

2016
MISSISSIPPI ELECTIONS
Candidate Qualifying
Guide



DELBERT HOSEMAN
Secretary of State

NOTE:

This qualifying guide is provided for your convenience, as an aid for candidates who wish to qualify for elected state, state district, county and county-district offices in 2016. Candidates should be aware that changes in State law enacted, or court decision made, after the printing of this guide may change deadlines or other substantive provisions of election law. Accordingly, candidates should review all current election and campaign finance laws relevant to the office.

This guide is not intended to address qualifying for special elections. Candidates interested in qualifying for special elections should contact their Circuit Clerk or the Secretary of State's office for additional information.

This guide, revised and published September 2015, supersedes all previous editions of the Candidate Qualifying Guide issued by the Secretary of State's office.



DELBERT HOSEMANN
Secretary of State

Dear Fellow Mississippians:

Our office is pleased to provide you with the 2016 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 elections 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 not included the Mississippi Elections Candidate Qualifying 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. You may email us at elections@sos.ms.gov.

Sincerely,



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2016 Elections Calendar

Party Primary ElectionTuesday, March 8, 2016

Party Primary Runoff Election Tuesday, March 29, 2016

General/Special Election Tuesday, November 8, 2016

Special Runoff Election Tuesday, November 29, 2016

2016 Candidate Qualifying Dates

Party Primary Candidates for President:

Qualifying Period Begins Monday, January 4, 2016

Qualifying Deadline 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 15, 2016

Party Primary and Independent Candidates for U.S. House:

Qualifying Period Begins Monday, January 4, 2016

Qualifying Deadline 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 8, 2016

Judicial Candidates:

Qualifying Period Begins Monday, January 4, 2016

Qualifying Deadline 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 6, 2016

Independent Candidates for President:

Qualifying Period Begins Monday, January 4, 2016

Qualifying Deadline 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 9, 2016

County Election Commissioner:

Qualifying Period Begins Monday, January 4, 2016

Qualifying Deadline 5:00 p.m., Monday, June 6, 2016

County Board of Education:

Qualifying Period Begins Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Qualifying Deadline 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 9, 2016

Consolidated/Consolidated Line School District Trustee:

Qualifying Period Begins Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Qualifying Deadline 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 9, 2016

Special Municipal Separate School District Trustee¹ :

Qualifying Period Begins Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Qualifying Deadline 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 9, 2016

Municipal Separate School District Trustee:

Qualifying Period Begins Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Qualifying Deadline 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 9, 2016

County and County District Special Election Candidates:

Qualifying Deadline 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 9, 2016

¹ Warren County/Vicksburg Special Municipal Separate School District Trustee:
Qualifying Deadline, 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 9, 2016.

Purpose

This qualifying guide provides essential information for candidates seeking office in Mississippi's regularly scheduled federal, state district, and county elections as well as certain school board school district elections in 2016. This guide begins with an overview of the qualifying process for party, independent, and non-partisan candidates seeking public office. Candidates should familiarize themselves with the legal qualifications and the qualifying procedures for the office they intend to seek.

This guide only provides information about elected offices for which an election will be held during 2016.

All candidates must file campaign finance reports. While this guide provides a brief explanation of the applicable campaign finance reporting requirements, please refer to the *Campaign Finance Guide* for more complete instructions. Candidates for federal office are not required to file campaign finance reports in Mississippi, but all federal candidates should verify reporting requirements with the Federal Election Commission (FEC). Keep in mind, a winning candidate who fails to file any required campaign finance report may not take office. A failure to file required campaign finance reports also could result in the imposition of criminal and civil penalties.

Qualifications for Office

All candidates for U.S. Congress, state district, judicial, county, and county district offices must:

- Be a qualified elector (registered voter) of the State of Mississippi and of the district, county or county district of the office for which he seeks election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Article XII, § 250.*
- Never have been convicted of bribery, perjury or other infamous crime, being a crime punishable by a minimum of one (1) year confinement in the state penitentiary, i.e., all felonies, unless pardoned for the offense. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Article IV, § 44.*
- Never have been convicted of a felony in a court of this state, or, on or after December 8, 1992, of a felony in a federal court, or of an offense in the court of another state which is a felony under the laws of this state, as provided in Section 44 of the Mississippi Constitution; excluding, however, convictions of manslaughter and violations of the United States Internal Revenue Code or any violations 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, Article IV, § 44.*

Federal Office

U. S. PRESIDENT

Qualifications:

No Person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States at the time of the Adoption of the Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States. *U.S. Constitution Article II, Section I.*

For a party presidential candidate qualifying by petition:

Any person desiring to have his name placed on the presidential preference primary ballot shall file a petition or petitions in support of his candidacy with the state executive committee of the appropriate political party after January 1 of the year in which the presidential preference primary is to be held and before January 15 of that same year. To comply with this requirement, a candidate may file a petition or petition or petitions signed by a total of not less than 500 qualified electors of the state, or petitions signed by not less than 100 qualified electors of each congressional district of the state, in which case there shall be a separate petition for each congressional district. (Petitions can be obtained from the appropriate state executive committee.) *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-1093 (1972).*

For independent presidential candidates:

Independent candidates must submit a petition signed by not less than 1,000 qualified electors of the state. Signatures must be certified by the appropriate circuit clerk in each county from which signatures are collected. The petition must be filed with the State Board of Election Commissioners by filing the same in the office of the Secretary of State by 5:00 p.m. not less than 60 days before the general election. *Miss. Code Ann. §§23-15-785; 23-15-359 (1972).*

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

Qualifications:

Each congressional district shall be entitled to one (1) representative, who shall have attained the age of twenty-five (25) years, and been seven (7) years a citizen of the United States, and who shall, when elected, be an inhabitant of the state. *Miss. Code Ann., §23-15-1035 (1972).*

Fee for political party candidates: \$200 paid to respective state executive committee's secretary. *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-297 (1972).*

Party candidates submit a qualifying statement of intent along with the qualifying fee.

Independent candidates file a qualifying statement of intent and a petition with the Secretary of State containing signatures of not less than 200 qualified electors of the district. *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-299 (1972).*

State District Office

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Qualifications:

A qualified elector of the Supreme Court District in which election is sought, at least 30 years of age, a practicing attorney and citizen of the state for five years immediately preceding appointment. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Article VI, §150 and Article XII §250.*

Fee for all candidates: \$200 made payable to the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office.

Qualifiers must file a statement of intent to be a candidates with the Secretary of State's Office.

COURT OF APPEALS

Qualifications:

A qualified elector of the Court of Appeals District in which election is sought, at least 30 years of age, a practicing attorney, and

a citizen of the state for five (5) years preceding the day of election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, art XII, §250, Miss. Code Ann. §9-4-5 (1972).*

Fee for all candidates: \$200 made payable to the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office.

Qualifiers must file a statement of intent to be a candidate with the Secretary of State's Office.

County District Office

ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Qualifications:

A qualified election for the county and district in which election is sought. *Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-213 (1972).*

No fee for candidates, but a petition containing the signatures fifty (50) qualified electors of the supervisor's district as verified by the county circuit clerk must be filed with county chancery clerk.

School District Office

COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICTS 1 & 2

A candidate for membership on the County Board of Education shall be a bona fide resident and qualified elector of the district in which election is sought, and shall have a high school diploma or its equivalent. *Miss. Code Ann. § § 37-5-1, 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. See also, *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-4.*

CONSOLIDATED/CONSOLIDATED LINE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE

A candidate for Consolidated/Consolidated Line School District Trustee shall be a bona fide resident and qualified elector of the district in which election is sought, and shall have a high school diploma or its equivalent. *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. See also, *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-4.*

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE

A candidate for Municipal Separate School District Trustee shall be a bona fide resident and qualified elector of such school district, and shall have a high school diploma or its equivalent. *Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-7-201, 37-7-203, 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. See also, *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-4.*

SPECIAL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE

A candidate for Special Municipal Separate School District Trustee shall be a bona fide resident and qualified elector of such school district, and shall have a high school diploma or its equivalent. *Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-7-201, 37-7-707, 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. See also, *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-4*.

Candidate Requirements

An individual considering a run for office must choose to either participate in a primary election as a candidate seeking a particular political party's nomination or qualify as an independent candidate, who, for the purposes of the ballot, has no designated political party affiliation and only participates in the November General Election. All Judicial candidates run as non-partisan candidates and only participate in the November General Election.

Party Candidates

An individual who chooses to participate in a primary election to seek the nomination of a particular political party must submit, to 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 more thoroughly explained hereafter. Qualifying forms for party candidates are available from your Circuit Clerk's Office, the respective political party's state headquarters, the Secretary of State's Office or on-line at <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Candidate-Qualifying-Forms.aspx>.

Independent Candidates

An individual who does not chooses to seek election for an office as an independent candidate does not pay a qualifying fee but must submit, to the proper office, a qualifying statement of intent

for an independent candidate, together with 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, as is more thoroughly explained hereafter. 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 submitting his qualifying papers to the appropriate office.

Independent candidates should budget sufficient time to ensure the certification of the signatures prior to the date the qualifying papers are to be submitted to the appropriate office by the qualifying deadline. Receiving offices will not accept qualifying papers unless the required number of signatures has been certified by the Circuit Clerk's Office of the respective counties from which the signatures were collected.

Qualifying forms for independent candidates are available from your Circuit Clerk's Office, the Secretary of State's Office or on-line at <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Candidate-Qualifying-Forms.aspx>.

Non-Partisan Judicial Candidates

In Mississippi, all judicial candidates (with the exception of candidates for Justice Court Judge) must run as non-partisan candidates.

Qualifying forms for non-partisan judicial candidates are available from the Secretary of State's Office or on-line at <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Candidate-Qualifying-Forms.aspx>.

Statement of Economic Interest

All candidates seeking office in the 2016 Primary and/or General Elections, excluding U.S. President, U.S. Congressman, election commissioner, and levee board, are required to file a Statement of Economic Interest with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying. Additional information and forms may be obtained directly from the Mississippi Ethics Commission or on-line.

**Mississippi Ethics Commission
Burroughs Building
146 East Amite Street, Room 103
Jackson, Mississippi 39201
<http://www.ethics.state.ms.us>**

Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports

All candidates seeking office in the 2016 Primary and/or General Elections are required to file campaign finance disclosure reports as required by Mississippi law.* These reporting requirements are set forth briefly herein and in greater detail in a separate publication of the Secretary of State's Office, Campaign Finance Disclosure in Mississippi and by statute, Miss. Code Ann. §§ 23-15-801, et seq. Forms are available from your Circuit Clerk's Office, the Secretary of State's Office or on-line at <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Campaign-Finance-Forms.aspx>.

** Candidates for federal office are not required to file campaign finance reports in Mississippi. Federal candidates should verify reporting requirements with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) by visiting their website at www.fec.gov or calling 1(800)424-9530.*

What, When and Where to File

U.S. PRESIDENT

Qualifying as a Candidate for Party Nomination:

1. On or before December 15, 2015, the Secretary of State shall publicly announce the candidate he intends to place on the presidential preference primary ballot (s) which are generally recognized throughout the United States or Mississippi as a candidate for the nomination of President (See *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-1089*) , OR
2. File a petition or petitions in support of his/her candidacy with the state executive committee of the appropriate political party after January 1, 2016 but before 5:00 p.m. January 15, 2016 signed by not less than the following number of qualified electors (registered voters), certified by the Circuit Clerk of the respective county from where the signatures were collected:
 - Not less than five hundred (500) qualified electors of the state, OR
 - Not less than one hundred (100) qualified electors from each congressional district of the state. *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-1093.*

Qualifying as an Independent Candidate:

1. Qualifying Petition, signed by not less than the following number of qualified electors (registered voters), certified by the Circuit Clerk of the respective county from where the signatures were collected by the candidate. For U.S. President, not less than 1000 qualified electors of the state. *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-785.*
2. Filed with the Secretary of State's office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 9, 2016.

NOTE: The qualifying date is an actual receipt deadline and cannot be extended under any circumstance.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

Qualifying as a Candidate for Party Nomination:

1. Qualifying Statement of Intent for a Candidate for Party Nomination, and
2. Qualifying fee made payable to the appropriate State Party Executive Committee. The qualifying fee(s) for candidates seeking party nominations for office are as follows:
 - U.S. Representative: \$200. *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-297*
3. Filed with the appropriate State Party Executive Committee no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2016.

NOTE: The qualifying date is an actual receipt deadline and cannot be extended under any circumstance.

Qualifying as an Independent Candidate:

1. Qualifying Statement of Intent for a Candidate for an Independent Candidate, and
2. Qualifying Petition, signed by not less than the following number of qualified electors (registered voters), certified by the Circuit Clerk of the respective county from where the signatures were collected by the candidate:
 - U.S. Representative, not less than 200 qualified electors of the district. *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-359*
3. Filed with the Secretary of State's office, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2016.

NOTE: The qualifying date is an actual receipt deadline and cannot be extended under any circumstance.

FOR NON-PARTISAN JUDICIAL OFFICE

Qualifying as a Candidate for Non-Partisan Judicial Office:

1. Qualifying Statement of Intent for a Candidate for Judicial Candidate,
2. Affidavit of Judicial Candidate notarized or acknowledged by an official authorized to administer oaths, and
3. Qualifying fee made payable to the State Board of Election Commissioners. The qualifying fee(s) for candidates seeking judicial office are as follows:
 - Supreme Court: \$200. *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-977*
 - Court of Appeals: \$200. *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-977*
4. Filed with the Secretary of State's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 6, 2016.

NOTE: The qualifying date is an actual receipt deadline and cannot be extended under any circumstance.

5. Statement of Economic Interest, within fifteen (15) days of qualifying, with the Mississippi Ethics Commission, located at 146 E. Amite Street, Room 103, Burroughs Bldg., Jackson, MS 39201; (601) 359-1285.
6. 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 DISTRICT OFFICES

Qualifying as a Candidate for Election Commissioner:

1. Qualifying Statement of Intent for a Candidate for an Independent Candidate, and
2. Qualifying Petition, signed by not less than fifty (50) qualified electors (registered voters), certified by the Circuit Clerk of the

1. respective supervisor's district from where the signatures were collected by the candidate.
2. Filed with the County Chancery Clerk's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2016.

NOTE: The qualifying date is an actual receipt deadline and cannot be extended under any circumstance.

3. Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the appropriate Circuit Clerk's office by 5:00 p.m. on the applicable deadline(s).

FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE

County Board of Education (Districts 1 & 2) and School District Trustee (Consolidated/Consolidated Line, Municipal Separate and Special Municipal Separate)

Qualifying as a Non-Partisan Candidate:

1. Qualifying Statement of Intent² and,
2. Petition signed by not less than fifty (50) qualified electors of the area represented by the office³, certified by the Circuit Clerk of the county from which the signatures were collected.

² For a Municipal Separate School District Trustee candidate only, the Qualifying Statement of Intent must be accompanied by an Affidavit of the Candidate. All qualifying forms are available from your Circuit Clerk's Office, the Secretary of State's Office and on-line at <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Candidate-Qualifying-Forms.aspx>.

³ Where there are less than one hundred (100) qualified electors in the area to be represented by the trustee, the petition of nomination shall be signed by at least twenty percent (20.0%) of the qualified electors in the area.

1. Filed with the County Election Commission/Circuit Clerk's Office no more than ninety (90) days nor later than 5:00 p.m. sixty (60) days before the election, i.e., no earlier than Wednesday, August 10, 2016 and no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 9, 2016.⁴
2. Statement of Economic Interest, within fifteen (15) days of qualifying, with the Mississippi Ethics Commission, located at 146 E. Amite Street, Room 103, Burroughs Bldg., Jackson, MS 39201; (601) 359-1285.
3. Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the appropriate Circuit Clerk's office by 5:00 p.m. on the applicable deadline(s).

⁴*A candidate for Trustee for the Vicksburg/Warren County Special Municipal School District may file qualifying papers prior to Wednesday, August 10, 2016; however, the qualifying deadline remains the same, i.e., 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 9, 2016.*

Political Party Contact Information

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF MISSISSIPPI

- P.O. Box 1583, Jackson, MS 39215
- (601) 969-2913 / (601) 354-1599 FAX
- Email: rcole@mississippidemocrats.org
- Website: www.msdemocrats.net

MISSISSIPPI REPUBLICAN PARTY

- P.O. Box 60, Jackson, MS 39205-0060
- (601) 948-5191 / (601) 354-0972 FAX
- Email: chairman@msgop.org
- Website: www.msgop.org

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MISSISSIPPI

- 1625 E. County Line Road, Suite 200-145, Jackson, MS 39211
- Website: www.lp.org/states/mississippi
- <http://mslp.org/>

REFORM PARTY OF MISSISSIPPI

- 142 Old Highway 98 West, Tylertown, MS 39667
- Email: RPMS@rpusa.info; info@rpusa.info
- Website: www.rpusa.info/mississippi
- <http://reformpartyms.net/>

THE CONSTITUTION PARTY

- 9301 Dogwood Avenue, Ocean Springs, MS 39564
- Website: www.natural-law.org

GREEN PARTY OF MISSISSIPPI

- 707D McLarty Road, Oxford, MS 38655
- 8 Gumtree Drive, Oxford, MS 38655
- (601) 352-3398
- Email: greenpartyms@hotmail.com
- Website: www.greenpartyms.com

AMERICA FIRST PARTY

- 405 River Road, Greenwood, MS 38930
- (662) 453-8412
- Website: www.americafirstparty.org
- mississippi.americafirstparty.org

JUSTICE PARTY

- 850 N. Jefferson Street, A4, Jackson, MS 39202
- (601) 960-0667

Campaign Finance Reporting Requirements

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 \$200 in the aggregate. Reports must be filed by all candidates even if they have not received contributions or made any expenditures.

What to Report:

All reports filed under state law must include aggregate year-to-date and reporting period totals of contributions received and expenditures and disbursements made from all sources. Total cash on hand must be reported. *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-807 (d)(i)*.

Each report must also include each of the following categories:

ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS

Each report must contain an itemized listing of each contributor, including name, address, occupation, employer, date of each contribution, and amount of each contribution giving year-to-date totals aggregating to more than \$200. *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-807 (d)(ii)*.

The grand total of itemized contributions plus non-itemized contributions must be disclosed. *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-807 (d)(iii)(1972)*.

ITEMIZED DISBURSEMENTS

Each report must contain an itemized listing of each person, business, or entity including name, address, occupation, employer, date of each expenditure or disbursement, and each amount receiving year-to-date totals aggregating to more than \$200. *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-807 (d)(ii)*. The grand total of

itemized expenditures plus non-itemized expenditures must be disclosed. *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-807 (d)(iii)*.

NON-ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Contributions and disbursements aggregating to \$200 or less in a calendar year do not have to be itemized. However, these amounts are included in the grand total of all contributions and the grand total of all disbursements as indicated on the cover sheet of each report.

REPORTING THRESHOLD

All candidates and political committees must fully itemize (identify) the source of contributions and itemize expenditures when they aggregate to \$200.01 or more in a calendar year. *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-807*.

Campaign finance forms are available from the Circuit Clerk's Office, the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ms.gov or by calling the Secretary of State's office at (601) 576-2550 or 1-800-829-6786. Please refer to the Secretary of State's *Campaign Finance Guide*, for detailed information on campaign finance procedures and a complete copy of Mississippi's campaign finance disclosure laws.

Where to Report:

- Candidates for Statewide and State District office file with the Secretary of State's office.
- Candidates for Legislative office file with the Secretary of State's office.
- Candidates for Countywide office file with the respective Circuit Clerk's office of the County.
- Candidates for County District office file with the respective Circuit Clerk's office of the County.

When to Report:

Reports are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on the applicable deadline(s) in the proper office. (See *Campaign Finance Reporting Schedule*.)

If the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, the report is due at 5:00 p.m. on the first working day prior to the weekend or holiday. The appropriate office must be in actual receipt of the required report no later than 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date. *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-807 (e)*.

NOTE:

48 HOUR REPORT

If a candidate or candidate's committee receives a contribution of more than \$200 after the tenth day, but more than 48 hours before 12:01 a.m. on the day of the election, the candidate or candidate's committee must fully disclose the contribution by filing a 48 Hour Report with the appropriate office within 48 hours of the contribution. *Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-807(f)(i)*.

TERMINATION REPORT

Required by all candidates and all political committees in order to end reporting obligations. To be eligible for termination, the candidate or committee must no longer be soliciting contributions, no longer making campaign disbursements, nor have any outstanding debts or financial obligations.

2016 Campaign Finance Reporting Schedule

Friday, January 29, 2016 Annual Report
(January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015)

All candidates and all Political Committees that received funds or made expenditures in Mississippi during the year 2015.

Excludes offices elected in 2015.

Tuesday, May 10, 2016 Periodic Report
(January 1, 2016, through April 30, 2016)

Friday, June 10, 2016 Periodic Report
(May 1, 2015, through May 31, 2015)

Friday, July 8, 2016 Periodic Report
(June 1, 2015, through June 30, 2015)

Monday, October 10, 2016 Periodic Report
(July 1, 2015, through September 30, 2015)

Tuesday, November 1, 2016Pre-Election Report
(October 1, 2016 through October 29, 2016)

All General and Special Election Candidates and Political Committees

Tuesday, November 22, 2016Pre-Runoff Report
(October 30, 2016, through November 19, 2016)

Candidates and Political Committees in the General Runoff Election Only

Tuesday, January 10, 2017Periodic Report
(October 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015)

Tuesday, January 31, 2017 Annual Report
(January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015)

All candidates and all Political Committees that received funds or made expenditures in Mississippi during the year 2016 that were not in the 2016 election.

NOTE:

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This guide is not intended to address qualifying for special elections. Candidates interested in qualifying for special elections should contact their Circuit Clerk or the Secretary of State's office for additional information.

This guide, revised and published September 2015, supersedes all previous editions of the Candidate Qualifying Guide issued by the Secretary of State's office.



DELBERT HOSEMAN
Secretary of State

Mississippi Secretary of State's Office

Post Office Box 136
Jackson, Mississippi 39205
www.sos.ms.gov

Elections Call Center	(601) 576-2250
Elections Hotline	1-800-829-6786
Elections Fax	(601) 576-2545
Elections Fax (Alternate)	(601) 359-5019
Mississippi Ethics Commission	(601) 359-1285
Mississippi Attorney General's Office	(601) 359-3680

For further information about Mississippi's elections, please visit our website located at www.sos.ms.gov. Additional publications from the Elections Division may be downloaded from the website.