

# Running for Office in 2024

- Qualifications to be a candidate
- 90 day party affiliation requirements (for partisan contests)
- Running as an unaffiliated candidate (nomination via petition)
- Filing a Notice of Candidacy
- Pay the appropriate filing fee
- Campaign Finance regulations
- When to register a candidate committee (first activity)
- How to register a candidate committee
  - Naming your candidate committee
  - Appointment of a treasurer
  - Bank accounts
  - \$1,000 Threshold



# Candidate Requirements

- Must be registered to vote in North Carolina
- Must be qualified to vote in an election for the office sought
- Must be 21 years old by the date of the general election

Office	Additional Requirements
NC House	Candidates must have resided in the district for one year immediately prior to the general election
NC Senate	Be at least 25 years of age and have resided in the state as a citizen for two years and in the district for one year prior to the general election



# Party Affiliation Requirements

No person shall be permitted to file as a candidate in a party primary unless that person has been affiliated with that party for at least 90 days as of the date of that person filing such notice of candidacy. A person registered as "unaffiliated" shall be ineligible to file as a candidate in a party primary election.

Filing Dates	90 days affiliated with political party
Monday, December 4, 2023 <i>(candidate filing begins) 12:00pm</i>	Tuesday, September 5, 2023
Tuesday, December 5, 2023	Wednesday, September 6, 2023
Wednesday, December 6, 2023	Thursday, September 7, 2023
Thursday, December 7, 2023	Friday, September 8, 2023
Friday, December 8, 2023	Saturday, September 9, 2023
Monday, December 11, 2023	Tuesday, September 12, 2023
Tuesday, December 12, 2023	Wednesday, September 13, 2023
Wednesday, December 13, 2023	Thursday, September 14, 2023
Thursday, December 14, 2023	Friday, September 15, 2023
Friday, December 15, 2023 <i>(candidate filing ends) 12:00pm</i>	Saturday, September 16, 2023



# Filing As An Unaffiliated Candidate

- Nominated by collecting petition signatures from registered voters
- Number of signatures required depends on the office sought
  - County wide offices – 4% of total number of registered voters
  - District office – 4% of total number of registered voters in that district
- Board of Elections will provide a signature collection form template to use
- Petitioner must file signature pages by noon on the day of the primary
- Petitioner can begin collecting signatures and turning them in to Board of Elections as soon as possible



# Candidate Filing Period

- Any person seeking to become a candidate must file a Notice of Candidacy Form and pay the filing fee at the appropriate board of elections
- You must pay the filing fee when you file a notice of candidacy. The fee is generally 1% of the office's base salary. Filing fees above \$50 must be paid by cashier's check, money order, personal check, or campaign check.
- If paying with cash, you must have exact change on hand, the Board of Elections does not keep cash on hand and will not accept filing!
- **Filing Begins Monday December 4 12:00pm**
- **Filing Ends Friday December 15 12:00pm**

2024 Offices	Filing Fee
Board of Commissioners (2 seats)	\$110
Board of Education District 1	\$10
Board of Education District 3	\$10
Board of Education District 4	\$10
State Representative	\$140
State Senator	\$140
Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor ( <i>filing period June 10 – July 5</i> )	\$5

# Campaign Finance Requirements

- NC Law regulates all contributions and expenditures in primaries and elections for all state and local offices
- All candidates must register a candidate committee for reporting campaign contributions and expenditures.
- A contribution is money or anything of value (in-kind contributions) given to the committee
- There are restrictions on how a committee can spend it's money and there is information required to be reported for each expenditure
- The "committee" may consist of only one person -- the candidate -- but this committee-of-one is still subject to the regulations of candidate political committees
- There are no exceptions to this law. This is true even if a candidate does not intend to raise or spend any money other than paying the filing fee.
- All candidate committees must maintain detailed records of all contributions and expenditures

# First Activity – Organizing A Candidate Committee

- A candidate is required to complete the necessary paperwork to register a candidate committee within 10 days of taking the first among certain activities that are deemed to have begun the committees organization
- The first of the following activities by the candidate starts the ten day countdown:
  1. Receiving money or an item of any value in support of the campaign
  2. Spending money in support of the campaign; or
  3. Giving consent for anyone else to receive money or spend money for the purpose of bringing about that individuals nomination or election for office;
  4. Filing a notice of candidate
- Organizing a committee consists of filing paperwork with the Board of Elections Office. This paperwork needs to be filled out at the BOE Office or either postmarked to the BOE within 10 days of first activity

# Registering A Committee - Paperwork

- The BOE staff can assist you with filing the necessary paper work. Candidates should be mindful of the following:
- **Committee Name:** You must provide a unique name for your committee. Ex: John Smith for Coroner, Committee to Elect John Smith
- **Appointment of Treasurer:** All candidates must appoint a treasurer who resides in North Carolina. A candidate may serve as their own treasurer, or may appoint someone else to serve. However, a candidate's spouse may not serve as treasurer
- **Bank Accounts:** A separate bank account is required for candidate committee funds unless the candidate is only spending his/her own funds and not receiving monetary contributions
- **Threshold Status:** Candidate committees for county office, municipal office, local school board, and soil and water conservation district may be exempt from filing disclosure reports if the committee determines that it does not intend to receive in contributions or in loans or spend more than \$1,000 during the election cycle.



# Treasurer Responsibilities

- Complete Campaign Finance Mandatory Compliance Training
  - Contains information about contribution limitations and prohibitions, expenditures, filing reports, and all the related campaign finance rules
  - Offered in person and online
- Resident of North Carolina
- Not the candidate's spouse
- Keep all records current within 7 days
- File disclosure reports with the Board of Elections
- Maintain records for two years past the election

# Optional \$1,000 Threshold Reporting Exemption

- Candidate committees for county, municipal and local offices have the option to be exempt from the reporting requirements if, during the entire election cycle, they intend neither to raise nor to spend more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to further the candidate's campaign and they certify this intent to the Board of Elections
- After this certification has been filed, and if the committee does not exceed \$1,000 in contributions or expenditures, then the committee is not required to file disclosure reports for the duration of that election cycle. If their status changes, candidates will need to notify the board of elections and file disclosure reports to disclose all transactions.
- Filing under the threshold only exempts the candidate committee from reporting requirements, not requirements to keep internal records of all committee transactions.

# Campaign Contributions

- No contributions are allowed from prohibited sources. This includes corporations, business entities, labor unions, professional associations and insurance companies
- Anonymous contributions are also prohibited in North Carolina. You must be able to connect any contribution that is accepted on behalf of your committee with an individual contributor
- You are required to obtain and keep in your records the name and address for all contributors
- If someone gives your committee cumulatively more than \$50 in an election you are required to provide that contributor's name, address and occupation/employment information as part of your disclosure report.
- Other prohibitions include no cash contributions in excess of \$50 (per contributor/per day). All contributions in excess of \$50 must be made in a verifiable form of payment

# Campaign Expenditures

- There are restrictions on how a committee can spend its money and there is information required to be reported for each expenditure.
- The treasurer is required to provide the name and address of each payee, the amount of the expenditure and must disclose an accurate and detailed purpose of the expenditure.
- An accurate and detailed purpose is required for each expenditure so that the Board of Elections can determine if the expenditure is allowable.
- For Candidate Committees, expenditures can only be made for campaign purposes, not for personal expenditures of the candidate.

# Use of Contributions for Candidate Committees

1. Campaign related expenditures
2. Office holding related expenditures
3. Contributions to a nonprofit properly registered with the IRS that does not employ direct family members of the candidate
4. Contributions to a political party committee
5. Contributions to another candidate
6. To return contributions to the contributor
7. Payment of penalties against the candidate or the committee
8. Payment to the Escheat Fund of North Carolina
9. Donations to legal expense Funds