has no outstanding debts.

Campaign finance forms are available on the Secretary of State's website located at <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Campaign-Finance-Lobbying.aspx>. Please refer to the separately published *Campaign Finance Guide* for more detailed information pertaining to the campaign finance disclosure and reporting requirements.

Learning More about Elections in Mississippi

For further information about Mississippi elections, visit our website at www.sos.ms.gov. At that location, you will find additional publications and resources for both the candidate as well as the voter.

This qualifying guide has been produced as an aid and a convenience for candidates who wish to qualify for elected office in 2019. Candidates should be aware changes in state law enacted or court decisions made after the printing of this guide may affect deadlines or other substantive provisions of election law. Accordingly, candidates should review all current election and campaign finance disclosure laws.

This guide does not provide information for candidates seeking to qualify for any specially called election in 2019. Candidates interested in qualifying for a specially called election should contact their Circuit Clerk's Office or the Secretary of State's Office for additional information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

**Mississippi Secretary of State's Office
Post Office Box 136
Jackson, Mississippi 39205**

Elections Call Center	(601) 576-2250
Elections Hotline	(800) 829-6786
Elections Fax	(601) 576-2545
Mississippi Ethics Commission	(601) 359-1285
Mississippi Attorney General's Office	(601) 359-3680