

2026

Candidate Workshop

2026 Election

Robert D. Bender
Escambia County
Supervisor of Elections



Disclaimer

- This is an overview of portions of the Florida Election Code
 - Florida Statutes Chapters 97 through 106
- We are not legal representatives, but here to help everyone comply with the Florida's complex election laws, rules, and regulations
- Candidates may request advisory opinions from the Florida Division of Elections (F.S. 106.23(2))
- Candidates and treasurers are ultimately responsible for following the law



2026 Election Dates

Primary Election

August 18, 2026

General Election

November 3, 2026



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Escambia County Supervisor of Elections



Local Offices up for Election in 2026

- County Court Judge, Group 2
- Mayor of Pensacola
- Pensacola City Council, Districts 2, 4, and 6
- County Commissioner, Districts 2 and 4
- Emerald Coast Utilities Authority, Districts 2 and 4
- School Board Members, Districts 1, 2 and 3

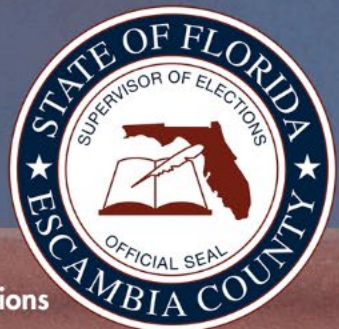
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Local Offices up for Election in 2026

- Escambia Soil and Water Conservation District, Groups 1, 3 and 5
- Santa Rosa Island Authority
- Emerald Coast Utilities Authority, Districts 2 and 4
- Century Town Council, Seats 3, 4 and 5

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Role of the Qualifying Officer

- Supervisor of Elections is the Qualifying Officer for local offices, not state or federal
- Ministerial responsibility
 - Examines the face of the qualifying papers for completeness
 - Does not determine whether the contents are accurate



A Candidate...

F.S. 97.021(7) and 106.011(3)

- Seeks to qualify for nomination or election
 - By petition process
 - As a write-in candidate
- Receives contributions or makes expenditures
- Appoints a treasurer and designates a primary campaign account
- Files qualification papers and subscribes to a candidate's oath as required by law



Requirements for Running for Office

Candidates must be registered voters in Escambia County and reside within the district represented by the office sought as follows:

- County Commissioner – at the time of the election: November 3, 2026
- School Board – at the time of assuming office
- County Court Judge – must reside in territorial jurisdiction of court at time of assuming office



Getting Started...Pre-File

- File Appointment of Campaign Treasurer Form (DS-DE 9) **PRIOR** to opening the Campaign Account
- Local Candidates file with SOE; state/multi-county file with the Florida Division of Elections
- Allows a candidate to accept contributions, make expenditures, gather petition signatures



Getting Started...Pre-File *(continued)*

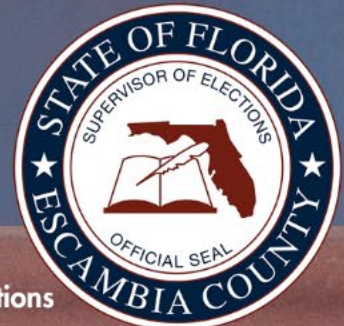
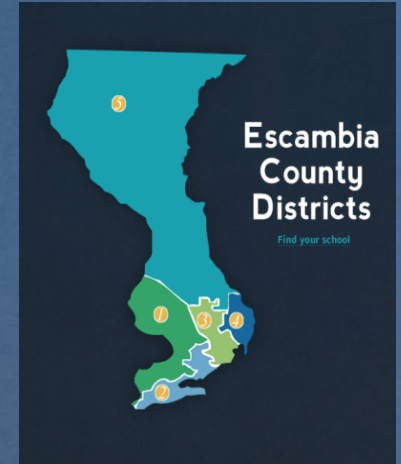
- File Statement of Candidate Form (DS-DE 84) within 10 days after filing DS-DE 9 Form
 - Verifying the candidate's access to and understanding of F.S. Chapter 106 (Florida's campaign finance laws)
- Judicial Candidates must also file Form DS-DE 83 within 10 days
 - Verifying the candidate's knowledge of the requirements of the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct



Getting Started...Special District

Special District Candidates (SRIA, ECUA, Soil & Water)

- **IF** there are no contributions or expenses:
 - Not required to appoint a treasurer or designate a primary campaign depository (F.S. 99.061)
 - Can pay qualifying fee with personal funds
- Qualify by filing fee (during qualifying) of \$25.00 or through the petition process – 25 petitions (F.S. 99.095)



Campaign Treasurers

- Not required to be a registered voter
- Candidate may be treasurer or deputy treasurer
- Only treasurer/deputy treasurer signs campaign check
- Local candidate may not have more than 3 deputy treasurers
- If a treasurer resigns, they must notify the candidate and the Elections Office in writing
- The candidate uses DS-DE 9 form to reappoint



Campaign Treasurers *(continued)*

- Keep detailed accounts current within 2 days
- File regular reports of all contributions and expenditures as prescribed by Florida Statute 106.07
- Preserve the records for the number of years equal to the term of the office sought
- All funds received shall be deposited in campaign depository
 - By end of the 5th business day following the receipt of a contribution (Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays excluded)



Online Reporting System

- A letter with instructions, password, Pins and candidate identification number for the online filing system will be mailed
- All campaign reports are filed electronically
- All contributions and expenditures must be reported within the correct reporting period
- The candidate will “submit” the report
- The qualifying officer will receive the report, eliminating the need for paper copies, and then make it public



Online Reporting System *(continued)*

- Financial information may be entered at any time but not submitted until the report is complete
- Strongly encourage entering data regularly, rather than just before deadline
- The deadline to submit a campaign report is before midnight on the due date
- Elections staff will be available to assist during regular business hours, but not after hours
- Only items that require correction need be placed on amended report.



Campaign Treasurer's Reports

- Campaign Reports are filed quarterly
- On the 60th day preceding the primary election
- Additional reports are due on the 25th and 11th days before the primary and general elections
- Biweekly on each Friday through and including the 4th day immediately preceding the general election
- See handbook for schedule of reporting dates



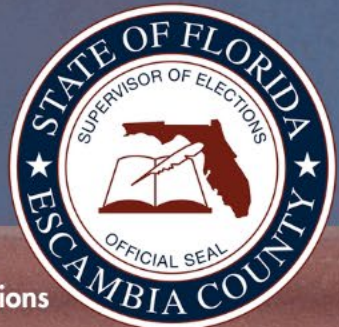
Campaign Treasurer's Reports *(continued)*

- After qualifying, unopposed candidates only file TR report within 90 days after becoming unopposed
- Reports are due *before* midnight on the due date
- Fines are paid from the candidate's *personal funds* if reports are not filed on time
- If a report is deemed ***incomplete***, the treasurer will be notified and must file an amended report within 7 days
- Failure to file the report constitutes a violation of Chapter 106



Campaign Treasurer's Reports *(continued)*

- Actions that will result in a referral to the Florida Elections Commission by our office:
 - Repeated late filing of campaign reports
 - Failure to file a report after notice
 - Failure to pay a fine imposed
- Any person may file complaints with the Florida Elections Commission for other alleged violations



2025 - 2026 Calendar of Reporting Dates

Campaign Reporting Requirements for Local Candidates and Committees

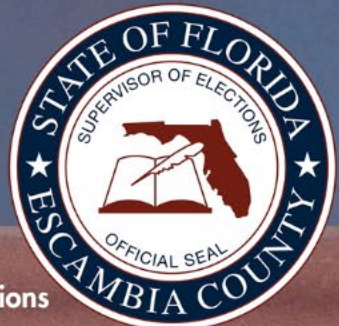
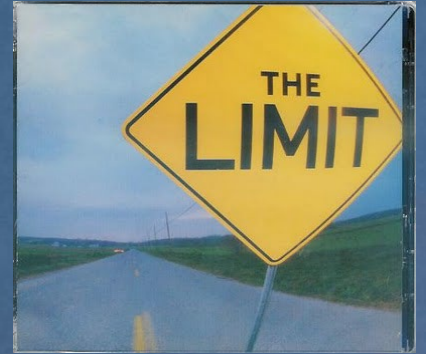
<u>Cover Period</u>	<u>Report Code</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
7/1/25 – 9/30/25	2025 Q3	10/10/25
10/2/25 – 12/31/25	2025 Q4	1/12/26
1/1/26 – 3/31/26	2026 Q1	4/10/26
<u>Primary Election Reports</u>		
4/1/26 – 6/12/26	2026 P1	6/19/26
6/13/26 – 6/26/26	2026 P2	7/3/26
6/27/26 – 7/10/26	2026 P3	7/17/26
7/11/26 – 7/17/26	2026 P4	7/24/26
7/18/26 – 7/24/26	2026 P5	7/31/26
7/25/26 – 7/31/26	2026 P6	8/7/26
8/1/26 – 8/13/26	2026 P7	8/14/26
General Election report dates can be found in the local candidate handbook		

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Contribution Limitations

- The contribution limit for local candidates is \$1,000 per contributor per election cycle
 - Includes cash, in-kind and check, etc.
- A candidate's contributions to the campaign are UNLIMITED, with the exception of cash contributions (\$50 limit including from candidate)
- A person may not make contributions through or in the name of another (F.S. 106.08(5)(a))
- Contributions may be accepted via money order, wire transfer, credit card, and debit card and labeled "check" for reporting purposes (F.S. 106.011)



Contribution Limitations *(continued)*

- Contributions must be deposited in the campaign account within 5 business days of receipt, excluding Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays.
- Contribution must be returned to the contributor if:
 - Received by a candidate/treasurer with opposition on the day of the election or less than 5 days before the election.



Contribution Limitations *(continued)*



- The contribution limit for **cash or cashier's check** is an aggregate of \$50 for each election cycle
 - Primary = \$50 and General = \$50
 - Includes the candidate's own cash
 - Does not include checks (personal, business and traveler's) and money orders up to \$1000
 - Must be deposited into campaign account
 - **Pay very close attention to tracking cash contributions**



Reporting Contributions

All Contributions must be reported including the following information:

- Date the contribution was received
- Name and complete address of the contributor
- Amount of the contribution
 - Contributions over \$100 - the specific occupation of the contributor must be listed
 - Business Contributor - the principle type of business activity must be listed



Reporting Contributions *(continued)*

- Do not list your occupation as “candidate”
- Anonymous contributions
 - List as an “anonymous” contribution on the report
 - Send a letter to the qualifying officer regarding the circumstances (Division of Elections Opinion 89-02)
 - Do not spend the anonymous contribution
 - At the end of the campaign, donate the amount to an appropriate entity under F.S. 106.141



In-Kind Contributions

- **Definition:** a contribution of goods or services provided to the candidate for which money would have otherwise been paid made for the purpose of influencing the results of an election
- A description of the item or services and the fair market value must be reported to the candidate by the contributor and counted as an aggregate amount towards the \$1,000 contribution limit
- Exception for volunteer services



Reporting Expenditures

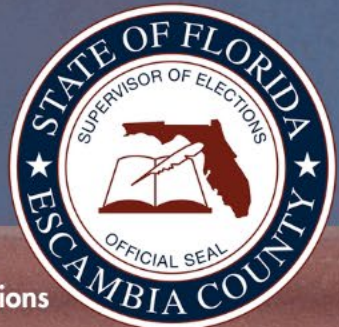
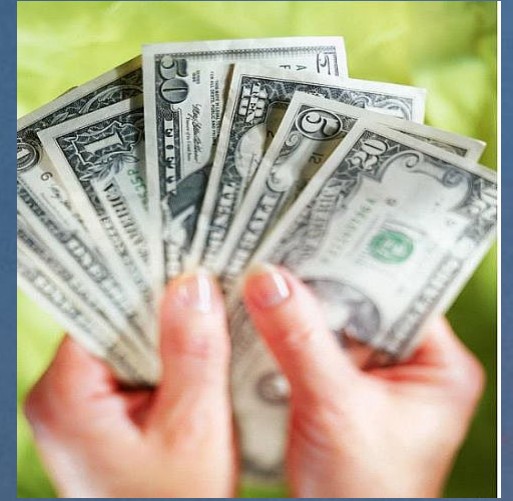
All expenditures must contain the following information:

- Date, purpose and amount
- Name and complete address of the payee (This includes street addresses for U.S. Post Offices)
- No expenditures shall be made or authorized without sufficient funds on deposit in the campaign account
- Payment shall be made upon receipt and acceptance of goods or services



Expenditures – Petty Cash

- Report the amount withdrawn and spent during each reporting period
- Not required to be reported individually
(must keep complete records; can't mix with cash contributions)
- Withdraw only \$500 /quarter until the end of qualifying; only \$100 /week after qualifying
- Spent in amounts less than \$100 for office supplies, transportation expenses and other necessities
- May **not** be used for the purchase of time, space, or services from a communication media



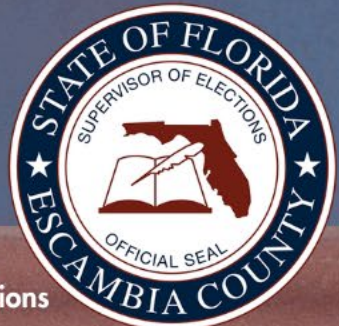
Miscellaneous Information

Campaign Checks

- Must contain the name of the campaign account of the candidate or committee
- **PayPal – May accept contribution via PayPal.**
- Report as a check
 - The entire amount as a contribution
 - The transaction fee as an expenditure
 - The date of receipt - when money enters the bank account; **not** the date of contribution (DS-DE 08-07)



Credit Cards are restricted to statewide candidates



Debit Card Information



Debit Cards may be used

- Obtain from the same bank as primary depository
- Limit 3 - treasurer, deputy treasurer or another user
- Must contain name of the candidate or committee
- Receipts must include:
 - Last 4 digits of card number
 - Exact amount of expenditure and exact purpose
 - Name of payee
 - Authorized signature

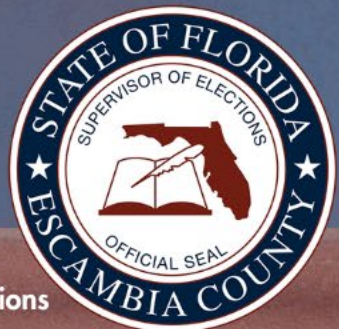


Prohibited Acts

To Further Their Candidacy,
A Candidate May Not ...



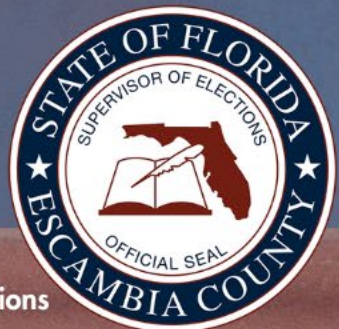
- Pay or give anything of value to speak
- Use a state-owned aircraft or motor vehicle
- Solicit or accept a contribution in a government owned building (unless rented for a campaign event)
- Use the services of any state, county, municipal, district officer or employee of the state during working hours



Prohibited Acts *(continued)*

A Candidate May Not ...

- Solicit contributions from any religious, charitable, civic or other causes or organizations established primarily for the public good
- Make contributions, **in exchange for political support**, to any group listed above
- With actual malice, make any false statement about an opposing candidate
- Conduct Raffles



The Petition Process

- Collect petition signatures after filing the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer Form (DS-DE 9)
- Fee to verify the petition signatures
 - 10¢ per petition
 - Paid in advance or at time of submitting petitions
 - Affidavit of undue burden (DS-DE 19)
- Deadline to submit petitions for local office: Before Noon, May 11, 2026



The Petition Process *(continued)*

- The format of the petition may ***not*** be changed
- Responsibility of the candidate to produce petitions in most current format on Division of Elections website (Form DS-DE 104)
 - Can include the petition in a larger advertisement
 - If so, must include a political disclaimer
 - Must be clearly defined with solid or broken border
- Altering size of petitions (maintain proportions)
 - Reduced to no less than 3" x 5"
 - Enlarged to no more than 8 1/2" x 11"
 - If two per page, cut apart before submitting for verification



CANDIDATE PETITION

Notes: - All information on this form becomes a public record upon receipt by the Supervisor of Elections.
 - It is a crime to knowingly sign more than one petition for a candidate. [Section 104.185, Florida Statutes]
 - If all requested information on this form is not completed, the form will not be valid as a Candidate Petition form.

I, _____ the undersigned, a registered voter
 (print name as it appears on your voter information card)

in said state and county, petition to have the name of _____
 placed on the Primary/General Election Ballot as a: [check/complete box, as applicable]

☐ Nonpartisan ☐ No party affiliation ☐ _____ Party candidate for the office of _____
 (insert title of office and include district, circuit, group, seat number, if applicable)

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY)	or Voter Registration Number	Address	

City	County	State	Zip Code

Signature of Voter	Date Signed (MM/DD/YY) [to be completed by Voter]

Rule 15-2.045, F.A.C. DS-DE 104 (Eff. 09/11)

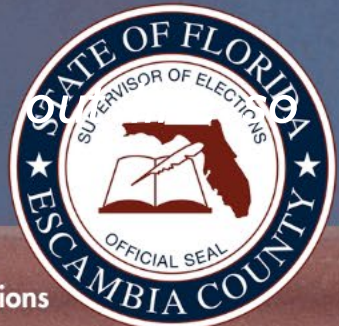
TIP: Take time to look through petitions and make corrections before turning in. Candidates may make corrections to all except signature and date signed.

All fields may be pre-filled except the signature and date signed – those fields must be completed by the voter.

Repetitive information such as county name and state, candidate name, office, and party (if any) may be filled in prior to printing petitions. Check correct box such as Nonpartisan or No Party Affiliation. Make sure no other party boxes are checked to ensure your petition will not be invalidated. Candidate may mark thru and initial if making corrections.

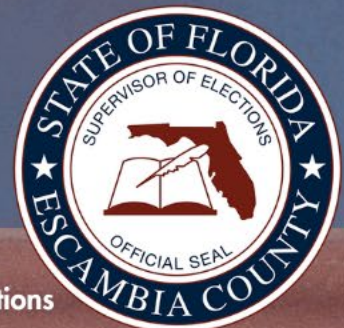
TIP: If No Party Affiliation or Nonpartisan, insert XXXXX's on party line or block voters signing petition will not insert their own party.

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 Escambia County Supervisor of Elections



Petition Information

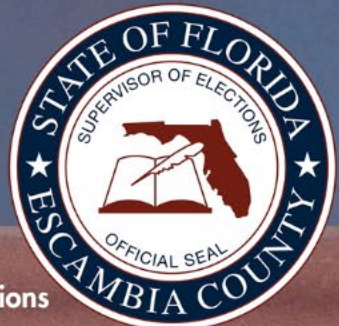
- **If paying someone to collect petitions**
 - Cannot file undue burden affidavit
 - Must pay the petition verification fee (10¢ per petition)
- Obtain the signatures of at least 1% of the total number of registered voters in the ***geographical area of candidacy***
 - See Candidate Handbook for amount required
- **Exception:** Special district candidates require signatures of 25 registered voters in the area represented



Petitions for City of Pensacola



- Mayor
 - At least 5% of the registered voters in city
 - See Candidate Handbook
- City Council
 - At least 5% of the registered voters in district
 - See Candidate Handbook
- **If petition requirement is met** – *city candidates* are still required to pay the 1% Election Assessment (F.S. 99.093)



Collecting Petitions in a Government Building

- May collect signatures in any public place including government-owned buildings
- Florida Statutes 106.15(4)
 - Prohibition applies to soliciting or knowingly accepting contributions inside a government building
- Check local ordinances for exceptions
- Florida Statutes 104.31(2)
 - Prohibits employees from participating in a political campaign for an elective office while on duty/working



Highlights of Political Disclaimers

- Any political advertisement that is paid for and that is published, displayed, or circulated before, or on the day of, any election must contain specific language
- Must be included on tickets or advertising for campaign fund raisers (was exempt at one time, but no longer)
- Refer to Candidate Handbook and Chapter 106 for specific examples – ***cannot deviate or use a hybrid***



Examples of Disclaimers

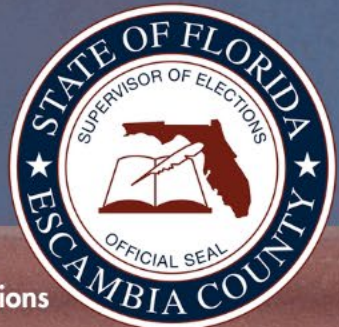
- “Political advertisement paid for and approved by (name of candidate), (party affiliation if partisan office), for (office sought)”
- “Paid by (name of candidate), (party affiliation if partisan office), for (office sought)”

The disclaimer language alternatives provided above must be verbatim, per F.S. 106.143



Disclaimers (continued)

- The word “**for**” must be used in the body of advertisements between the name of the candidate and the office sought, so incumbency is not implied (exception for incumbents)
- Political advertisements made as **In-kind** contributions from a political party must state:
 - “Paid political advertisement paid for by in-kind by (name of political party). Approved by (name of candidate, party affiliation, and office sought in the political advertisement).”



Exceptions for Political Disclaimers

- Items designed to be worn by a person, have no disclaimer requirements
- Novelty Items having a value of \$10 or less, **which support, but do not oppose a candidate or issue**, are not required to have a political disclaimer



Exceptions for Political Disclaimers

(continued)

- Bumper Stickers are excluded from the provision relating to the use of “re-elect” and “for”
 - Political disclaimer is required
- Paid link on a website:
 - Provided the message/advertisement is no more than 200 characters in length and the link directs the user to another website that complies with the requirements



Exceptions for Political Disclaimers

(continued)

- If the message is placed or distributed on an unpaid profile or account:
 - Available to the public without charge or on a social networking website
 - The source of the message or advertisement is patently clear from the content or format of the message or advertisement



Exceptions for Political Disclaimers

(continued)

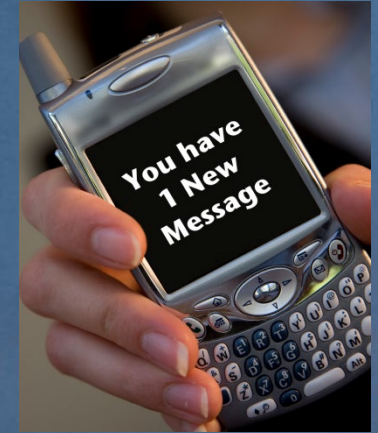
- May prominently display a statement indicating that the website or account is an official website or account of the candidate or political committee and is approved by the candidate or political committee
- A website or account may not be marked as official without prior approval by the candidate or political committee
 - see F.S. 106.143 for complete list of exceptions



Exceptions for Political Disclaimers

(Continued)

- A candidate's text message or telephone call must include the phrase "Paid for by," followed by the name of the candidate, followed by the word "for," and the name of the office sought. Disclaimer does not apply if person making call is not being paid or if both individuals know each other.
- Any text messages or calls that expressly advocate for or against a candidate or ballot proposal, must file prior written authorization by the candidate with qualifying officer.
- Any person or organization that conducts business in Florida which consists of sending texts or making paid telephone calls supporting or opposing a candidate must, prior to making calls, file with the Division a Registered Agent Notice (DS-DE 100). (F.S. 106.147)



Samples of Campaign Signs

Example of **Acceptable** Campaign Sign



Notice the word “for” between candidate’s name and the office he’s seeking. Also the disclaimer is correct.

Robert D. Bender
Escambia County Supervisor of Elections



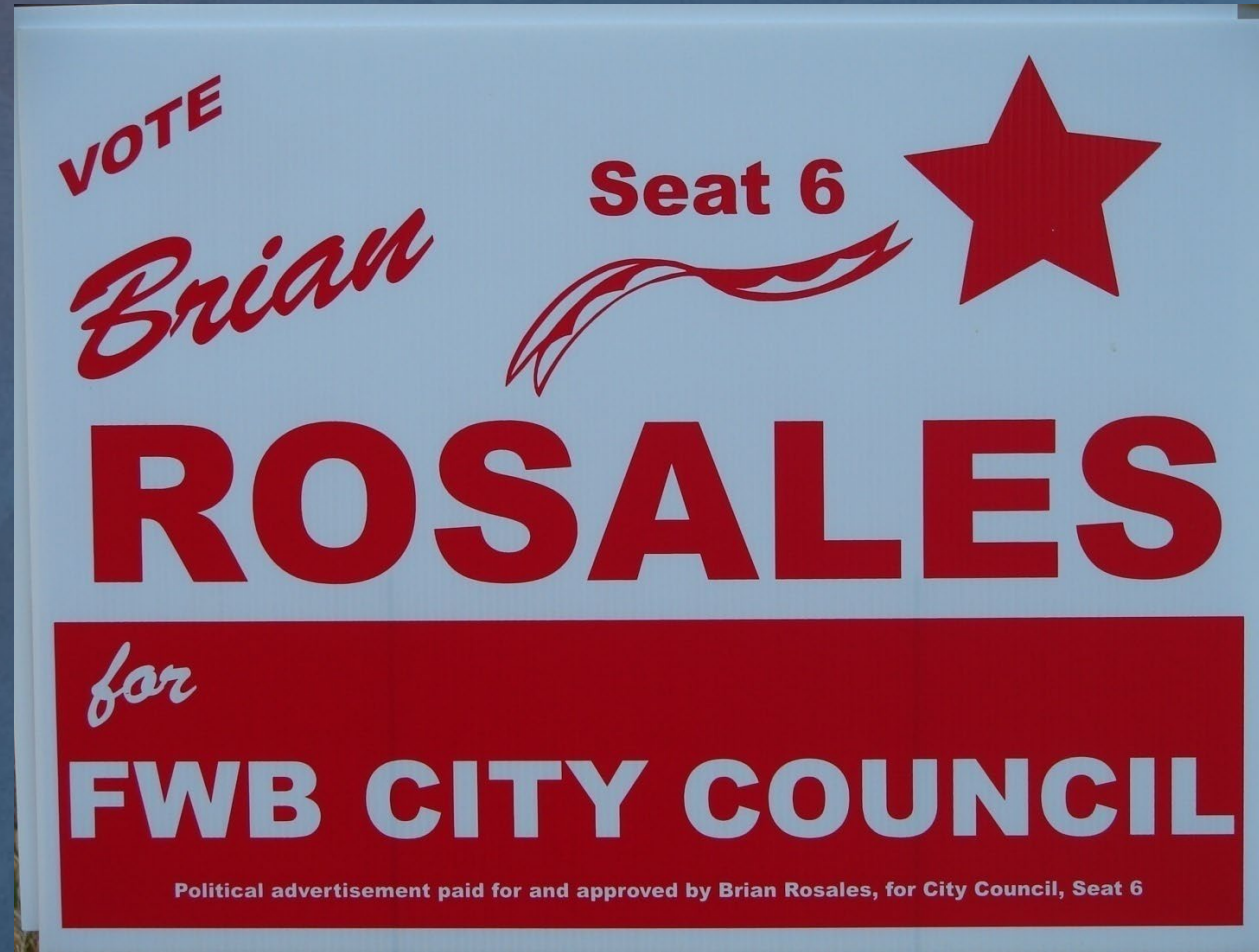
Another example of an acceptable campaign sign



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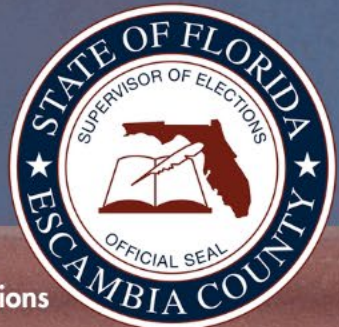


Acceptable Sign

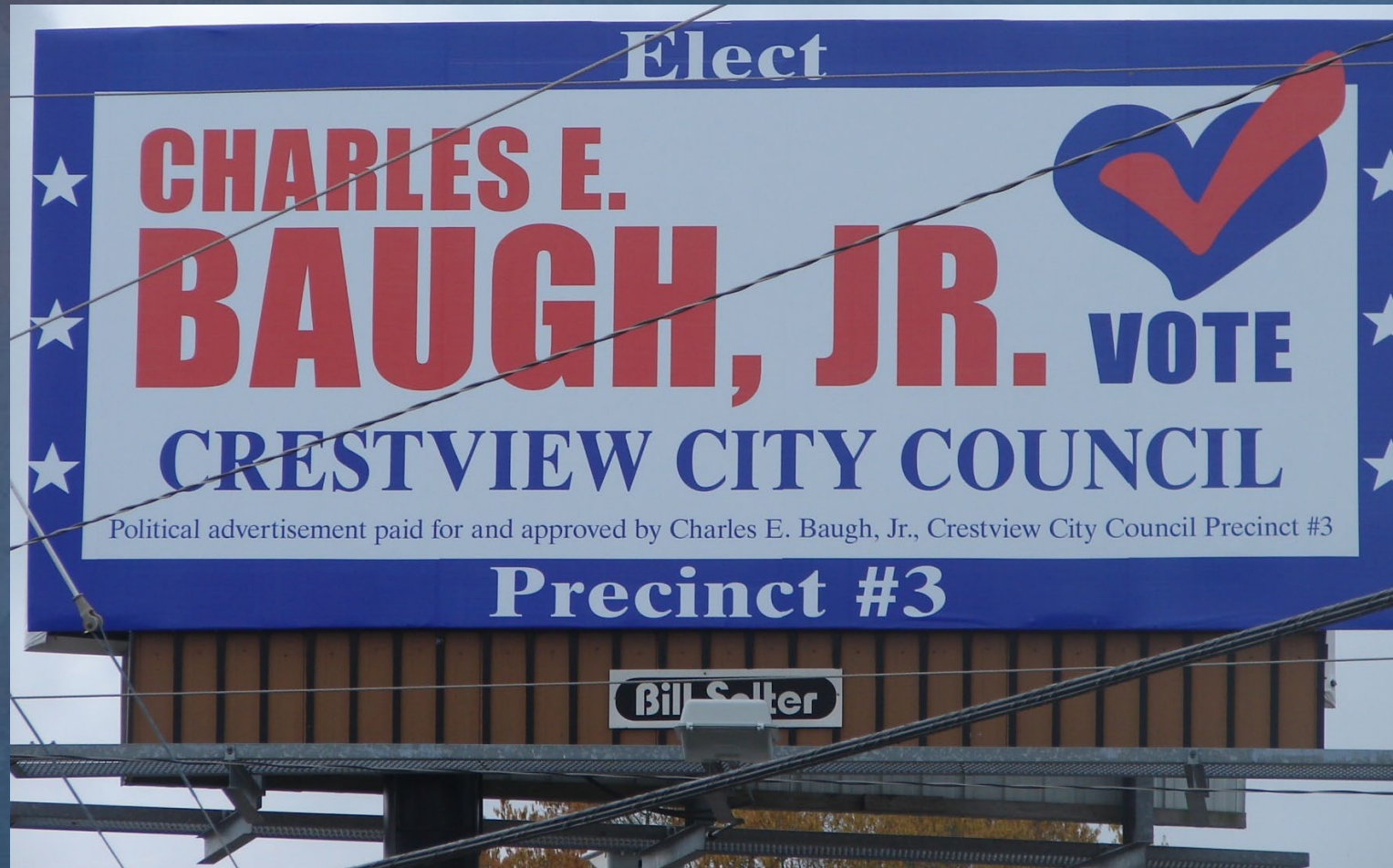


All required information is on this sign. Notice there is no party affiliation listed because this is a non-partisan office.

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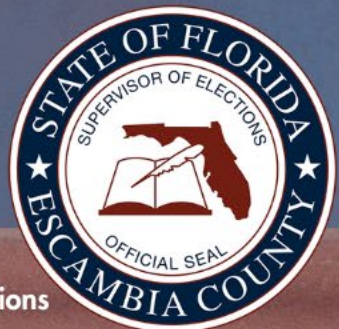


Acceptable Sign

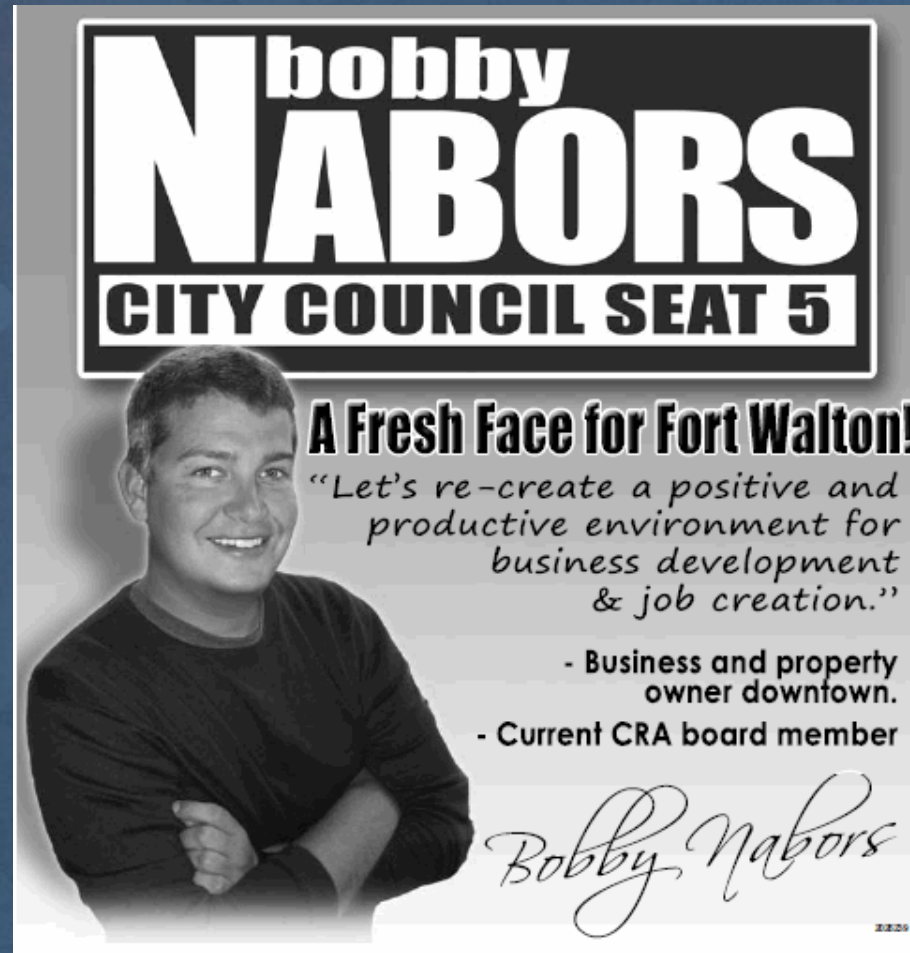


The word “for” is not included because the candidate was the incumbent.

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This is an example of an unacceptable campaign sign.



Missing the word “for” and the disclaimer.

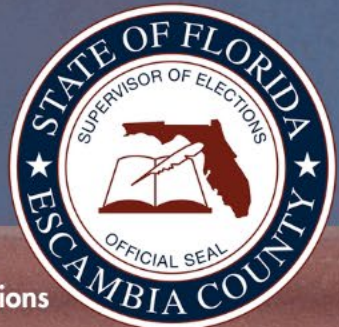
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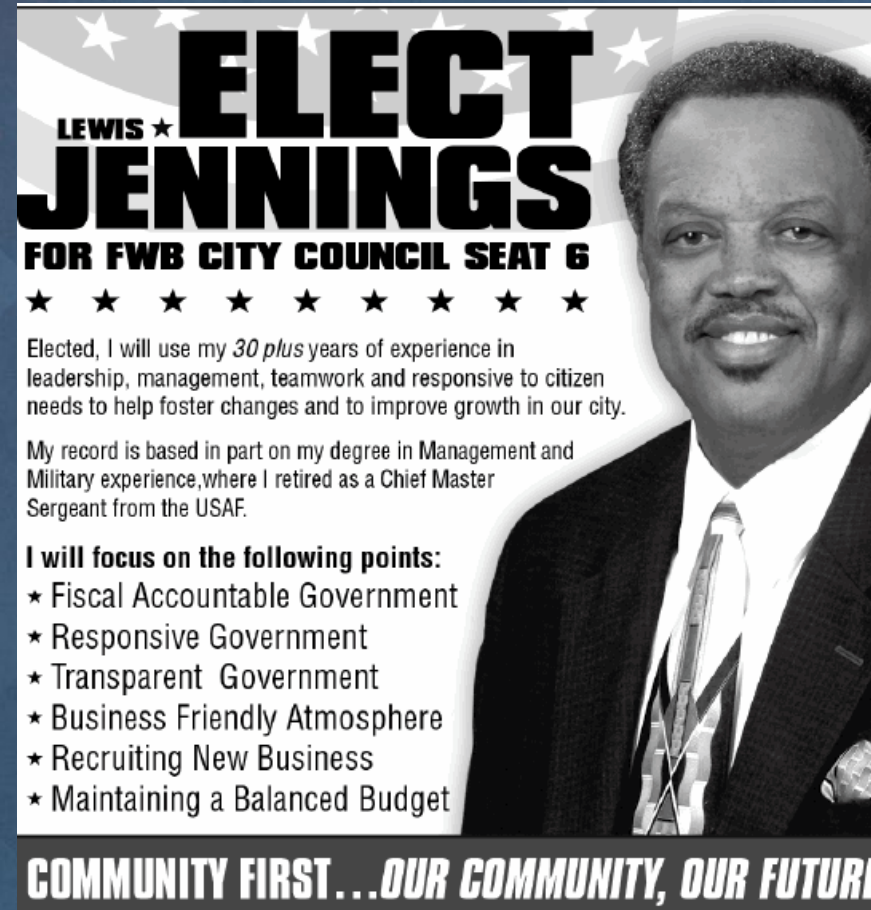
This sign was corrected by placing a sticker that showed the correct political disclaimer.



Notice the word “for” is not included because she was the incumbent.



Unacceptable Sign



A campaign sign for Lewis Jennings, featuring a portrait of him on the right. The text on the left reads: **LEWIS ★ ELECT JENNINGS**, **FOR FWB CITY COUNCIL SEAT 6**, followed by a row of eight stars. Below the stars, it says: "Elected, I will use my *30 plus* years of experience in leadership, management, teamwork and responsive to citizen needs to help foster changes and to improve growth in our city." Then: "My record is based in part on my degree in Management and Military experience, where I retired as a Chief Master Sergeant from the USAF." Next is: "I will focus on the following points:" followed by a list of six items, each preceded by a star: "Fiscal Accountable Government", "Responsive Government", "Transparent Government", "Business Friendly Atmosphere", "Recruiting New Business", and "Maintaining a Balanced Budget". At the bottom, a dark banner contains the text: **COMMUNITY FIRST...OUR COMMUNITY, OUR FUTURE**.

LEWIS ★ ELECT JENNINGS
FOR FWB CITY COUNCIL SEAT 6
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Elected, I will use my *30 plus* years of experience in leadership, management, teamwork and responsive to citizen needs to help foster changes and to improve growth in our city.

My record is based in part on my degree in Management and Military experience, where I retired as a Chief Master Sergeant from the USAF.

I will focus on the following points:

- ★ Fiscal Accountable Government
- ★ Responsive Government
- ★ Transparent Government
- ★ Business Friendly Atmosphere
- ★ Recruiting New Business
- ★ Maintaining a Balanced Budget

COMMUNITY FIRST...OUR COMMUNITY, OUR FUTURE

No disclaimer is listed on this brochure.

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Television Broadcasts

- Must use closed captioning and descriptive narrative in all television broadcasts regulated by the Federal Communications Commission that are on behalf of, or sponsored by a candidate, political party or committee
- Or, must file a written statement with the qualifying officer setting forth the reasons for not doing so per F.S. 106.165



Telephone Solicitation



- Must identify persons/orgs sponsoring call
- If “expressly advocates” for or against a candidate, requires prior written authorization by the candidate, filed with qualifying officer
- Filing and disclosure requirements for a “registered agent” for businesses who make paid political calls (DS-DE 100) unless already lawfully registered to do business in Florida

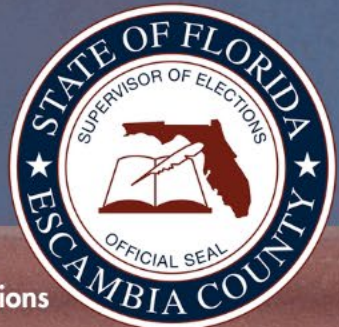


Qualifying



One week period when candidates are required by law, to file:

- Candidate Oath
- Personal Financial Disclosure Form
- If did not meet the petition requirement, pay the qualifying fee in order to have their name placed on the ballot; qualifying fee must come from campaign account, not personal check (exception for certain special district candidates)



2026 Qualifying Dates

- Federal, Judicial, State Attorney & Public Defender Offices
 - Begins at Noon, April 20, 2026
 - Ends at Noon, April 24, 2026
 - The first date to accept qualifying forms is April 6, 2026
- State and Local Offices (excluding Municipal Offices)
 - Begins at Noon, June 8, 2026
 - Ends at Noon, June 12, 2026
 - The first date to accept qualifying forms is May 25, 2026
- *Papers submitted during the 14-day period will be processed once qualifying begins.*



Qualifying (F.S. 99.061)

Is a one-week period when candidates are required, by law, to file:

- Candidate Oath;
- Personal Financial Disclosure Form, (Form 1 or Form 6);
- Petition certification letter provided by the SOE for candidates who met the petition requirement;
- Or pay the qualifying fee in order to have name placed on the ballot.

Required forms will be provided by the Supervisor of Elections Office prior to Qualifying.

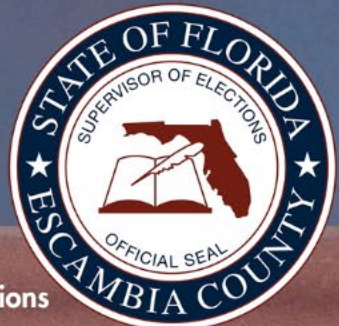


CANDIDATE OATH STATE AND LOCAL PARTISAN OFFICE WITH PARTY AFFILIATION	OFFICE USE ONLY
Candidate Oath	
Name for Ballot: _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small;"> First Middle Name/Initial/and/or/Nickname (See reverse side for Nickname Affidavit) Last Name Suffix </div>	
I swear or affirm that I am a candidate for the office of _____, (Office) _____ (District #) _____ _____ (Circuit #) _____ (Group or Seat #); I am a qualified elector of _____ County, Florida.	
I am a qualified elector under the Constitution and the Laws of Florida to hold the office to which I desire to be nominated or elected; I have qualified for no other public office in the state, the term of which office or any part thereof runs concurrent with the office I seek; and I have resigned from any office from which I am required to resign pursuant to Section 99.012, Florida Statutes; and I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Florida.	
Statement of Party	
I swear or affirm that I am a member of the _____ Party; I have been a registered member of this political party, for which I am seeking nomination as a candidate, for 365 days before the beginning of qualifying preceding the general election for which I seek to qualify; and I have paid the assessment levied against me, if any, by the executive committee of the above-stated political party.	
Statement of Outstanding Fines, Fees, or Penalties	
I owe outstanding fines, fees, or penalties, that cumulatively exceed \$250, for ethics or campaign finance violations (s. 99.021(1)(d), F.S.). YES, I Do _____ NO, I Do Not _____ If you do, you must also specify the amount owed and each entity that levied the same on the reverse side.	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> X () </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small;"> Signature of Candidate Telephone Number Email Address </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small;"> Address of Legal Residence City State ZIP Code </div>	
<div style="display: flex;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF _____ Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me by means of online notarization <input type="checkbox"/> OR physical presence <input type="checkbox"/> this _____ day of _____, 20____. Personally Known <input type="checkbox"/> OR Produced Identification <input type="checkbox"/> Type of Identification Produced: _____ </div> <div style="flex: 1; font-size: x-small;"> Signature of Notary Public Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public below: </div> </div>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small;"> DS-DE 301A (Rev. 1/2023) Rule 1S-2.0001, F.A.C. </div>	

Qualifying Form – Partisan Offices:

- Candidate Oath (DS-DE 301A)
- Statement of party:
 - Member for at least 365 days before the beginning of qualifying
- Outstanding fines statement
- Use of nickname affidavit

Robert D. Bender
 Escambia County Supervisor of Elections



Miscellaneous Campaign Information

- File the DS-DE 9 Appointment of Campaign Treasurer Form *before* you open your campaign account
- Qualifying:
 - Do not wait until the last minute to file
 - Make sure every line, blank or field is complete
 - Incomplete forms *may* jeopardize your candidacy
- Campaign Loans to own campaign:
 - Reports the loan as required by F.S. 106.07
 - Reimbursement for the loan at any time the campaign account has sufficient funds



Vote-By-Mail Data for Opposed Candidates

Once qualifying papers are submitted candidates that are opposed are able to request data information on voters who will receive vote-by-mail ballots. We now have a form to request the information that will be included in your qualifying packet.

Robert D. Bender
Escambia County Supervisor of Elections



Election Day and Early Voting Campaign Guidelines

- Do not place campaign signs within 150 feet from the entrance of the polling place;
- Must stand at least 150 feet from the entrance of the polling location;
- Do not hinder or obstruct voters from entering or exiting the polling location;
- No photography is permitted in the polling room or early voting area;
- If voting, do not linger inside polling place.



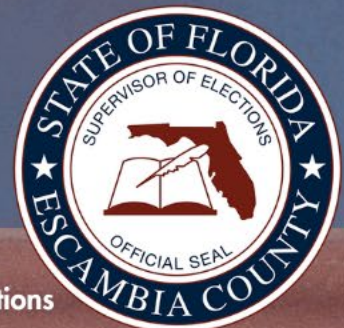
After the Campaign ...

- Termination report:
 - Filed within 90 days of withdrawing, becoming unopposed, elected or eliminated
- Disposal of funds on deposit in campaign account (pursuant to F.S. 106.141)
- If elected, report all personal loans, used for campaign purposes, exceeding \$500 made within 12 months preceding election to office within 10 days of being elected on forms DS-DE 73 and DS-DE 73A



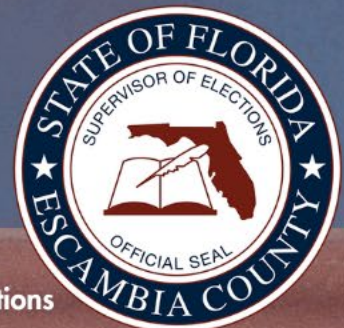
After the Campaign ...

- Removal of his or her political campaign advertisements within 30 days of withdrawal, becoming unopposed, being elected or eliminated (F.S. 106.075)
- Do not accept any further contributions (no “debt retirement” contributions allowed)
- Candidates who qualified by the petition process are no longer required to reimburse the state for the election assessment
- Those who filed an affidavit of undue burden must reimburse for signature verification, if funds remain



Disposition of Surplus Funds

- Pay for items which were obligated
- Purchase “thank you” advertising for up to 75 days
- Pay for expenditures necessary to close the campaign office and to prepare final campaign reports
- Return pro rata to each contributor the funds that have not been spent or obligated



Disposition of Surplus Funds

(continued)

- Donate surplus funds to a charitable organization
 - Meet the qualifications of a 501(c)(3)
- Give not more than \$25,000 surplus funds to the candidate's affiliated political party
- An elected or unopposed candidate may transfer funds to an Office Account pursuant to F.S. 106.141(5)
- Cannot hold funds over for next campaign (only applies to state offices)

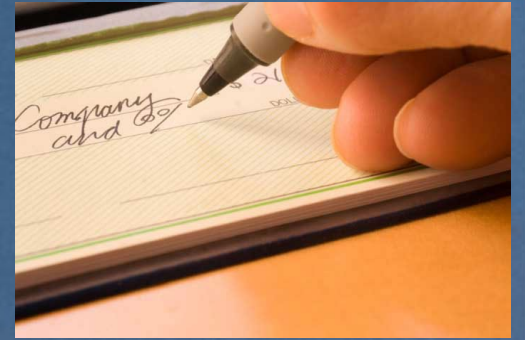


Office Accounts

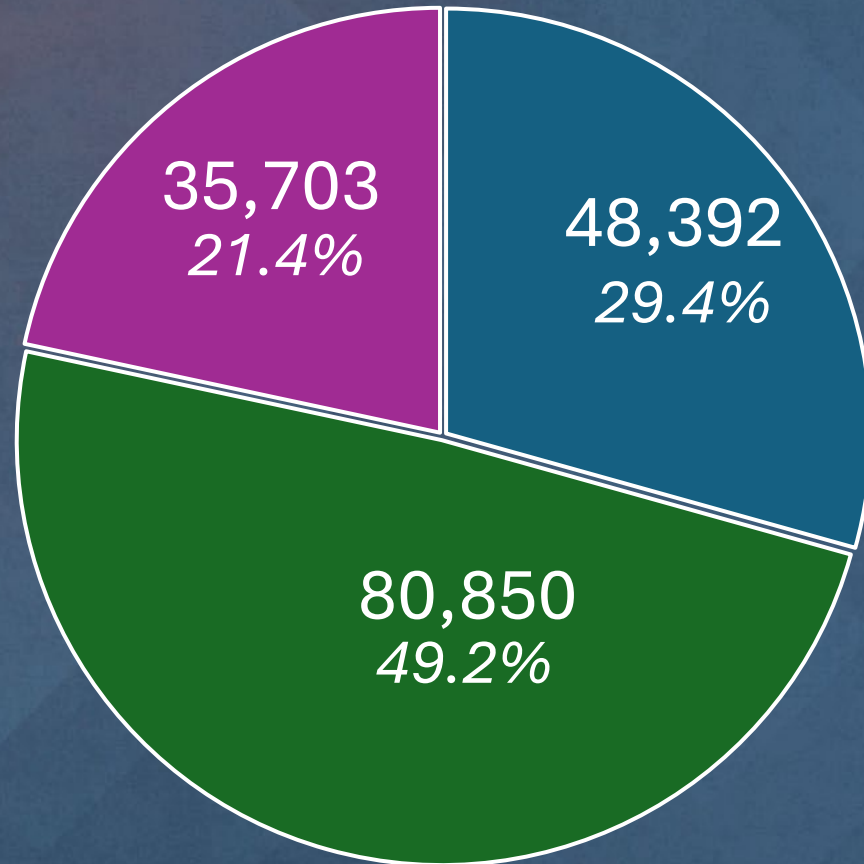
- Used only for legitimated expenses
 - Examples include: travel and expenses incurred in operation of the office, membership in certain organizations, and holiday cards and newsletters
- Maximum allowable amount is \$5,000 times the number of years in the term of office. Total \$3,000 limitation for judges
- Reports are due on the 10th day following the end of the quarter until all funds are gone

Upon leaving office:

- Must give the remaining funds to a 501(c)(3) organization or applicable government general revenue fund
- May use funds to pay for CPA or attorney for preparation of *final* report



Voter Statistics: 2024 General Election



164,945
Ballots Cast

76.8%

- Election Day
- Early Vote
- Vote by Mail



Robert D. Bender
Escambia County Supervisor of Elections

Campaign Security



Cybersecurity Campaign Playbook

Related: Robby Mook, Matt Rhoades, Eric Rosenbach | November 2017

<https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/cybersecurity-campaign-playbook>

your voice matters
so protect it



Robert D. Bender
Escambia County Supervisor of Elections



And Remember...

If you have any questions, we are only a click or a phone call away!

Phone: (850) 595-3900

E-mail: qualify@escambiavotes.com
or soe@escambiavotes.gov

Visit us:

EscambiaVotes.gov

213 Palafox Place, 2nd Floor, Pensacola

Good luck with your campaign!

Robert D. Bender
Escambia County Supervisor of Elections

