



## FACT SHEET

### Unaffiliated Candidates 2016 Election

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#### 1) How can unaffiliated candidates qualify to be listed as a choice on the General Election ballot? ([NCGS §§ 163-1, 163-122](#))

A candidate who seeks to have his or her name printed on the General Election ballot as an unaffiliated candidate can submit petitions to an elections office. The number of petition signatures required, the due date for the petitions, and the elections office that receives these materials is determined by the type of office being sought.

- **U.S. Senate, Governor, and other statewide offices:** Verified petitions are due to the State Board of Elections by noon on the last Friday in June preceding the General Election, **Friday, June 24, 2016**. This petition must be signed by North Carolina voters equaling 2% of the total number of voters who voted in the most recent General Election for Governor [**89,366 signatures**]. No later than 5:00 p.m. on **Thursday, June 9, 2016**, the fifteenth day preceding the date petitions are due to be filed with the State Board of Elections, the petition pages must be submitted to the County Board of Elections office in the county where the signatures were gathered. Verification will be completed within two weeks from the date the petitions are presented.
- **U.S. House offices, judicial offices, District Attorney offices, or North Carolina House or Senate offices with districts that cover more than one county:** Petitions are due to the State Board of Elections by noon on the last Friday in June preceding the General Election, **Friday, June 24, 2016**. This petition must be signed by a number of registered voters in the congressional district equaling 4% of the total number of registered voters in the district as of January 1 of the election year. No later than 5:00 p.m. on **Thursday, June 9, 2016**, the fifteenth day preceding the date petitions are due to be filed with the State Board of Elections, the petition pages must be submitted to the County Board of Elections office in the county where the signatures were gathered. Verification will be completed within two weeks from the date the petitions are presented.
- **County offices, and State House and Senate offices in districts that lie only within one county:** Petitions are due to the County Board of Elections by noon on the last Friday in June preceding the general election, **Friday, June 24, 2016**. This petition

must be signed by a numbered of registered voters in the district equaling 4% of the total number of registered voters in the district as of January 1 of the election year. The petitions are submitted to the County Board of Elections office. The County Board of Elections office will verify the petitions.

Residency and registered voter status in the applicable jurisdiction or district is required, and certain offices also have other requirements involving age or duration of residency.

**2) Is there a filing fee to run as an unaffiliated candidate? ([NCGS § 163-107](#))**

Yes. Generally, the filing fee is 1% of the annual salary of the elected office.

**3) When is the General Election? ([NCGS § 163-1\(c\)](#))**

The Tuesday after the first Monday in November — **Tuesday, November 8, 2016.**

**4) I lost a partisan primary contest. Can I run as an unaffiliated candidate to appear on the General Election ballot for that same contest? ([NCGS § 163-122\(a\)](#))**

No, not for the same office in the same year.

**5) Can I run as an unaffiliated candidate even if I am affiliated *as a voter* with a political party? ([NCGS § 163-122\(a\)](#))**

Yes. An unaffiliated candidate simply means that *your candidacy* is not affiliated with a political party. Your *voter affiliation* is separate.

**6) What are the campaign reporting requirements? ([NCGS §163-278.9](#))**

The Campaign Reporting Act requires financial disclosure of all political activities. Reports for candidates running for statewide offices, judicial offices, district attorney offices, and State House and State Senate offices are filed with the State Board of Elections campaign reporting office. Reports for candidates running for county offices and local offices are filed with the county Board of Elections office. The time of filing of these reports, and the types of reports will vary by the type of campaign. Every candidate will be responsible for their compliance with campaign reporting laws. A Candidate Campaign Finance Manual is available online on the [State Board of Elections' website](#).

The law requires that the treasurer of every campaign committee receives training in campaign finance law, rules and regulations. This can be accomplished online or in-person at numerous training sessions offered by the State Board of Elections.

**IMPORTANT: An organizational report must be filed with the appropriate elections office within ten days of becoming a candidate.** For these purposes, “becoming a candidate” includes taking positive action for the purpose of obtaining nomination or being elected, soliciting or receiving contributions, making expenditures to enhance a campaign, or filing a notice of candidacy, whichever comes first. The report can be found online on the [State Board of Elections’ website](#). Your local County Board of Elections is also available to help.

**7) Are there other filings required of certain county candidates? ([NCGS § 138A-22](#))**

The State Government Ethics Act requires that certain “covered persons” file a statement of economic interest at the time they file for office. Currently, Clerk of Court candidates would be considered such “covered persons.” As to who is “covered” please refer to the State Ethics Commission. You can obtain copies of this candidate statement of economic interest form from the State Ethics Commission or your local County Board of Elections.