

Key Considerations Before Submitting a Qualifying Application

1. Verify Eligibility Requirements

Candidates must confirm they meet all state and federal requirements for the office they are seeking, including:

- Age requirements
- Residency requirements
- Voter registration status
- Any additional statutory qualifications

Failure to meet eligibility standards will result in disqualification.

2. Confirm the Correct Office Application

Candidates must:

- Download and complete the application only for the office they are seeking
- Ensure all fields are filled out accurately
- Provide all required signatures

Submitting the wrong form or an incomplete application may delay or invalidate qualification.

3. Prepare the Required Supporting Documents

Candidates should have the following ready:

- Completed qualifying application
- Petition signatures (if required for the office)
- Valid identification
- Any supplemental statements required under state law
- Payment in one of the accepted formats

4. Check the Filing Deadline

The filing deadline is December 26, 2025 at 5:00 PM.

Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Candidates should plan ahead to avoid last-minute issues.

5. Understand In-Person Appearance Requirements

Candidates must appear in person to submit their qualifying packet. They cannot:

- Send a representative
- Submit by mail
- Submit electronically

Candidates must ensure they can be present during one of the designated dates and times.

6. Review Fees and Payment Methods

Candidates must bring the correct qualifying fee in one of the accepted forms:

- Cash
- Certified check
- Money order
- Personal check

They must also verify the correct fee for their office.

7. Double-Check Name and Ballot Information

Candidates should confirm:

- How their name will appear on the ballot
- Correct spelling
- Middle initials, suffixes, and any identifiers

Ballot names cannot always be changed after submission.

8. Confirm Public Disclosure Requirements

Candidates should understand that:

- Certain qualifying information becomes public record
- Campaign finance reporting obligations begin immediately after qualifying
- Reporting deadlines must be followed carefully

9. Review Campaign Finance and Reporting Obligations

Candidates must review campaign finance rules and deadlines as soon as they qualify.

The Mississippi Campaign Finance Portal provides filing schedules, forms, and instructions:

<https://cfportal.sos.ms.gov/online/portal/cf/portal.aspx>

Missing required reports can result in penalties.

10. Plan for Immediate Post-Qualification Requirements

Candidates should be prepared to:

- Establish campaign infrastructure
- Open campaign bank accounts
- Comply with state and federal campaign regulations

11. Ask Questions Before Arrival

If candidates have questions about forms, documents, fees, or scheduling, they should contact the committee before arrival to prevent delays during the qualifying process.