

# QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES

All candidates shall be qualified electors as required by R.S. 18:463\*

OFFICE	QUALIFICATIONS	LEGAL CITATION
<b>PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR</b>	The candidate shall be a qualified elector of the district for which the candidate seeks election, unless he is elected at large, in which case he shall be a qualified elector of Louisiana. No U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress or person holding an office of trust or profit under the U.S. shall be elected a presidential elector.	R.S.18:1252 U.S.C.A. Const. Art. II §1, cl. 2
<b>GOVERNOR</b>	By the date of qualification, the candidate shall have attained the age of 25 years, be an elector, and have been a citizen of the United States and of Louisiana for at least the preceding 5 years. A person who has served as governor for more than one and one-half terms in two consecutive terms shall not be elected governor for the succeeding term.	La. Const., Art. IV, Sec. 2 & Sec. 3(B)
<b>LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, SECRETARY OF STATE TREASURER COMM. OF AGRICULTURE COMM. OF INSURANCE</b>	By the date of qualification, the candidate shall have attained the age of 25 years, be an elector, and have been a citizen of the United States and of Louisiana for at least the preceding 5 years.	La. Const., Art. IV, Sec. 2
<b>ATTORNEY GENERAL</b>	By the date of qualification, the candidate shall have attained the age of 25 years, be an elector, and have been a citizen of the United States and of Louisiana for at least the preceding 5 years and shall have been admitted to the practice of law in Louisiana for at least the 5 years preceding the candidate's election.	La. Const., Art. IV, Sec. 2
<b>U. S. SENATOR</b>	The candidate shall have attained the age of 30 years, have been a citizen of the United States for 9 years, and be an inhabitant of Louisiana when elected.	R.S. 18:1275(A) U.S.C.A. Const. Art. I §3, cl. 3
<b>U. S. REPRESENTATIVE</b>	The candidate shall have attained the age of 25 years, have been a citizen of the United States for 7 years, and be an inhabitant of Louisiana when elected.	R.S. 18:1275(B) U.S.C.A. Const. Art. I §2, cl. 2
<b>ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT JUDGE, COURT OF APPEAL JUDGE, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY COURT JUDGE, JUVENILE COURT JUDGE, PARISH COURT</b>	The candidate shall have been admitted to the practice of law in Louisiana for at least 10 years for supreme court or court of appeals candidates and 8 years for district court, family court, parish court, or court having solely juvenile jurisdiction candidates, prior to the candidate's election. The candidate shall have been domiciled in the respective district, circuit, or parish for 1 year preceding the candidate's election. Elected or appointed incumbent judges are not eligible to run for any elective office other than their own or another judicial office. In order to run for another office, they must resign from their office at least 24 hours prior to the date of qualifying for such other office. A judge appointed to fill a vacancy shall be ineligible as a candidate at the election to fill the vacancy. Candidate must be younger than the mandatory retirement age of 70, and a judge who reaches age 70 while serving a term of office will be allowed to complete the term.	R.S. 42:39  La. Const., Art. V, Sec. 22, 23, 24
<b>PUBLIC SERVICE COMM.</b>	The candidate shall be a qualified elector. By the date of qualification, the candidate shall have attained the age of eighteen years, resided in the state for the preceding two years, and been actually domiciled for the preceding year in the single-member district established by law from which he seeks election. No person who has served as a member of the commission for more than two and one-half terms in three consecutive terms shall be elected to the commission for the succeeding term. This Subparagraph shall not apply to any person elected to the commission prior to the effective date of this Subparagraph, except that it shall apply to any term of service of any such person that begins after such date.	R.S. 45:1161.1 La. Const., Art. IV, Sec. 21(A)(2)
<b>STATE BOARD OF ELEM. and SECONDARY EDUCATION</b>	The candidate shall be a resident of the district. No person who has served as a member of the board for more than two and one-half terms in three consecutive terms shall be elected or appointed to the board for the succeeding term. This Subparagraph shall not apply to any person elected or appointed to the board prior to the effective date of this Subparagraph (Dec. 8, 2008), except that it shall apply to any term of service of any such person that begins after such date.	R.S. 17:1 B La. Const., Art. VIII, Sec. 3(B)(2)

**NOTE: See Page 17 for restrictions for convicted felons and recalled public officials**

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STATE SENATOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE	By the date of qualification, the candidate shall have attained the age of 18 years, resided in Louisiana for the preceding 2 years, and been actually domiciled for the preceding year in the legislative district from which the candidate seeks election. At the next regular election for members of the legislature following legislative reapportionment, an elector may qualify as a candidate from any district created in whole or in part from a district existing prior to reapportionment if he was domiciled in that prior district for at least 1 year immediately preceding his qualification and was a resident of Louisiana for the 2 years preceding his qualification. If elected must change domicile to district before being sworn in. No person elected to serve as a member of the legislature for more than two and one-half terms in three consecutive terms shall be elected for the succeeding term beginning with the term beginning on or after January 8, 1996.	La. Const., Art. III, Sec. 4
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	The candidate shall have been admitted to the practice of law in Louisiana for at least 5 years prior to the candidate's election and shall have resided in the district for the 2 years preceding the candidate's election.	La. Const., Art. V, Sec. 26 (A)
SHERIFF CLERK OF COURT ASSESSOR	By the date of qualification, the candidate shall have resided in Louisiana for the preceding 2 years and shall have been actually domiciled for the preceding year in the parish from which he seeks election.	R.S. 18:451.2
CORONER	The candidate shall be a licensed physician, unless no licensed physician in the parish will accept the office. The coroner shall be a resident of the parish, or a licensed physician who is not a resident of the parish but maintains a full-time medical practice at a principal medical office facility in the parish.	La. Const., Art. V, Sec. 29 R.S. 13:5704
POLICE JUROR  -OR- PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER	By the date of qualification, the candidate shall have attained the age of 18 years, resided in Louisiana for the preceding 2 years, and been actually domiciled for the preceding year in the district from which the candidate seeks election.	R.S. 33:1225 La. Const., Art. III, Sec. 4
	Check Parish Home Rule Charter for qualifications and term limits.	Parish Home Rule Charter
	<b>Note for Both:</b> In a parish with 10,000 or more (population), a sitting police juror or parish council member who is appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of Mayor or Parish President is not eligible to run for that office in the election to fill the vacancy.	R.S. 42:1113
JUDGE, CITY COURT	The candidate shall be licensed to practice law in Louisiana for at least 5 years previous to the candidate's election and shall have been a qualified resident elector of the territorial jurisdiction of the court for at least 2 years prior to the candidate's election. Elected or appointed incumbent judges are not eligible to run for any elective office other than their own or another judicial office. In order to run for another office, they must resign from their office at least 24 hours prior to the date of qualifying for such other office. A judge appointed to fill a vacancy shall be ineligible as a candidate at the election to fill the vacancy. Candidate must be younger than the mandatory retirement age of 70 and a judge who reaches age 70 while serving a term of office will be allowed to complete the term. (Considered a ward office per Attorney General Opinion No. 78-798.) <b>Check additional qualifications for specific courts in Title 13. For municipalities governed by a Home Rule or Legislative Charter, consult the Home Rule or Legislative Charter for additional qualifications.</b>	R.S. 13:1873  R.S. 42:39  La. Const., Art. V, Sec. 22 & 23

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OFFICE	QUALIFICATIONS	LEGAL CITATION
<b>MARSHAL, CITY COURT</b>	The candidate shall be a resident elector of the territorial jurisdiction of the court and shall possess a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education if not in office on 8/15/97. (Considered a ward office per Attorney General Opinion No. 78-798.)	R.S. 13:1880
<b>SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER</b>	By the date of qualification, the candidate shall have attained the age of 18, resided in Louisiana for the preceding 2 years, and have been actually domiciled for the preceding year in the parish, ward, or district from which the candidate seeks election. The candidate shall be able to read and write. At the next regular election following reapportionment an elector may qualify in any district created in whole or in part from a district existing prior to reapportionment if he was domiciled in the prior district for at least 1 year immediately preceding his qualification and was a resident of Louisiana for the 2 years preceding his qualification. If elected must change domicile to district before being sworn in. No person elected to serve as a member of a school board for more than two and one-half terms in three consecutive terms, such service being during terms that began on or after January 1, 2014, shall be elected for the succeeding term. (See separate term limit provisions for Jefferson and Lafayette Parishes.)	R.S. 17:52(D) & (E) R.S. 17:60.4
<b>JUSTICE OF THE PEACE</b>	The candidate shall be of good moral character, a qualified elector, be a resident of the ward and district from which elected and able to read and write the English language correctly. By the date of qualification, the candidate shall possess a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Beginning in the year 2008, a person shall not have attained the age of 70 by the date of qualification to run for office. A justice of the peace who attains 70 years of age while serving a term of office shall be allowed to complete that term; this shall not apply to those who are serving or were elected on or before August 15, 2006. (See Act 71 – 2015 Regular Session) A justice of the peace appointed to fill an unexpired term is not authorized to run for that office in the next subsequent election for that office, either special or otherwise, even though he has officially resigned from the office of justice of the peace.	R.S. 13:2582, R.S. 42:39.2 La. Const., Art. V, Sec. 23 Attorney General Opinion No. 90-324
<b>CONSTABLE (Justice of the Peace Court)</b>	The candidate shall be of good moral character, able to read and write the English language, possess a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education if not in office on 11/19/95 and shall be an elector and resident of the ward or district from which the candidate is elected. Beginning in the year 2008, a person shall not have attained the age of 70 by the date of qualification to run for office. A constable who attains 70 years of age while serving a term of office shall be allowed to complete the term; this shall not apply to those who are serving or were elected on or before August 15, 2006. (See Act 71 – 2015 Regular Session)	R.S. 13:2583(A)
<b>GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION MEMBER</b>	The candidate shall be a citizen of the United States and a qualified voter and taxpayer of Louisiana, and of the tenth ward, parish of Lafourche.	R.S. 34:1651(D)

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OFFICE	QUALIFICATIONS	LEGAL CITATION
The qualifications below apply to municipalities governed by the Lawrason Act. For municipalities governed by a Home Rule or Legislative Charter, consult the Home Rule or Legislative Charter for qualifications.		
MAYOR	The candidate shall be an elector of the municipality who at the time of qualification shall have been domiciled and actually resided for at least the immediately preceding year in the municipality.	R.S. 33:384
CHIEF OF POLICE MARSHAL	The candidate shall be an elector of the municipality when elected. At the time of qualification, the candidate shall have been domiciled for at least the immediately preceding year in a city or town (6 months in a village) except that a person who resides outside of the corporate limits of the village of Maurice may be elected chief of police. There is also an exception in the town of Gueydan, allows for a person who resides outside the corporate limits of the town but inside the territorial limits of Ward 3 of Vermilion Parish. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to the village of Napoleonville.	R.S. 33:385.1 Act 73, 2016 RS
ALDERMAN COUNCILMAN COUNCIL MEMBER	The candidate shall be an elector of the municipality who at the time of qualification shall have been domiciled and actually resided for at least the immediately preceding year in the municipality. In addition, those elected from wards must be residents of their respective wards at the time of qualifying.	R.S. 33:384 & 385  Attorney General Opinion No. 98-319

POLITICAL PARTY OFFICE	QUALIFICATIONS	LEGAL CITATION
DEMOCRATIC/REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE	The candidate shall meet the qualifications established by the rules and regulations of the state central committee of the political party.	R.S. 18:443(A) R.S. 18:443.2(1)
DEMOCRATIC/REPUBLICAN PARISH EXECUTIVE COMM.	The candidate shall meet the qualifications established by the rules and regulations of the state central committee of the political party.	R.S. 18:444(A)

## REAPPORTIONMENT - SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS

REAPPORTIONMENT - SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS	LEGAL CITATION
At the first election following reapportionment, "An elector may qualify as a candidate from any district created in whole or in part from a district existing prior to reapportionment if he was domiciled in that prior district for the time limit provided by law preceding his qualification, provided he becomes domiciled in the district he is elected to represent prior to being sworn into office."	Attorney General Opinion No. 94-334

### \*NOTE RESTRICTIONS FOR CONVICTED FELONS –

**R.S. 18:451: No person, whether or not currently registered as a voter with the registrar of voters, shall become a candidate if he is under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony. (For any office other than U.S. senator or representative)**

**Louisiana Constitution Article I, Section 10:** *Note: B and C void Shepherd vs. Schedler 2016*

~~(B) Disqualification. The following persons shall not be permitted to qualify as a candidate for elective public office:~~

~~(1) A person who has been convicted within this state of a felony and who has exhausted all legal remedies, or who has been convicted under the laws of any other state or of the United States or of any foreign government or country of a crime which, if committed in this state, would be a felony and who has exhausted all legal remedies and has not afterwards been pardoned either by the governor of this state or by the officer of the state, nation, government or country having such authority to pardon in the place where the person was convicted and sentenced.~~

~~(2) A person actually under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony.~~

~~(C) Exception. Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (B) of this Section, a person who desires to qualify as a candidate for or hold an elective office, who has been convicted of a felony and who has served his sentence, but has not been pardoned for such felony, shall be permitted to qualify as a candidate for or hold such office if the date of his qualifying for such office is more than fifteen years after the date of the completion of his original sentence.~~

### \*Note RESTRICTIONS FOR RECALLED PUBLIC OFFICIALS – R.S 18:1300.13(B)(2)

A public officer who has been recalled and removed from office shall be ineligible as a candidate at an election called to fill the vacancy created by the recall. A Lawrason Act recalled public officer shall also be ineligible as a candidate at an election to fill any other vacancy on the governing authority of the Lawrason Act that is held prior to the next regularly scheduled election.