

# North Carolina Bipartisan State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement

---

## *Candidates for United States Congress in 2018*

---

1) **Qualifications.** [N.C. Const. Art. VI § 6, 8](#); U.S. Const. Art. I §§ 2, 3

- **U.S. House**

- 25 years of age or older by the date of the general election
- A U.S. citizen for at least 7 years
- Resident and registered voter of the state where seeking office (a candidate running for U.S. House is not required to be a resident of the congressional district in which the candidate is seeking election)

- **U.S. Senate** (*There are no U.S. Senate seats on the ballot in N.C. in 2018.*)

- 30 years of age or older by the date of the general election
- A U.S. citizen for at least 9 years
- Resident and registered voter of the state where seeking office

2) **What action is required for a person to have his or her name entered on the ballot for the primary election?** Typically, a person seeking office will pay a filing fee and file a notice of candidacy during the filing period designated by statute for this purpose. However, statutes also provide an alternative mechanism, as noted below. [G.S. §§ 163A-972-78 \[163-106\]](#); [163A-979 \[163-107\]](#), [163A-980 \[163-107.1\]](#), [163A-981 \[163-108\]](#)

- **Filing fee.** The filing fee is 1% of the annual salary of the office sought (§163A-979 [\[163-107\]](#)).
- **In lieu of filing fee:** it is possible to avoid the filing fee by submission of a petition signed by registered voters. For more information, see [North Carolina General Statute § 163A-980 \[163-107.1\]](#). Prior to undertaking this petition, please see our fact sheet at [this link](#).
- **Form to file.** Each candidate must file [a notice of candidacy](#) form with the North Carolina State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement. This form may be obtained from this agency's website. Filings submitted prior to the filing period (see below) will not be accepted.
- **Certification of affiliation.** At the time of filing, each candidate must also file a certificate signed by the director or chair of the county board of elections where the candidate currently resides. The certification states the party with which the candidate is affiliated and affirms that the candidate has not changed party affiliation in the past 90 days.

- **Felony record.** The notice of candidacy form includes questions about any previous felony convictions of the candidate; if there are any convictions, additional information is required. Active felons who have not had their citizenship rights fully restored (completion of any felony sentence, including probation) are not eligible to be registered to vote or to run for elected office.
  - **Party affiliation.** A candidate must be a registered voter affiliated with the same political party in which he or she intends to file. A person changing party affiliation must do so **90** days prior to the date the candidate files. (Please see below for seeking office without being affiliated with a party.)
- 3) **Seeking office as an unaffiliated candidate or seeking office as a write-in candidate** [G.S. §§ 163A-1005 \[163-122\]](#); [163A-1006 \[163-123\]](#)
- A candidate who wishes to run as unaffiliated should review [G.S. §§ 163A-1005 \[163-122\]](#) and [fact sheet on running as an unaffiliated candidate](#).
  - A candidate who wishes to run as a write-in should review [G.S. §§ 163A-1006 \[163-123\]](#) and the [fact sheet on running as a write-in candidate](#).
- 4) **Single Office Contest.** No one may file for more than one office in the same election.
- 5) **Is a primary always necessary?** [G.S. § 163A-983 \[163-110\]](#)
- No, a filed primary candidate who remains unopposed after the close of the filing period will be certified as his or her party's nominee without the need for a primary.
  - The winners of the party primaries (or the certified nominees, if they ran unopposed) will be listed on the General Election ballot as the nominees of that party for the office for which they filed.
- 6) **When is the filing period?** [G.S. §163A-974 \[163-106\(c\)\]](#)
- Begins: Noon on **Monday, February 12, 2018**
  - Ends: Noon on **Wednesday, February 28, 2018**
- 7) **Election Dates for 2018:** [G.S. § 163A-700 \[163-1\]](#)
- **Primary:** The Tuesday after the first Monday in May.  
**Tuesday, May 8, 2018**
  - **Second primary** (will only be held in certain situations, and if requested by a candidate; see [G.S. § 163-111](#) and [S.L. 2017-214, § 3](#)):
    - If any federal office contest requires a second primary, all second primaries will be held **Tuesday, July 17, 2018**
    - If no federal office contest requires a second primary, any second primaries will be held **Tuesday, June 26, 2018**

For more information, see [North Carolina General Statute § 163A-984 \[163-111\]](#)

- **General election:** The Tuesday after the first Monday in November, **Tuesday, November 6, 2018**
- 8) **What are the campaign reporting requirements? ?** [NCGS § 163A-1448 \[163-278.30\]](#); Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, P.L. 92-225, as amended ([Title 252, U.S.C. Chapter 301](#))

A candidate for Congress should contact the Federal Election Commission (FEC) for requirements for registering a campaign finance committee. The FEC has a toll-free phone number, 1-800-424-9530 and a website: [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov).

Candidates for Congress need not register a campaign finance committee with the North Carolina State Board of Elections unless they intend to contribute to other North Carolina candidates.