

2026

Candidate Qualifying Handbook



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Chapter 1 – Background

The information contained in this publication is intended as a quick reference guide only. To the extent that this handbook covers material beyond that contained in law or rule, the Supervisor of Elections Office offers such material to candidates merely as guidelines. It is the responsibility of the person seeking to qualify to read, understand, and comply with applicable federal and state law requirements, procedures, and timelines for qualifying. [Chapters 97-106, Florida Statutes](#), the [Constitution of the State of Florida](#), and Division of Elections’ advisory [opinions](#) and [rules](#), the texts of which control, should be reviewed in their entirety for complete information regarding qualifying.

This handbook explains the qualifying procedures for local candidates who qualify with the Supervisor of Elections Office as party candidates, no party affiliation candidates, nonpartisan candidates, or write-in candidates. It gives the qualifications for each office, with both the regular and petition methods of qualifying, along with write-in procedures.

All applicable forms and publications are available on the Division of Elections website: <https://dos.fl.gov/elections/forms-publications/>.

Please direct any questions to the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office at **941-741-3823**.

What does “Qualify” Mean?

Each person seeking to qualify for nomination or election to a county or district office not covered by Section 99.061(1), *Florida Statutes*, shall file their qualification papers with, and pay their qualifying fee to, the county Supervisor of Elections Office. The qualifying fee shall consist of the filing fee and election assessment, and party assessment if any has been levied. In lieu of paying the qualifying fee, the person may qualify by the petition process pursuant to Section 99.095, *Florida Statutes*.

(§ [99.061\(2\)](#) and § [105.031](#), *Fla. Stat.*)

Who is an “Officer”?

The term “officer” means a person, whether elected or appointed, who has the authority to exercise the sovereign power of the state pertaining to an office recognized under the State Constitution or laws of the state. With respect to a municipality, “officer” means a person, whether elected or appointed, who has the authority to exercise municipal power as provided by the State Constitution, state laws, or municipal charter.

(§ [99.012\(1\)\(a\)](#), *Fla. Stat.*)

The term “officer” includes but is not limited to: mayor, city and county commissioner, state legislator, supervisor of elections, sheriff, property appraiser, tax collector, clerk of the circuit court and comptroller, judge, school board member, superintendent of schools, state attorney, public defender, municipal fire chief, medical examiner, elected hospital board member, and airport authority member.

Chapter 2 – Offices that Qualify with the Supervisor of Elections Office

Judicial Offices

- County Court Judge

County Offices

- County Commissioner
- Constitutional Officer
 - Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
 - Property Appraiser
 - Sheriff
 - Supervisor of Elections
 - Tax Collector
- School Board Member

Municipal Offices

- City of Anna Maria – Mayor, City Commissioner
- City of Bradenton – Mayor, City Councilor
- City of Bradenton Beach – Mayor, City Commissioner
- City of Holmes Beach – Mayor, City Commissioner
- City of Palmetto – Mayor, City Commissioner
- Town of Longboat Key – Mayor, Town Commissioner

Special Districts

- Community Development District (CDD)
- Fire District
- Manatee County Mosquito Control District (MCMCD)
- Manatee River Soil and Water Conservation District (MRSWCD)

Recreation Districts

- Bayshore Gardens Park and Recreation District
- Trailer Estates Park and Recreation District

Chapter 3 – Resign-to-Run Law

Governing Law

No “officer” may qualify as a candidate for another state, district, county, or municipal public office if the terms, or any part thereof, run concurrently with each other without resigning from the office they presently hold. Also, any officer who “qualifies” for federal public office must resign from the office they presently hold if the terms, or any part thereof, run concurrently with each other. However, there are exceptions to the Resign-to-Run Law (see below). *(§ 99.012 (3) and (4), Fla. Stat.)*

Exceptions to the Resign-to-Run Law

- Political party offices
- Persons serving without salary as members of an appointive board or authority
- Persons seeking the office of President or Vice President of the United States
- Persons holding federal office
- An elected officer running for federal office if the term of office they presently hold is scheduled to expire and be filled by election in the same primary and general election period as the federal office they are seeking

(§ 99.012 (7) and (8), Fla. Stat.)

Effective Date of the Resignation

The resignation’s effective date must be no later than the earlier of the following dates:

- The date the officer would take office, if elected; or
- The date the officer’s successor is required to take office

Once submitted, the resignation is **irrevocable**.

(§ 99.012 (3), Fla. Stat.)

Resignation Process

Written resignation must be submitted at least 10 days prior to the first day of qualifying for the office sought.

- Elected district, county, or municipal officers:
 - Submit resignation to the officer before whom they qualified for the office they hold
 - Submit a copy of the resignation to the Governor and to the Florida Department of State
- Appointed district, county, or municipal officers:
 - Submit resignation to the officer or authority that appointed them to the office they hold
 - Submit a copy of the resignation to the Governor and to the Florida Department of State
- All other officers:
 - Submit resignation to the Governor
 - Submit a copy of the resignation to the Florida Department of State

(§ 99.012 (3) and (4), Fla. Stat.)

Address Information

MANATEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE

The Honorable Scott Farrington
Manatee County Supervisor of Elections
600 301 Boulevard West, Suite 108
Bradenton, FL 34205-7946

Fax 941-741-3820 / **Email** info@votemanatee.gov

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor
The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Fax 850-922-9002

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Ms. Erica "Ikay" Reeve
Chief, Bureau of Election Records
Florida Department of State
R.A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Fax 850-245-6260 / **Email** erica.reeve@dos.fl.gov

Chapter 4 – Qualifying Fee and Options

All persons must fulfill certain requirements to qualify to run as a candidate for election to public office. The pages herein for each office currently up for election give the requirement details *particular to that office*, which include payment of a fee during the qualifying period. Offices may list one or more of the options described below to satisfy the fee requirement.

Qualifying Fee

A person may pay a fee to qualify as a candidate. The qualifying fee is based on the salary of the office sought. Refer to the pages herein for the current fee for each particular office up for election. A person paying the fee must also satisfy the other requirements of qualifying to run for the office sought.

Petition Process

A person may complete the candidate petition process to qualify as a candidate. Refer to the pages herein for the petition requirements, *including due dates*, for each particular office up for election. A person satisfying the petition requirement is not required to pay the qualifying fee, nor the party assessment (if applicable). However, they must satisfy the other requirements of qualifying to run for the office sought.

For more information, click here [Candidate Petition Handbook](#) and look for the Florida Division of Elections' version dated for the *current* election cycle. If it is not yet posted, check back periodically.

Write-In Candidate

A person may qualify as a write-in candidate. They are not required to pay the qualifying fee, nor the party assessment (if applicable), nor to collect petitions. However, they must satisfy the other requirements of qualifying to run for the office sought. For the write-in candidate option and details, refer to the pages herein for the office sought.

A qualified write-in candidate's name will not be listed on the ballot. A line will be printed at the bottom of the section for the office sought where voters may write the name of a qualified write-in candidate

Chapter 5 – Qualifying Process

When and Where to File

All qualifying fees and paperwork must be complete and received **before the end of qualifying period** (see herein the **2026 Calendar – Election Cycle Activities**), at this address:

Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office
600 301 Boulevard West, Suite 108
Bradenton, FL 34205-7946

Optional Pre-Qualifying Period

The optional pre-qualifying period is an opportunity for candidates to avoid the rush of the one-week actual qualifying period by completing all the steps early: “...a qualifying office may accept and hold qualifying papers submitted not earlier than 14 days prior to the beginning of the qualifying period, to be processed and filed during the qualifying period” (§ 99.061(8), *Fla. Stat.*). Papers submitted during the pre-qualifying period are subject to the same requirements of the qualifying period, which are prescribed in Section 99.061(7)(a), *Florida Statutes*.

Any Candidate Oath form, Financial Disclosure form, or qualifying fee payment filed with the Supervisor of Elections Office earlier than the allowed 14-day pre-qualifying period is not valid for qualifying. In such cases, these documents must be filed again with the Supervisor of Elections Office after the pre-qualifying period has opened and before the qualifying period closes.

How to File

Filing Before the Qualifying Period

Any person seeking public office may declare their intent to do so at any time prior to the next election for that office by filing forms DS-DE 9, *Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates*, and DS-DE 84, *Statement of Candidate*, with the Supervisor of Elections Office.

Filing During the Qualifying Period

It is a candidate’s responsibility to ensure that qualifying fees, if applicable, and paperwork are complete and timely filed.

Candidates may submit qualifying paperwork by hand-delivery or mail. The Supervisor of Elections Office does **not** accept qualifying papers via facsimile or email.

To ensure that the qualifying fee, if applicable, and paperwork are timely received, a candidate or someone on their behalf should hand-deliver the paperwork directly to the Supervisor of Elections Office or use a commercial express courier service that ensures direct delivery.

Missing or Incomplete Information

If the filing officer receives qualifying paperwork that does not include all required items **prior to the last day of qualifying**, the filing officer shall make a reasonable effort to notify the candidate of the missing or incomplete items and shall inform the candidate that all required items must be received by the close of qualifying.

(§ [99.061\(7\)\(b\)](#) and § [105.031\(5\)\(b\)](#), *Fla. Stat.*)

Candidates should provide a telephone number and email address on the Candidate Oath where they can be reached for questions about their qualifying paperwork.

Forms

See the pages herein for the specific office sought to find detailed information on which forms are required to qualify to run for that office.

- **Current qualifying forms** are available on the Florida Division of Elections website. **Do not use outdated forms**, as this may delay or prevent a person from qualifying.
- To find the correct version of **Candidate Oath form** for the office sought, refer to those specific pages herein. Carefully review your completed form, including the notarization section(s). Improper notarization may delay or prevent a person from qualifying.
 - **Name** – The candidate must include their legal given name or names, or a shortened form of their legal given name or names, or an initial or initials of their legal given name or names, or a bona fide nickname customarily related to them and by which they are commonly known, immediately followed by their legal surname. (*§ 99.0215(1), Fla. Stat.*)
 - **Nickname** – If a candidate wishes to designate a nickname to be printed on the ballot, they must file the *Affidavit of Nickname* on the reverse side of the oath form, and it must be verified and notarized under oath or affirmation, attesting that the nickname complies with the requirements of Section [99.0215\(2\)](#), *Florida Statutes*.
 - The candidate’s name will be printed on the ballot **exactly** as it is printed on the Candidate Oath form and cannot be changed after qualifying ends.
 - **Statement of Outstanding Fines, Fees, or Penalties** – “...each candidate, whether a party candidate, a candidate with no party affiliation, or a write-in candidate, shall, at the time of subscribing to the oath or affirmation, state in writing whether he or she owes any outstanding fines, fees, or penalties that cumulatively exceed \$250 for any violations of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution; the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees under part III of chapter 112; any local ethics ordinance governing standards of conduct and disclosure requirements; or chapter 106.” (*§ 99.021(1)(d), Fla. Stat.*)
- **Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests** for the year 2025; must be filed by all persons holding, or qualifying to run for, certain local offices as defined in Section 112.3145, *Florida Statutes*. The form is administered by the Florida Commission on Ethics and must be filed electronically via their site, [Commission on Ethics](#). Candidates must submit a printed copy of their filed Form 1 to the Supervisor of Elections Office during qualifying.
- **Form 6, Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests** for the year 2025; must be filed by all persons holding, or qualifying to run for, certain offices as defined in Section 112.3144, *Florida Statutes*. The form is administered by the Florida Commission on Ethics and must be filed electronically via their site, [Commission on Ethics](#). Candidates must submit a printed copy of their filed Form 6 to the Supervisor of Elections Office during qualifying.

Note: Visit the [Florida Commission on Ethics](#) for current information on whether Form 1 or Form 6 is required for the office sought.

Qualifying Fee

The qualifying fee must be:

- Paid by a properly executed check drawn on the campaign account (a personal check, cashier's check, money order, or cash are **not accepted**)
- Made payable to the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office
- In an amount not less than the fee required

The check must be signed by the campaign treasurer or deputy treasurer. A check signed by a candidate who has not been designated as the treasurer or deputy treasurer is **not accepted**.

The qualifying fee cannot be returned to a candidate unless the candidate withdraws, in writing, **before** the close of qualifying. The withdrawal statement **must contain the candidate's signature**. The withdrawal may be scanned and emailed to info@votemanatee.gov, or faxed to 941-741-3820.

Returned Check

If a candidate's qualifying fee check is returned by the bank for any reason, the filing officer shall immediately notify the candidate. Notwithstanding the end of qualifying, the candidate shall have 48 hours from the time such notification is received, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, to pay the fee with a cashier's check purchased from funds of the campaign account. Failure to pay the fee as provided in this subparagraph shall disqualify the candidate.

*(§ [105.031\(5\)\(a\)1](#), Fla. Stat., and
Wright v. City of Miami Gardens, 200 So.3d 765 (Fla. S. Ct. 2016))*

Qualifying Status Look-Up

A person's candidate qualifying status can be found on the Supervisor of Elections Office website: <https://www.votemanatee.gov/local-candidates-and-committees/>.

Prohibition on Qualifying for Multiple Offices

No person may qualify as a candidate for more than one public office, whether federal, state, district, county, or municipal, if the terms or any part thereof run concurrently with each other.

(§ [99.012\(2\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

(See also herein, **Chapter 3 – Resign-to-Run Law**.)

Chapter 6 – County Court Judge

| Office | Incumbent | Salary <i>(as of July 1, 2025)</i> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| County Court Judge, Group 1 | Renee Inman | \$ 189,755.00 |
| County Court Judge, Group 2 | Heather Doyle | \$ 189,755.00 |
| County Court Judge, Group 4 | Melissa Gould | \$ 189,755.00 |

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| Type of election | Nonpartisan, elected Countywide |
| Term of office | 6 years, beginning January 5, 2027 |
| Election dates | August 18, 2026 – Primary Election November 3, 2026 – General Election (runoff) |
| Candidate requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be a citizen of the United States of America 2. Be a resident of, and a registered voter in, Manatee County, Florida 3. Be now, and have been for a period of five years prior to qualifying, a member in good standing of The Florida Bar (<i>§ 34.021 Fla. Stat.</i>) 4. Be a resident of the district for which you are qualifying at the time of assuming office |
| Forms required and when they are due | <p>DS-DE Forms are maintained by the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections. <i>Current</i> forms are available on their website or at our office.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form DS-DE 9, Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates; must be filed before opening a campaign account and accepting or spending any funds 2. Form DS-DE 83, Statement of Candidate for Judicial Office; must be filed within 10 days of filing Form DS-DE 9 (above) 3. Form DS-DE 84, Statement of Candidate; must be filed within 10 days of filing Form DS-DE 9 (above) 4. Form DS-DE 303JU, Candidate Oath Judicial Office; must be filed during qualifying 5. CE Form 6, Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests. All Form 6 filing is electronic, and is administered by and filed with the Florida Commission on Ethics, https://disclosure.floridaethics.gov. Candidates are urged to allow ample time to complete the e-filing process prior to the qualifying period, when <i>you must present a printed copy of your filed Form 6.</i> |
| Additional resource | An Aid to Understanding Canon 7: Guidelines to Assist Judicial Candidates in Campaign and Political Activities |

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| Qualifying dates and location | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional pre-qualifying begins on Monday, April 6, 2026, and ends on Friday, April 17, 2026. • Qualifying begins at noon on Monday, April 20, 2026, and ends at noon on Friday, April 24, 2026. • Qualifying takes place at the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office, 600 301 Boulevard West, Suite 108, Bradenton, FL 34205-7946. |
| Qualifying by fee, County Court Judge Candidate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If choosing this option, you must pay \$ 7,590.20, which is four percent of the salary of the office as of July 1, 2025. |
| Qualifying by petition, County Court Judge Candidate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If choosing this option, Form DS-DE 9, Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates, must be filed prior to collecting signatures. Petitions that are signed before the DS-DE 9 filing date are not valid. • The required number of signatures is 2,818, which is one percent of the number of registered voters residing in the County as of the last General Election (November 2024). • Form DS-DE 104, Candidate Petition, must be used to obtain signatures of registered voters. You are responsible for reproducing the form to collect individual signatures. • A signature verification fee of 10 cents per name must be paid when the petitions are submitted. • The deadline to submit petitions is prior to noon on Monday, March 23, 2026. |
| Qualifying as a Write-in Candidate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any registered voter may qualify as a write-in candidate. You are not required to pay a qualifying fee or party assessment, nor to collect petitions. However, you must satisfy other applicable qualifying requirements, including that you must be a resident of the district for which you are qualifying at the time of assuming office. • A qualified write-in candidate’s name will not be listed on the ballot. A line will be printed at the bottom of the section for the office sought, where voters may write the name of a qualified write-in candidate. |

Chapter 7 – County Commission

| Office | Incumbent | Salary (as of July 1, 2025) |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Commissioner District 1 * | Vacant | \$ 111,910.00 |
| Commissioner District 2 | Amanda Ballard (R) | \$ 111,910.00 |
| Commissioner District 4 | Mike Rahn (R) | \$ 111,910.00 |
| Commissioner District 6 | Jason Bearden (R) | \$ 111,910.00 |

Type of election Partisan. Seats for Single Member Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are elected within their Districts. Seats for At Large Districts 6 and 7 are elected Countywide.

Term of office 4 years, beginning November 17, 2026
* 2 years, beginning November 17, 2026, to serve remainder of the current term

Election dates August 18, 2026 – Primary Election
November 3, 2026 – General Election (runoff)

Candidate requirements

1. Be a citizen of the United States of America
2. Be a resident of Manatee County, Florida
3. Be a registered voter in the District for which you are qualifying
4. Be a resident of the District for which you are qualifying at the time of election

Forms required and when they are due

DS-DE Forms are maintained by the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections. *Current* forms are available [on their website](#) or at our office.

1. **Form DS-DE 9, Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates;** must be filed before opening a campaign account and accepting or spending any funds
2. **Form DS-DE 84, Statement of Candidate;** must be filed within 10 days of filing Form DS-DE 9 (above)
3. The appropriate Candidate Oath must be filed during the qualifying period:
 - **Form DS-DE 301A, Candidate Oath State and Local Partisan Office *With Party Affiliation***
 - **Form DS-DE 301B, Candidate Oath State and Local Partisan Office *Without Party Affiliation***
 - **Form DS-DE 301C, Candidate Oath State and Local Partisan Office *Write-In Candidate***
4. **CE Form 6, Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests. All Form 6 filing is electronic,** and is administered by and filed with the Florida Commission on Ethics, <https://disclosure.floridaethics.gov>. Candidates are urged to allow ample time to complete the e-filing process prior to the qualifying period, when ***you must present a printed copy of your filed Form 6.***

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| Qualifying period dates and location | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional pre-qualifying begins on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, and ends on Friday, June 5, 2026. • Qualifying begins at noon on Monday, June 8, 2026, and ends at noon on Friday, June 12, 2026. • Qualifying takes place at the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office, 600 301 Boulevard West, Suite 108, Bradenton, FL 34205-7946. |
| Qualifying by fee, County Commission Candidate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Party Affiliation Candidate: If choosing to qualify by fee, you must pay \$ 6,714.60, which is six percent of the salary of the office as of July 1, 2025. • No Party Affiliation Candidate: If choosing to qualify by fee, you must pay \$ 4,476.40, which is four percent of the salary of the office as of July 1, 2025. Minor party candidates also pay an assessment if one has been levied by their party. |
| Qualifying by petition, County Commission Candidate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If choosing this option, Form DS-DE 9, Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates, must be filed prior to collecting signatures. Petitions that are signed before the DS-DE 9 filing date are not valid. • The required number of verified signatures is one percent of the number of registered voters residing in the district as of the last General Election (11/24): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District 1 requires 703 signatures District 2 requires 388 signatures District 4 requires 474 signatures District 6 requires 2,818 signatures • Form DS-DE 104, Candidate Petition, must be used to obtain signatures of registered voters. You are responsible for reproducing the form to collect individual signatures. • A signature verification fee of 10 cents per name must be paid when the petitions are submitted. • The deadline to submit petitions is prior to noon on Monday, May 11, 2026. |
| Qualifying as a Write-in Candidate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any registered voter may become a write-in candidate by completing the filing process during the qualifying period. You are not required to pay a qualifying fee or party assessment, nor to collect petitions. However, you must satisfy certain applicable requirements, including that you be a resident of the district for which you are qualifying at the time of assuming office. • A qualified write-in candidate’s name will not be listed on the ballot. A line will be printed at the bottom of the section for the office sought, where voters may write the name of a qualified write-in candidate. |

Chapter 8 – School Board

| Office | Incumbent | Salary <i>(as of July 1, 2025)</i> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Board Member District 2 | Cindy Spray | \$ 52,303.00 |
| Board Member District 4 | Wesley (Chad) Choate | \$ 52,303.00 |
| Board Member District 5 | Richard Tatem | \$ 52,303.00 |

Type of election Nonpartisan. Single Member District seats are elected within their Districts.

Term of office 4 years, beginning November 17, 2026

Election dates August 18, 2026 – Primary Election
November 3, 2026 – General Election (runoff)

Candidate requirements

1. Be a citizen of the United States of America
2. Be a registered voter in Manatee County, Florida
3. Be a resident of the District elected to at the time of assuming office

Forms required and when they are due

DS-DE Forms are maintained by the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections. *Current* forms are available [on their website](#) or at our office.

1. **Form DS-DE 9, Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates;** must be filed before opening a campaign account and accepting or spending any funds
2. **Form DS-DE 84, Statement of Candidate;** must be filed within 10 days of filing Form DS-DE 9 (above)
3. **Form DS-DE 304SB, Candidate Oath School Board Office;** must be filed during the qualifying period
4. **CE Form 6, Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests. All Form 6 filing is electronic,** and is administered by and filed with the Florida Commission on Ethics, <https://disclosure.floridaethics.gov>. Candidates are urged to allow ample time to complete the e-filing process prior to the qualifying period, when **you must present a printed copy of your filed Form 6.**

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|---|---|
| Qualifying period dates and location | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional pre-qualifying begins on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, and ends on Friday, June 5, 2026. • Qualifying begins at noon on Monday, June 8, 2026, and ends at noon on Friday, June 12, 2026. • Qualifying takes place at the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office, 600 301 Boulevard West, Suite 108, Bradenton, FL 34205-7946. |
| Qualifying by fee, School Board Candidate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If choosing this option, you must pay \$ 2,092.12, which is four percent of the salary of the office as of July 1, 2025. |
| Qualifying by petition, School Board Candidate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If choosing this option, Form DS-DE 9, Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates, must be filed prior to collecting signatures. Petitions that are signed before the DS-DE 9 filing date are not valid. • The required number of verified signatures is one percent of the number of registered voters residing in the district as of the last General Election (11/24): District 2 requires 388 signatures District 4 requires 394 signatures District 5 requires 786 signatures • Form DS-DE 104, Candidate Petition, must be used to obtain signatures of registered voters. You are responsible for reproducing the form to collect individual signatures. • A signature verification fee of 10 cents per name must be paid when the petitions are submitted. • The deadline to submit petitions is prior to noon on Monday, May 11, 2026. |
| Qualifying as a Write-in Candidate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any registered voter may become a write-in candidate by completing the filing process during the qualifying period. You are not required to pay a qualifying fee or party assessment, nor to collect petitions. However, you must satisfy certain applicable requirements, including that you be a resident of the district for which you are qualifying at the time of assuming office. • A qualified write-in candidate’s name will not be listed on the ballot. A line will be printed at the bottom of the section for the office sought, where voters may write the name of a qualified write-in candidate. |

Chapter 9 – Special Taxing Districts

| Community Development Districts (CDDs) | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|---|
| District Name | Board Member Seat and Incumbent | District Name | Board Member Seat and Incumbent |
| Artisan Lakes | 1 – Deborah Reynolds 4 – Peter Latessa 5 – Vincent Sciarrabba | Lakewood Ranch 6 | 1 – Martin Fugardi 2 – James Kunert 3 – Susan R. Ellis |
| Artisan Lakes East | 4 – Matt Sawyer 5 – Tina Golub | Legends Bay | 3 – Charles Tokarz 5 – Kathy Beccia |
| Aviary at Rutland Ranch | 1 – Stephen Cerven 2 – A. John Falkner | Lexington | 3 – Allan Tremmel 4 – Erin Scoccia 5 – Vacant |
| Brookstone | 2 – Michelle Faro 4 – Vacant 5 – Greg Mundell | Palma Sola Trace | 1 – Susan Kogge 2 – Eva Walker 3 – Mary Gray |
| Copperstone | 1 – Adam Bailey 2 – Michael Fondario 3 – Thomas Fretz | Palms of Terra Ceia Bay | 1 – Charles (Duane) Swetland 3 – Gerald (Jerry) R. Barkholz 5 – Judith (Judi) F. O'Connor |
| Cross Creek | 1 – Lianna Litwin 2 – Bruce Stolarz 5 – Charles Tokarz | Sanctuary Cove | 2 – Mike Campbell 3 – Vacant 4 – Clifford G. Glover |
| Eagle Point | 1 – William Hathaway 3 – Kevin Gagne | Silverleaf | 1 – Paul Gressin 2 – Lawrence Powell 4 – Timothy Abramski |
| Forest Creek | 4 – Walter Wolf 5 – Michael O'Hair | Summer Woods | 3 – Mark Sigman 4 – Mathew Ruxton 5 – Christopher Sullivan |
| Greyhawk Landing | 1 – Cheri Ady 3 – Jim Hengel 5 – Mark Bush | Tara | 1 – Joseph DiBartolomeo 3 – Wendy Pittman 5 – Eugene Rado |
| Harbourage at Braden River | 3 – Vacant 4 – Vacant 5 – Michael Monti | Trevesta | 1 – Ted Piwowar 2 – Joseph Powlis 3 – William Dornetto |
| Harrison Ranch | 1 – Susan Walterick 2 – Julianne Giella 3 – Victor Colombo | University Place | 1 – David Meyers 3 – Sarah Hartz |
| Heritage Harbour North | 1 – Nancy Lyons 3 – John Wisz 5 – Louise Buckley | Waterlefe | 1 – Kenneth Bumgarner 3 – Eileen Antonelli 5 – Thomas Tosi |
| Heritage Harbour South | 3 – Mike Neville 5 – Lisa Davis | Water's Edge | 1 – Larry Burbank 4 – Brian Holliday 5 – Gregory Kisela |
| Lakewood Ranch 1 | 1 – Preston Olinger 3 – Laura Fox 5 – Vincenzo Russo | Willow Hammock | 2 – Christina Zimmerman 5 – Josh Delancey |
| Lakewood Ranch 2 | 4 – Thomas C. Green 5 – Arthur R. Taber | Willow Walk | 1 – Ali Mustafa 2 – Jasen Milenkovski 3 – Kathleen Adams |
| Lakewood Ranch 4 | 1 – Nancy R. Johnson 2 – Keith E. Davey 3 – Bonita (Bonnie) Sidiski | Willows | 1 – Michelle Faro 2 – Peter Eduardo |
| Lakewood Ranch 5 | 3 – David L. Emison 5 – Martin A. Cohn | | |

Effective prior to the 2026 General Election, the following CDD meets the requirements to transition from landowner elections to registered-voter elections for their Board Members, starting with the 11-03-26 General Election:

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Evergreen | Seat 4 – Greg Mundell | Seat 5 – Hal Lutz |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------|

| Fire Districts | | | | |
|----------------|---|---------------|---|--|
| District Name | Board Member Seat and Incumbent | District Name | Board Member Seat and Incumbent | |
| Cedar Hammock | 1 – Beth Byron-Reasoner • Appointed until 2026 General Election • 2-year term | North River | 1 – Logan T. Wells 3 – Robert M. Bell 7 – James D. Alderman | |
| | 2 – Jay Stephen Litschauer • Appointed • 4-year term | | Parrish | 1 – Edward W. Stevens 3 – Kevin L. Webb 5 – Sawyer L. Ramsey |
| | 4 – William M. Espy • Appointed • 4-year term | | | Southern Manatee |
| Duette | 1 – Kellie Stoddard 4-year term | West Manatee | 2 – Derrick Warner 3 – Billy Burke 4 – Dana Tindall | |
| | 2 – Jeremy Laird 2-year term | | | |
| | 3 – Francis Parrish 4-year term | | | |
| | 4 – Betty L. Stewart 2-year term | | | |
| | 5 – Ebson Parrish 4-year term | | | |
| East Manatee | 1 – Garry Lawson | | | |
| | 3 – Tony Barrett | | | |
| | 5 – A. Richard Jacobs | | | |

| Manatee County Mosquito Control District (MCMCD) | |
|--|----------------|
| Office | Incumbent |
| Commissioner – Group 1 | Ralph Garrison |
| Commissioner – Group 3 | Tim Matthews |

| Manatee River Soil and Water Conservation District (MRSWCD) | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Office | Incumbent |
| Board of Supervisors Member – Group 1 | Michael Ingram |
| Board of Supervisors Member – Group 3 | Julie DeLesline Tillett |
| Board of Supervisors Member – Group 5 | Callon (Buddy) C. Keen, Jr. |

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Special Taxing Districts *(cont'd)*

| | |
|---|---|
| Type of election | Nonpartisan. Seats are elected within their Districts. |
| Term of office | 4 years; start date varies by District |
| Election date | November 3, 2026 – General Election |
| Candidate requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be a citizen of the United States of America 2. Be a registered voter in Manatee County, Florida 3. Be a resident of the District for which you are qualifying |
| Forms required and when they are due | <p>DS-DE Forms are maintained by the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections. <i>Current</i> forms are available on their website or at our office.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form DS-DE 9, Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates; must be filed before opening a campaign account and accepting or spending any funds Note: If you do not collect contributions, and your only expense is the qualifying fee or petition signature verification fee, you are not required to appoint a Campaign Treasurer nor designate a Campaign Depository; however, you must still file this form, and by the end of the qualifying period. 2. Form DS-DE 84, Statement of Candidate; must be filed within 10 days of filing Form DS-DE 9 (above), and by the end of the qualifying period 3. Form DS-DE 302NP, Candidate Oath Nonpartisan Office; must be filed during the qualifying period 4. CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests. All Form 1 filing is electronic, and is administered by and filed with the Florida Commission on Ethics, https://disclosure.floridaethics.gov. Candidates are urged to allow ample time to complete the e-filing process prior to the qualifying period, when you must present a printed copy of your filed Form 1. |

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Qualifying period dates and location

- **Optional pre-qualifying begins** on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, and ends on Friday, June 5, 2026.
- **Qualifying begins** at noon on Monday, June 8, 2026, and ends at noon on Friday, June 12, 2026.
- **Qualifying takes place** at the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office, 600 301 Boulevard West, Suite 108, Bradenton, FL 34205-7946.

Qualifying requirements for Special Taxing District Candidate

Option 1 – Qualify by fee

- If choosing this option, you must pay **\$ 25.00**.
- If you **have** established a campaign account, you must pay with a check drawn on that account, signed by the campaign treasurer or deputy treasurer. A candidate may sign the check only if they have been designated as the campaign treasurer or deputy treasurer.
- If you **have not** established a campaign account, you must pay with either a personal check or cash.
- Make your check payable to: Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office.

Option 2 – Qualify by petition

- If choosing this option, **Form DS-DE 9, Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates**, must be filed **prior to collecting signatures**. Petitions that are signed before the DS-DE 9 filing date are not valid.
- The required number of signatures is **25**.
- **Form DS-DE 104, Candidate Petition**, must be used to obtain signatures of registered voters who are residents of the District for which you are qualifying. You are responsible for reproducing the form to collect individual signatures.
- A signature verification fee of **10 cents per name** must be paid when the petitions are submitted. If you cannot pay this fee without imposing an undue burden on your resources, you may have the fee waived by filing **Form DS-DE 19A, Affidavit of Undue Burden for Candidates**, available at <https://dos.fl.gov/elections/forms-publications/forms/> or at our office.
- The deadline to submit petitions is **prior to noon on Monday, May 11, 2026**.

Chapter 10 – City of Anna Maria

| Office | Incumbent | Salary <i>(as of July 1, 2025)</i> |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mayor | Mark Short | \$ 19,600.00 |
| City Commissioner | Christopher Arendt | \$ 4,800.00 |
| City Commissioner | Gary McMullen | \$ 4,800.00 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Type of election | Nonpartisan. Office seats are elected within the City of Anna Maria. |
| Term of office | 2 years, beginning November 26, 2026 |
| Election date | November 3, 2026 – General Election |
| Candidate requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be a citizen of the United States of America 2. Be a registered voter in Manatee County, Florida 3. Be a resident of the City of Anna Maria for a period of two years prior to qualifying for office |
| Forms required and when they are due | <p>DS-DE Forms are maintained by the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections. <i>Current</i> forms are available on their website or at our office.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form DS-DE 9, Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates; must be filed before opening a campaign account and accepting or spending any funds 2. Form DS-DE 84, Statement of Candidate; must be filed within 10 days of filing Form DS-DE 9 (above) 3. Form DS-DE 302NP, Candidate Oath Nonpartisan Office; must be filed during the qualifying period 4. CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests. All Form 1 filing is electronic, and is administered by and filed with the Florida Commission on Ethics, https://disclosure.floridaethics.gov. Candidates are urged to allow ample time to complete the e-filing process prior to the qualifying period, when you must present a printed copy of your filed Form 1. |

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Qualifying period dates and location

- **Optional pre-qualifying begins** on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, and ends on Friday, May 29, 2026.
- **Qualifying** begins at noon on Monday, June 1, 2026, and ends at noon on Friday, June 12, 2026.
- **Qualifying takes place** at the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office, 600 301 Boulevard West, Suite 108, Bradenton, FL 34205-7946.

Qualifying requirements for City of Anna Maria Candidate

Option 1 – All items due during qualifying

- Pay an Election Assessment Fee of **\$ 196.00 for Mayor** or **\$ 48.00 for Commissioner**, which is one percent of the annual salary of the respective offices as of July 1, 2025.
- Make your **check payable to:** Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office.
- **AND** submit **10 petition signatures** of registered voters who are residents of the City of Anna Maria. The petition form is available at the Supervisor of Elections Office.
- **AND** submit a **Candidate Residency Affidavit**. The affidavit form is available at the Supervisor of Elections Office.

Option 2 – All items due during qualifying

- File an **Affidavit of Undue Burden**, which eliminates the requirement to pay an Election Assessment Fee. The affidavit form is available at the Supervisor of Elections Office.
- **AND** submit **10 petition signatures** of registered voters who are residents of the City of Anna Maria. The petition form is available at the Supervisor of Elections Office.
- **AND** submit a **Candidate Residency Affidavit**. The affidavit form is available at the Supervisor of Elections Office.

Chapter 11 – City of Bradenton

| Office | Incumbent | Salary <i>(as of July 1, 2025)</i> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| City Councilor Ward 2 | Marianne Barnebey | \$ 41,765.62 |
| City Councilor Ward 3 | Kemp Schuessler | \$ 41,765.62 |
| City Councilor Ward 4 | Lisa Gonzalez Moore | \$ 41,765.62 |

| | |
|---|--|
| Type of election | Nonpartisan. Office seats are elected within the City of Bradenton. |
| Term of office | 4 years, beginning January 6, 2027 |
| Election date | November 3, 2026 – General Election |
| Candidate requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be a citizen of the United States of America 2. Be a registered voter in Manatee County, Florida; a City Council candidate must be registered to vote in the Ward for which they qualify 3. Be a resident of the City of Bradenton for a period of 30 days prior to the first day of qualifying for office |
| Forms required and when they are due | <p>DS-DE Forms are maintained by the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections. <i>Current</i> forms are available on their website or at our office.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form DS-DE 9, Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates; must be filed before opening a campaign account and accepting or spending any funds 2. Form DS-DE 84, Statement of Candidate; must be filed within 10 days of filing Form DS-DE 9 (above) 3. Form DS-DE 302NP, Candidate Oath Nonpartisan Office; must be filed during the qualifying period 4. CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests. All Form 1 filing is electronic, and is administered by and filed with the Florida Commission on Ethics, https://disclosure.floridaethics.gov. Candidates are urged to allow ample time to complete the e-filing process prior to the qualifying period, when <i>you must present a printed copy of your filed Form 1.</i> |

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**Qualifying period
dates and location**

- **Optional pre-qualifying begins** on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, and ends on Friday, June 5, 2026.
- **Qualifying begins** at noon on Monday, June 8, 2026, and ends at noon on Friday, June 12, 2026.
- **Qualifying takes place** at the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office, 600 301 Boulevard West, Suite 108, Bradenton, FL 34205-7946.

**Qualifying
requirements
for
City of Bradenton
Candidate**

Option 1 – All items due during qualifying

- Pay an Election Assessment Fee of **\$ 417.66 for City Councilor**, which is one percent of the annual salary of the office as of July 1, 2025.
- **AND** submit **25 petition signatures** of registered voters who are residents of the City of Bradenton Ward in which you are seeking office. **Form DS-DE 104, Candidate Petition**, must be used to obtain signatures. You are responsible for reproducing the form to collect individual signatures.

Option 2 – All items due during qualifying

- File an **Affidavit of Undue Burden**, which eliminates the requirement to pay an Election Assessment Fee. The affidavit form is available at the Supervisor of Elections Office.
- **AND** submit **25 petition signatures** of registered voters who are residents of the City of Bradenton Ward in which you are seeking office. **Form DS-DE 104, Candidate Petition**, must be used to obtain signatures. You are responsible for reproducing the form to collect individual signatures.

Chapter 12 – City of Bradenton Beach

| Office | Incumbent | Salary <i>(as of July 1, 2025)</i> |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| City Commissioner Ward 2 | Scott Bear | \$ 4,800.00 |
| City Commissioner Ward 3 | Ralph Cole | \$ 4,800.00 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Type of election | Nonpartisan. Office seats are elected within the City of Bradenton Beach. |
| Term of office | 2 years, beginning November 16, 2026 |
| Election date | November 3, 2026 – General Election |
| Candidate requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be a citizen of the United States of America 2. Be a registered voter in Manatee County, Florida 3. Be a resident of the City of Bradenton Beach for a period of 12 months prior to qualifying for office 4. Be a resident of the Ward for which the office is sought |
| Forms required and when they are due | <p>DS-DE Forms are maintained by the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections. <i>Current</i> forms are available on their website or at our office.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form DS-DE 9, Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates; must be filed before opening a campaign account and accepting or spending any funds 2. Form DS-DE 84, Statement of Candidate; must be filed within 10 days of filing Form DS-DE 9 (above) 3. Form DS-DE 302NP, Candidate Oath Nonpartisan Office; must be filed during the qualifying period 4. CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests. All Form 1 filing is electronic, and is administered by and filed with the Florida Commission on Ethics, https://disclosure.floridaethics.gov. Candidates are urged to allow ample time to complete the e-filing process prior to the qualifying period, when you must present a printed copy of your filed Form 1. |

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**Qualifying period
dates and location**

- **Optional pre-qualifying begins** on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, and ends on Friday, June 5, 2026.
- **Qualifying begins** at noon on Monday, June 8, 2026, and ends at noon on Friday, June 12, 2026.
- **Qualifying takes place** at the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office, 600 301 Boulevard West, Suite 108, Bradenton, FL 34205-7946.

**Qualifying
requirements
for City of
Bradenton Beach
Candidate**

Option 1 – All items due during qualifying

- Pay an Election Assessment Fee of **\$ 48.00 for City Commissioner**, which is one percent of the annual salary of the office as of July 1, 2025.
- **AND** submit a **Candidate Residency Affidavit**. The affidavit form is available at the Supervisor of Elections Office.

Option 2 – All items due during qualifying

- File an **Affidavit of Undue Burden**, which eliminates the requirement to pay an Election Assessment Fee. The affidavit form is available at the Supervisor of Elections Office.
- **AND** submit a **Candidate Residency Affidavit**. The affidavit form is available at the Supervisor of Elections Office.

Chapter 13 – City of Holmes Beach

| Office | Incumbent | Salary <i>(as of July 1, 2025)</i> |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mayor | Judy Titsworth | \$ 28,680.00 |
| City Commissioner | Daniel Diggins | \$ 8,210.04 |
| City Commissioner | Carol Whitmore | \$ 8,210.04 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Type of election | Nonpartisan. Office seats are elected within the City of Holmes Beach. |
| Term of office | 2 years, beginning November 14, 2026 |
| Election date | November 3, 2026 – General Election |
| Candidate requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be a citizen of the United States of America 2. Be a registered voter in Manatee County, Florida 3. Be a resident of the City of Holmes Beach for a period of two years prior to qualifying for office |
| Forms required and when they are due | <p>DS-DE Forms are maintained by the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections. <i>Current</i> forms are available on their website or at our office.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form DS-DE 9, Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates; must be filed before opening a campaign account and accepting or spending any funds 2. Form DS-DE 84, Statement of Candidate; must be filed within 10 days of filing Form DS-DE 9 (above) 3. Form DS-DE 302NP, Candidate Oath Nonpartisan Office; must be filed during the qualifying period 4. CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests. All Form 1 filing is electronic, and is administered by and filed with the Florida Commission on Ethics, https://disclosure.floridaethics.gov. Candidates are urged to allow ample time to complete the e-filing process prior to the qualifying period, when you must present a printed copy of your filed Form 1. |

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Qualifying period dates and location

- **Optional pre-qualifying begins** on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, and ends on Friday, June 5, 2026.
- **Qualifying begins** at noon on Monday, June 8, 2026, and ends at noon on Friday, June 12, 2026.
- **Qualifying takes place** at the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office, 600 301 Boulevard West, Suite 108, Bradenton, FL 34205-7946.

Qualifying requirements for City of Holmes Beach Candidate

Option 1 – All items due during qualifying

- Pay an Election Assessment Fee of **\$ 286.80 for Mayor** or **\$ 82.10 for City Commissioner**, which is one percent of the annual salary of the respective offices as of July 1, 2025.
- **AND** submit **15 petition signatures** of registered voters who are residents of the City of Holmes Beach. The petition form is available at the Supervisor of Elections Office.
- **AND** submit a **Candidate Residency Affidavit**. The affidavit form is available at the Supervisor of Elections Office.

Option 2 – All items due during qualifying

- File an **Affidavit of Undue Burden**, which eliminates the requirement to pay an Election Assessment Fee. The affidavit form is available at the Supervisor of Elections Office.
- **AND** submit **15 petition signatures** of registered voters who are residents of the City of Holmes Beach. The petition form is available at the Supervisor of Elections Office.
- **AND** submit a **Candidate Residency Affidavit**. The affidavit form is available at the Supervisor of Elections Office.

Chapter 14 – City of Palmetto

| Office | Incumbent | Salary <i>(as of July 1, 2025)</i> |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| City Commissioner Ward 1 | Harold Smith | \$ 19,843.30 |
| City Commissioner Ward 2 | Sunshine Joiner | \$ 19,843.30 |
| City Commissioner Ward 3 | Brian Williams | \$ 19,843.30 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Type of election | Nonpartisan. Seats for Single Member Wards 1, 2, and 3 are elected within their Wards. Seats for At Large 1 and 2, and Mayor, are elected Citywide. |
| Term of office | 4 years, beginning November 16, 2026 |
| Election date | November 3, 2026 – General Election |
| Candidate requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be a citizen of the United States of America 2. Be a registered voter in Manatee County, Florida 3. Be a legal resident within the corporate limits of the City of Palmetto for a period of 365 consecutive days immediately prior to the last day of qualifying for office 4. A City Commission Ward candidate must also be a legal resident of the Ward in which they are qualifying for office. |
| Forms required and when they are due | <p>DS-DE Forms are maintained by the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections. <i>Current</i> forms are available on their website or at our office.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form DS-DE 9, Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates; must be filed before opening a campaign account and accepting or spending any funds 2. Form DS-DE 84, Statement of Candidate; must be filed within 10 days of filing Form DS-DE 9 (above) 3. Form DS-DE 302NP, Candidate Oath Nonpartisan Office; must be filed during the qualifying period 4. CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests. All Form 1 filing is electronic, and is administered by and filed with the Florida Commission on Ethics, https://disclosure.floridaethics.gov. Candidates are urged to allow ample time to complete the e-filing process prior to the qualifying period, when you must present a printed copy of your filed Form 1. |

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| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Qualifying period dates and location</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional pre-qualifying begins on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, and ends on Friday, June 5, 2026. • Qualifying begins at noon on Monday, June 8, 2026, and ends at noon on Friday, June 12, 2026. • Qualifying takes place at the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office, 600 301 Boulevard West, Suite 108, Bradenton, FL 34205-7946. |
| <p>Qualifying requirements for City of Palmetto Candidate</p> | <p>Option 1 – All items due during qualifying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay a qualifying fee of \$ 25.00. • AND pay an Election Assessment Fee of \$ 198.43 for City Commissioner, which is one percent of the annual salary of the office as of July 1, 2025. <p>Option 2 – All items due during qualifying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In lieu of paying a qualifying fee of \$ 25.00, submit petition signatures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The required number of signatures is one percent of the number of registered voters residing in the City of Palmetto as of the last General Election (11/24): Ward 1 = 13 Ward 2 = 31 Ward 3 = 34 — Form DS-DE 104, Candidate Petition, must be used to obtain signatures. You are responsible for reproducing the form to collect individual signatures. — A signature verification fee of 10 cents per name must be paid when the petitions are submitted. If you cannot pay this fee without imposing an undue burden on your resources, you may have the fee waived by filing Form DS-DE 19A, Affidavit of Undue Burden for Candidates, available at https://dos.fl.gov/elections/forms-publications/forms/ or at our office. — The deadline to submit petitions is prior to noon on Monday, May 11, 2026. • AND in lieu of paying the Election Assessment Fee of \$ 198.43 for City Commissioner, file an Affidavit of Undue Burden, which eliminates the requirement to pay an Election Assessment Fee. This affidavit form is available at the Supervisor of Elections Office. |

2026 Calendar – Election Cycle Activities

| Activity | Candidate Qualifying | Book Closing <i>(Voter Registration Deadline)</i> | Election Day |
|---|--|--|---|
| Trailer Estates Park and Recreation District Election | No Start Date – ENDED AT – 5:00 pm, Friday January 9, 2026 | Midnight Sunday February 8, 2026 <i>Deadline to be "Owner of Record"</i> | Special District Election 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm Tuesday March 10, 2026 |
| West Manatee Fire and Rescue District Special Election | <i>Not applicable, no offices on ballot</i> | Midnight Monday February 9, 2026 | Special Election 7:00 am – 7:00 pm Tuesday March 10, 2026 |
| First qualifying period. For Judicial Office candidates who qualify with the Manatee County SOE Office: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Court Judge | Start at Noon Monday April 20, 2026 – TO – End at Noon Friday April 24, 2026 <i>Optional Pre-Qualifying*</i> April 6–17, 2026 | Midnight Monday July 20, 2026 <i>If runoff needed:</i> Midnight Monday October 5, 2026 | Primary Election 7:00 am – 7:00 pm Tuesday August 18, 2026 <i>If runoff needed:</i> General Election 7:00 am – 7:00 pm Tuesday November 3, 2026 |
| City of Anna Maria Election | Start at Noon Monday June 1, 2026 – TO – End at Noon Friday June 12, 2026 <i>Optional Pre-Qualifying*</i> May 26 – 29, 2026 | Midnight Monday October 5, 2026 | General Election 7:00 am – 7:00 pm Tuesday November 3, 2026 |

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2026 Calendar – Election Cycle Activities *(cont'd)*

| Activity | Candidate Qualifying | Book Closing <i>(Voter Registration Deadline)</i> | Election Day |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>Second qualifying period. For County, Special Taxing District, and Municipal candidates who qualify with the Manatee County SOE Office:</p> <p>County Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Commissioner • School Board Member | <p>Start at Noon Monday June 8, 2026</p> <p>– TO –</p> <p>End at Noon Friday June 12, 2026</p> | <p>Midnight Monday July 20, 2026</p> <p><i>For candidates advancing:</i></p> <p>Midnight Monday October 5, 2026</p> | <p>Primary Election 7:00 am – 7:00 pm Tuesday August 18, 2026</p> <p><i>For candidates advancing:</i></p> <p>General Election 7:00 am – 7:00 pm Tuesday November 3, 2026</p> |
| <p>Special Taxing District Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development District • Fire District • Manatee County Mosquito Control District • Manatee River Soil and Water Conservation District <p>Municipal Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Bradenton • City of Bradenton Beach • City of Holmes Beach • City of Palmetto | <p><i>Optional Pre-Qualifying*</i> May 26 – June 5, 2026</p> | <p>Midnight Monday October 5, 2026</p> | <p>General Election 7:00 am – 7:00 pm Tuesday November 3, 2026</p> |

* The **optional pre-qualifying period** is an opportunity for candidates to avoid the rush of the one-week actual qualifying period by completing all the steps early: "...a qualifying office may accept and hold qualifying papers submitted not earlier than 14 days prior to the beginning of the qualifying period, to be processed and filed during the qualifying period" (§ 99.061(8), Fla. Stat.). Papers submitted during the pre-qualifying period are subject to the same requirements of the qualifying period, which are prescribed in Section 99.061(7)(a), Florida Statutes.

2026 Calendar – Campaign Finance Reporting Periods and Filing Deadlines

Reporting periods and due dates for each election cycle are determined according to statute (*§ 106.07, Fla. Stat.*). The deadline to file each of this cycle’s reports is given below; however, **reports may be submitted as early as the first day after the end of the specified period.** Filing sooner rather than later allows time for the candidate to make any changes needed and still submit the report before its deadline.

| Report Code | Reporting Period | Deadline to File <i>(by midnight, at the end of this day)</i> |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 2025-Q4 | October 1 – December 31, 2025 | January 12, 2026 Monday |
| 2026-Q1 | January 1 – March 31, 2026 | April 10, 2026 Friday |
| 2026-Q2 | April 1 – May 31, 2026 | June 10, 2026 Wednesday |
| 2026-P1 | June 1 – 12, 2026 | June 19, 2026 Friday |
| 2026-P2 | June 13 – 26, 2026 | July 3, 2026 Friday |
| 2026-P3 | June 27 – July 10, 2026 | July 17, 2026 Friday |
| 2026-P4 | July 11 – 17, 2026 | July 24, 2026 Friday |
| 2026-P5 | July 18 – 24, 2026 | July 31, 2026 Friday |
| 2026-P6 | July 25 – 31, 2026 | August 7, 2026 Friday |
| 2026-P7 | August 1 – 13, 2026 | August 14, 2026 Friday |
| 2026-G1 | August 14 – 21, 2026 | August 28, 2026 Friday |
| 2026-G2 | August 22 – September 4, 2026 | September 11, 2026 Friday |
| 2026-G3 | September 5 – 18, 2026 | September 25, 2026 Friday |
| 2026-G4 | September 19 – October 2, 2026 | October 9, 2026 Friday |
| 2026-G5 | October 3 – 16, 2026 | October 23, 2026 Friday |
| 2026-G6 | October 17 – 29, 2026 | October 30, 2026 Friday |
| 2026-TR-A | <i>After April Qualifying:</i> June 1 – July 23, 2026 | July 23, 2026 Thursday |
| 2026-TR-J | <i>After June Qualifying:</i> June 13 – September 10, 2026 | September 10, 2026 Thursday |
| 2026-TR-P | <i>After Primary Election:</i> August 14 – November 16, 2026 | November 16, 2026 Monday |
| 2026-TR-G | <i>After General Election:</i> October 30, 2026 – February 1, 2027 | February 1, 2027 Monday |

Termination Report (TR)

From the day that a candidate either: withdraws their candidacy; becomes unopposed; is defeated in an election; or is elected to office, they have 90 days to dispose of the funds remaining in their campaign account, close the account, and submit their final campaign financial report (*§ 106.141, Fla. Stat.*). When a candidate meets any of these conditions, the appropriate TR will be added to their Candidate Login report list, and they will be notified of the filing deadline.

Information and Resources

Canvassing Board Meetings

A minimum of three Canvassing Board meetings are convened for each election. Meetings are held before, during, and after an election in accordance with statute, for purposes including:

- Logic and Accuracy Test of Tabulating Equipment
- Canvass of Vote By Mail Ballot Voter’s Certificates
- Post-Election-Certification Voting System Audit of Election Results

Meeting dates are announced in advance of each election, and the schedule is posted on our website and published in local media.

The Canvassing Board for **countywide elections** consists of the Supervisor of Elections, a County Court Judge, and a County Commissioner. For **municipal and special district elections**, the Canvassing Board consists of the Supervisor of Elections and Representatives appointed by those bodies. In all cases, alternates are used when required. Canvassing Board meetings are open to the public, candidates, and the media.

| Election | Election Date |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailer Estates Park and Recreation District Election • West Manatee Fire and Rescue District Special Election | March 10, 2026 <i>Tuesday</i> |
| <p>Primary Election</p> | August 18, 2026 <i>Tuesday</i> |
| <p>General Election, including the Cities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Maria • Bradenton • Bradenton Beach • Holmes Beach • Palmetto | November 3, 2026 <i>Tuesday</i> |

Data Request – Registered Voter Information

A candidate may request public information about Manatee County registered voters for campaigning purposes. The *Manatee County Data Process / Map Request Form* can be found at [VoteManatee.gov, Resources, Public Records Request](https://VoteManatee.gov/Resources/PublicRecordsRequest). The SOE Office can provide voter lists sorted by:

- Political party
- Registration date
- Residence, including: senatorial, legislative, and county commission district; voting precinct; and individual street
- Voting history
- Age
- Race
- Sex

Data is available in the formats shown below. USB Drive orders are payable upon receipt, and must be paid from a campaign account. However, a deposit is required for large orders.

| Data Format | Cost |
|--|---------------|
| USB Drive | \$ 15.00 each |
| Excel or text file delivered via email (small data files) | No charge |
| Excel or text file retrievable from our website (large data files) | No charge |

Data Request – Maps

Visit VoteManatee.gov, [Elections](#), [Maps](#), to view or download detailed district and precinct maps.

The following printed, color-coded maps are available from the SOE Office for campaigning purposes. The *Manatee County Data Process / Map Request Form* can be found at VoteManatee.gov, [Resources](#), [Public Records Request](#). Allow three business days for production; payment due upon receipt:

- Florida House of Representatives Districts
- Florida Senate Districts
- Manatee County Board of County Commissioners Districts
- Voting Precincts; individual or countywide

| Map Size | Cost |
|-----------|---------------|
| 11" x 17" | \$ 2.50 each |
| 18" x 24" | \$ 10.00 each |
| 24" x 36" | \$ 15.00 each |

Special-request maps are available, and prices are based on the type of map and the production time required. As they take longer to create, please order well in advance of the date needed.

Data Request – Vote By Mail Request Information

A list of voters signed up for Vote By Mail may be requested and received by only the following entities:

- A candidate who has qualified and has opposition
 - The list is available only after the qualifying period has ended and the candidate is determined to have opposition for the office.
 - The list covers only the areas of the county where the candidate is on the ballot.
- A canvassing board
- An election official
- A political party official
- A registered committee of continuous existence
- A registered political committee

The authorized requester must complete and submit a *Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Access Application for Vote By Mail Request Information*. Contact the SOE Office (941-741-3823) to request a form for pick up, or to have emailed to you.

Useful Links

| Organization | Contact | Topic |
|---|--|--|
| City of Anna Maria | cityofannamaria.com 941-708-6132 | City charter and local government info; call and select Code Enforcement Dept. to ask about signage rules |
| City of Bradenton | bradentonfl.gov 941-932-9463 | City charter, local government info, and signage rules |
| City of Bradenton Beach | cityofbradentonbeach.com 941-778-1005 | City charter and local government info; call and select Code Enforcement Dept. to ask about signage rules |
| City of Holmes Beach | holmesbeachfl.org 941-708-5800 | City charter and local government info; call and select Code Compliance Dept. to ask about signage rules |
| City of Palmetto | palmettofl.org 941-723-4570 | City charter, local government info, and signage rules |
| Florida Commission on Ethics | ethics.state.fl.us | Financial disclosure Forms 1 and 6 required for candidates |
| Florida Department of State, Division of Elections | dos.fl.gov/elections | Official information about elections in Florida; DS-DE forms required for candidates |
| Florida Legislature | leg.state.fl.us | Access the Florida Statutes; Chapters 97–107 cover Electors and Elections; Chapter 106 is Campaign Financing |
| Manatee County Code Enforcement | 941-748-2071 | Call for current County signage dos and don'ts according to ordinance |
| Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office | votemanatee.gov | Access to Candidate Login; candidate and election details |
| Trailer Estates Park and Recreation District | trailerestates.com | District charter and other governing documents |

Glossary

Campaign Fund Raiser

§ 106.011(1), Fla. Stat.

An event held to raise funds to be used in a campaign for public office.

Campaign Treasurer

§ 106.011(2), Fla. Stat.

An individual appointed by a candidate or political committee as provided in Chapter 106, *Florida Statutes*.

Election

§ 106.011(7), Fla. Stat.

A primary election, special primary election, general election, special election, or municipal election held in this state for the purpose of nominating or electing candidates to public office, choosing delegates to the national nominating conventions of political parties, selecting a member of a political party executive committee, or submitting an issue to the electors for their approval or rejection.

Filing Officer

§ 106.011(11), Fla. Stat.

The person before whom a candidate qualifies, or the agency or officer with whom a political committee or an electioneering communications organization registers.

General Election

§ 97.021(17), Fla. Stat.

An election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the even-numbered years, for the purpose of filling national, state, county, and district offices and for voting on constitutional amendments not otherwise provided for by law.

In-kind Contribution

*§ 106.011(5)(a) and
§ 106.055, Fla. Stat.*

A contribution having an attributable monetary value in any form, made for the purpose of influencing the results of an election or making an electioneering communication.

Nonpartisan Office

§ 97.021(23), Fla. Stat.

An office for which a candidate is prohibited from campaigning or qualifying for election or retention in office based on party affiliation.

Office Account

§ 106.141(5), Fla. Stat.

An account into which a candidate elected to office, or a candidate who will be elected to office by virtue of being unopposed, may transfer any amount of the funds on deposit in their campaign account up to the limits given in Section 106.141(5)(a-g), *Florida Statutes*.

An Office Account is to be used only for legitimate expenses in connection with the candidate's public office.

| | |
|--|---|
| Partisan Office | An office for which a candidate campaigns, or qualifies for election or retention in office, based on party affiliation. |
| Petition Process <i>§ 99.095, Fla. Stat.</i> | <p>A method of qualifying for office in lieu of paying a fee and party assessment. A candidate must obtain and submit to the SOE Office for verification a predetermined number of voter signatures on <i>Candidate Petitions (FORM DS-DE 104)</i>.</p> <p>Petition verification costs 10 cents per signature, payable to the SOE Office from the candidate’s campaign.</p> |
| Political Advertisement <i>§ 106.011(15), Fla. Stat.</i> | A paid expression in any communications medium, whether radio, television, newspaper, magazine, periodical, campaign literature, direct mail, or display, or by means other than the spoken word in direct conversation, which expressly advocates the election or defeat of a candidate or the approval or rejection of an issue. |
| Primary Election <i>§ 97.021(31), Fla. Stat.</i> | An election held preceding the general election for the purpose of nominating a party nominee to be voted for in the general election to fill a national, state, county, or district office. |
| Qualifying period <i>§ 99.061, Fla. Stat.</i> | The dates set by law during which a candidate submits to their Filing Officer the final paperwork and any applicable fees required to meet the qualifications for their candidacy. |
| SOE Office | Refers in this document to the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office. |
| Unopposed Candidate <i>§ 106.011(18), Fla. Stat.</i> | <p>A candidate for nomination or election to an office who, after the last day on which a person, including a write-in candidate, may qualify, is without opposition in the election at which the office is to be filled or who is without such opposition after such date as a result of a primary election or of withdrawal by other candidates seeking the same office.</p> <p>A candidate is not an unopposed candidate if there is a vacancy to be filled under Section 100.111(3), <i>Florida Statutes</i>; if there is a legal proceeding pending regarding the right to a ballot position for the office sought by the candidate; or if the candidate is seeking retention as a justice or judge.</p> |

