

2026 Methods of Qualifying for the Ballot

Qualifying Week:

Judicial: Noon, Monday, April 20, 2026 – Noon, Friday, April 24, 2026

County and Special District: Noon, Monday, June 8, 2026 – Noon, Friday, June 12, 2026

Qualifying methods:

1. Petition: Based on the number of signatures equal to 1% of the number of registered voters in Indian River County as of the last general election. **Exception:** 25 petitions for special district candidates.

2. Fee: Based on salary of office sought as of July 1 immediately preceding the first day of qualifying. Partisan candidates: 6% Non-partisan candidates: 4% **Exception:** Fee is \$25 for special district candidates.

3. Write-in: A write-in candidate is not entitled to have his or her name printed on any ballot; however, space for the write-in candidate's name to be written in must be provided on the general election ballot.

*Petition signatures may be collected as soon as candidates file for office. Candidates must collect the signatures of 1% of the total number of registered voters as of the last general election (November 2024).

Petition form **DS-DE 104** may be obtained from the Supervisor of Elections office or online at <https://dos.fl.gov/elections/>. There is a signature verification fee of 10 cents per petition. During qualifying week, candidates must present their Certificate of Petition Qualifying indicating the petition requirements have been met.

All candidates must submit **all** of their petitions to the Supervisor of Elections **before noon, 3/23/26 for County Court Judge and before noon, 5/11/26 for all other offices.**

Office sought	Valid petitions needed	Petition <u>due</u> date	Qualifying Fee:	Qualifying Fee:	Qualifying dates
			Non Partisan	Partisan	
County Commissioner Districts 2,4	1,209	Noon 5/11/26	\$3,439.64	\$5,159.46	Noon 6/8/26 to Noon 6/12/26
School Board Districts 1,2,4	1,209	Noon 5/11/26	\$1,831.52	n/a	Noon 6/8/26 to Noon 6/12/26
Hospital Districts 2,4,6	25	Noon 5/11/26	\$25	n/a	Noon 6/8/26 to Noon 6/12/26
Soil & Water Conservation Districts 1,3,5	25	Noon 5/11/26	\$25	n/a	Noon 6/8/26 to Noon 6/12/26
Mosquito Control District Seat 2	25	Noon 5/11/26	\$25	n/a	Noon 6/8/26 to Noon 6/12/26

***Do not start collecting signatures until the DS-DE 9 Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository form has been filed with qualifying officer. Qualifying methods subject to any changes in legislation.**