

2018  
CANDIDATE QUALIFYING  
GUIDE



DELBERT HOSEMANN  
*Secretary of State*



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Dear Fellow Mississippians:

Our office is pleased to provide you with the *2018 Mississippi Elections Candidate Qualifying Guide*, which outlines candidate qualifications and procedures.

This publication offers a wealth of information for both potential candidates of political offices in the State, as well as Mississippians interested in the process. We encourage you to take advantage of the resources offered by our agency and I hope you find this guide useful.

If we can assist you with additional information regarding this Guide, please do not hesitate to call the Elections Division of the Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State at (601) 576-2550 or (800) 829-6786, or you may email us at [elections@sos.ms.gov](mailto:elections@sos.ms.gov).

Sincerely,

Delbert Hosemann  
Secretary of State



**DELBERT HOSEMANN**  
*Secretary of State*

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## About This Guide

This *Candidate Qualifying Guide* provides essential information primarily for those candidates seeking federal, judicial or school district office in 2018. Candidates should familiarize themselves with the legal qualifications required to seek and hold office, as well as the qualifying procedures.

A brief overview of all candidates' qualifications and qualifying forms always may be found on the Secretary of State's website located here: <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Candidate-Information.aspx>; and candidate qualifying guides from previous election years may be found archived on the website located here: <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Publications.aspx>.

## For Assistance



### **Mail**

Mississippi Secretary of State's Office  
Attn: Elections Division  
Post Office Box 136  
Jackson, MS 39205-0136



### **Location**

Mississippi Secretary of State's Office  
The Heber Ladner Building  
401 Mississippi Street  
Jackson, MS 39201



### **Phone**

(601) 576-2550  
(800) 829-6786



### **Fax**

(601) 576-2545



### **E-mail**

[elections@sos.ms.gov](mailto:elections@sos.ms.gov)

## **2018 ELECTIONS CALENDAR**

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Primary Election Day ..... Tuesday, June 5, 2018

General Election Day for Mississippi Levee District ..... Tuesday, June 5, 2018

General Runoff Election Day for Mississippi Levee District ..... Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Primary Runoff Election Day ..... Tuesday, June 26, 2018

General Election Day ..... Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Regular Special Election Day ..... Tuesday, November 6, 2018

General Runoff Election Day ..... Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Special Runoff Election Day ..... Tuesday, November 27, 2018

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## 2018 CANDIDATE QUALIFYING DATES

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U.S. Representative and U. S. Senate

Qualifying Period Begins ..... Tuesday, January 2, 2018  
Qualifying Period Ends ..... 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 1, 2018

Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Circuit, Chancery and County Court Judicial Candidates

Qualifying Period Begins ..... Tuesday, January 2, 2018  
Qualifying Period Ends ..... 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 11, 2018

Mississippi Levee Board Commissioner

Qualifying Period Begins ..... Tuesday, January 2, 2018  
Qualifying Period Ends ..... 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 7, 2018

County School Board Districts 3 & 4:

Qualifying Period Begins ..... Wednesday, August 8, 2018  
Qualifying Deadline ..... 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 7, 2018

Municipal Separate School District Trustee

Qualifying Period Begins ..... Wednesday, August 8, 2018  
Qualifying Deadline ..... 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 7, 2018

Consolidated/Consolidated Line School District Trustee:

Qualifying Period Begins ..... Wednesday, August 8, 2018  
Qualifying Deadline ..... 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 7, 2018

Special Municipal Separate School District:

Qualifying Period Begins ..... Wednesday, August 8, 2018  
Qualifying Deadline ..... 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 7, 2018

County Special Elections

Qualifying Deadline ..... 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 7, 2018

## **GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE**

All candidates must meet the following requirements to qualify for office:

- Qualified elector (registered voter) of the State of Mississippi and of the district of the office for which the candidate seeks election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XII, § 250.*
- Never have been convicted of bribery, perjury or other infamous crime, being defined as a crime punishable by a minimum of one (1) year confinement in the state penitentiary, unless pardoned for the offense. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. IV, § 44.*
- Never have been convicted of a felony in a court of this state; or, of a felony in a federal court or of a crime in a court of another state which is a felony under the laws of this state on or after December 8, 1992; excluding, however, a conviction of manslaughter or a violation of the United States Internal Revenue Code or any violation of the tax laws of this state, unless the offense also involved the misuse or abuse of an office or money coming into a candidate's hands by virtue of an office. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. IV, § 44.*

## **ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS BY OFFICE**

### **UNITED STATES SENATOR**

Each candidate for Senator shall have attained the age of thirty (30) years, been a citizen of the United States for at least nine (9) years, and, at the time of the election, an inhabitant of the state he/she seeks to represent. *U.S. Const. Art. I § 3, cl. 3.*

### **UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE**

Each Congressional district shall be entitled to one (1) representative, who shall have attained the age of twenty-five (25) years, and been seven (7) years a citizen of the United States, and who shall, when elected, be an inhabitant of the state. *Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-1035.*

### **SUPREME COURT JUSTICE**

A qualified elector of the Supreme Court District in which election is sought, at least thirty (30) years of age, a practicing attorney and a citizen of the state for five (5) years preceding the day of election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VI, §150.*

### **COURT OF APPEALS JUSTICE**

A qualified elector, at least thirty (30) years of age, a practicing attorney, and a citizen of the state for five (5) years preceding the day of election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VI, § 150.*



### **CHANCERY COURT JUDGE**

A qualified elector, at least twenty-six (26) years of age, a practicing attorney for five (5) years, and a citizen of the state for five (5) years preceding the day of election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VI, § 154.*

### **CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE**

A qualified elector, at least twenty-six (26) years of age, a practicing attorney for five (5) years, and a citizen of the state for five (5) years preceding the day of election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VI, § 154.*

### **COUNTY COURT JUDGE**

A qualified elector, at least twenty-six (26) years of age, a practicing attorney for five (5) years, and a citizen of the state for five (5) years preceding the day of election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. VI, § 154; Miss. Code Ann. § 9-5-5.*

### **MISSISSIPPI LEVEE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER**

A qualified elector and resident of the respective county and levee district from which he/she seeks election. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XI, §230.*

The Mississippi Levee District consists of two (2) members from each of the counties of Bolivar and Washington, and one from each of the counties of Issaquena, Sharkey and a portion of Humphreys. This election year, one (1) member shall be elected from the counties of Bolivar, Washington, Humphreys and Sharkey. *Chapter 85 of the Laws of 1930.*

### **COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER**

A resident and qualified elector (registered voter) of the district from which election is sought, and have a high school diploma or its equivalent. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-5-1.*

No person who is a resident of the territory embraced within a municipal separate school district or a special municipal separate school district is eligible to be a member of the county board of education. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-5-3.*

Each school board member shall be required to complete a basic course of training and education for local school board members conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association within six (6) months of his selection. In addition, each school board member shall be required to file annually in the office of the school board a certificate of completion of a course of continuing education conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-306.*

**CONSOLIDATED/CONSOLIDATED LINE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE**

A bona fide resident and qualified elector (registered voter) of the district in which election is sought, and have a high school diploma or its equivalent. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XII, §250; Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-7-201, 37-7-306.*

Each school board member shall be required to complete a basic course of training and education for local school board members conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association within six (6) months of his selection. In addition, each school board member shall be required to file annually in the office of the school board a certificate of completion of a course of continuing education conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-306.*

**MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE**

A bona fide resident and qualified elector (registered voter) of the district in which election is sought, and have a high school diploma or its equivalent. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XII, § 250; Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-7-201; 37-7-306.*

Each school board member shall be required to complete a basic course of training and education for local school board members conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association within six (6) months of his selection. In addition, each school board member shall be required to file annually in the office of the school board a certificate of completion of a course of continuing education conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-306.*

**SPECIAL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE**

A bona fide resident and qualified elector (registered voter) of the district in which election is sought, and have a high school diploma or its equivalent. *Miss. Const. of 1890, Art. XII, § 250; Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-7-201, 37-7-306, 37-7-707*

Each school board member shall be required to complete a basic course of training and education for local school board members conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association within six (6) months of his selection. In addition, each school board member shall be required to file annually in the office of the school board a certificate of completion of a course of continuing education conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association. *Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-306.*

## **QUALIFYING FOR OFFICE**

Most individuals seeking elected office may choose to qualify as either a political party or independent candidate. A political party candidate participates in the June Primary Election (and possibly the Primary Runoff Election three (3) weeks thereafter), seeking to win a particular political party's nomination for a particular office. The winning candidates in the Primary Elections move forward and participate in the November General Election as the respective political party's nominees for the respective offices. An independent candidate participates only in the November General Election and, for the purposes of the ballot, has no designated political party affiliation.

*In Mississippi, candidates for judicial office (with the exception of candidates for Justice Court Judge), County School Board, Consolidated/Consolidated Line School District Trustee, Municipal Separate School District Trustee and Special Municipal Separate School District Trustee run as non-partisan candidates and only participate in the November General Election, with no designation of a political party affiliation on the ballot or otherwise.*

### **POLITICAL PARTY/PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATES**

An individual who chooses to seek election as a partisan candidate and therefore participate in a primary election to seek the nomination of a particular political party must file with the proper office a "Qualifying Statement of Intent for a Candidate for Party Nomination," together with the applicable qualifying fee, on or before the qualifying deadline, as is explained further below. Qualifying forms for party candidates are available from the respective political party's state office or on the Secretary of State's website located at <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Candidate-Qualifying-Forms.aspx>.

### **INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES**

An individual who chooses to seek election as an independent candidate must file with the proper office a "Qualifying Statement of Intent for an Independent Candidate," a qualifying petition, which must be signed by a certain number of qualified electors (registered voters) from the state, county or district from which the candidate seeks election and the applicable qualifying fee, on or before the qualifying deadline, as is explained further below. The number of signatures required on the qualifying petition is dependent upon the specific office sought by the candidate. Each candidate must obtain the certification of the signatures from the Circuit Clerk's Office of the county from where the signatures were collected prior to filing his/her qualifying paperwork with the appropriate office.

Independent candidates should budget sufficient time to ensure the certification of petition signatures by the respective Circuit Clerk's Office well in advance of the qualifying deadline. Qualifying forms for independent candidates are available from the Circuit Clerk's Office or on the Secretary of State's website located at <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Candidate-Qualifying-Forms.aspx>.

## **WHAT, WHEN AND WHERE TO QUALIFY FOR OFFICE**

### **FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR:**

#### *As a Political Party Candidate:*

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent for a Candidate for Party Nomination, and
- 2) Qualifying fee in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) made payable to the appropriate State Party,
- 3) Filed with the appropriate State Party,
- 4) No later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2018. If qualifying by mail, please note, March 1, 2018 is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline, meaning the State Party must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 1, 2018.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### *As an Independent Candidate:*

- 1) Petition signed by not less than one thousand (1,000) qualified electors (registered voters) of the State of Mississippi, certified by the Circuit Clerks' Offices of the respective counties from which the signatures were collected,
- 2) Qualifying Statement of Intent for an Independent Candidate, and
- 3) Qualifying fee in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) made payable to the Secretary of State,
- 4) Filed with the Secretary of State's Office,
- 5) No later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2018. If qualifying by mail, please note, March 1, 2018 is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline, meaning the Secretary of State must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent, petition and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 1, 2018.

**FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:**

**As a Political Party Candidate:**

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent for a Candidate for Party Nomination, and
- 2) Qualifying fee in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) made payable to the appropriate State Party,
- 3) Filed with the appropriate State Party,
- 4) No later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2018. If qualifying by mail, please note, March 1, 2018 is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline, meaning the State Party must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 1, 2018.

\* \* \* \* \*

**As an Independent Candidate:**

- 1) Petition signed by not less than two hundred (200) qualified electors (registered voters) of the congressional district from which election is sought, certified by the Circuit Clerks' Offices of the respective counties from which the signatures were collected,
- 2) Qualifying Statement of Intent for an Independent Candidate, and
- 3) Qualifying fee in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) made payable to the Secretary of State,
- 4) Filed with the Secretary of State's Office,
- 5) No later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2018. If qualifying by mail, please note, March 1, 2018 is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline, meaning the Secretary of State must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent, petition and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 1, 2018.

**FOR SUPREME COURT, COURT OF APPEALS, CHANCERY OR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE:**

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent for Judicial Candidate,
- 2) Qualifying fee:
  - a. Supreme Court Justice, in the amount of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00), made payable to the Secretary of State;
  - b. Court of Appeals Judge, in the amount of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00), made payable to the Secretary of State; or
  - c. Chancery and Circuit Court Judge, in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), made payable to the Secretary of State; and
- 3) Affidavit/Pledge of Judicial Candidate,
- 4) Filed with the Secretary of State's office,
- 5) No later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 11, 2018. If qualifying by mail, please note, May 11, 2018 is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline, meaning the Secretary of State's Office must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent, Affidavit/Pledge and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 11, 2018.
- 6) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 7) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Secretary of State's office by 5:00 p.m. on the applicable deadline(s).

\* \* \* \* \*

**FOR COUNTY COURT JUDGE:**

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent for Judicial Candidate,
- 2) Qualifying fee in the amount of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00), made payable to the Circuit Clerk of the county of the candidate's residence, and
- 3) Affidavit/Pledge of Judicial Candidate,
- 4) Filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office in the county of the candidate's residence,
- 5) No later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 11, 2018. If qualifying by mail, please note, May 11, 2018 is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline, meaning the Circuit Clerk's Office must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent, Affidavit/Pledge and qualifying fee

by 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 7, 2018.

- 6) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commissioner within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 7) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the applicable deadline(s).

\* \* \* \* \*

**FOR MISSISSIPPI LEVEE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER:**

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent of an Independent Candidate,
- 2) Petition signed by not less than fifty (50) qualified electors (registered voters) of the county and levee district from which election is sought, certified by the Circuit Clerk's Office of the county from which signatures were collected, and
- 3) Qualifying fee in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), made payable to the Circuit Clerk of the county of the candidate's residence,
- 4) Filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office in the county and levee district from which election is sought,
- 5) No later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 7, 2018. If qualifying by mail, please note, May 7, 2018 is not a post-mark deadline, but an actual receipt deadline, meaning the Circuit Clerk's Office must be in actual receipt of the Statement of Intent, Petition and qualifying fee by 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 7, 2018.
- 6) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 7) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the applicable deadline(s).

**FOR COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, SPECIAL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE OR CONSOLIDATED/CONSOLIDATED LINE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE:**

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent, and
- 2) Petition signed by not less than fifty (50) qualified electors (registered voters) of the district from which election is sought<sup>1</sup>, certified by the Circuit Clerk's Office of the county from which the signatures were collected,
- 3) Filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office,
- 4) No more than ninety (90) days (Wednesday, August 8, 2018) nor later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixtieth (60<sup>th</sup>) day before the election (Friday, September 7, 2018).
- 5) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 6) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the applicable deadline(s).

\* \* \* \* \*

**FOR MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE:**

- 1) Qualifying Statement of Intent,
- 2) Petition, with Affidavit, signed by not less than fifty (50) qualified electors (registered voters) of the district from which election is sought<sup>2</sup>, certified by the Circuit Clerk's Office of the county from which the signatures were collected,
- 3) Filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office,
- 4) No more than ninety (90) days (Wednesday, August 8, 2018) nor later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixtieth (60<sup>th</sup>) day before the election (Friday, September 7, 2018).
- 5) Statement of Economic Interest filed electronically with the Mississippi Ethics Commission within fifteen (15) days of qualifying for office.
- 6) Required Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the applicable deadline(s).

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<sup>1</sup> If there are less than one hundred (100) qualified electors (registered voters) of the district from which election is sought, the qualifying petition must be signed by not less than twenty percent (20.0%) of the qualified electors of the district.

<sup>2</sup> If there are less than one hundred (100) qualified electors (registered voters) of the district from which election is sought, the qualifying petition must be signed by not less than twenty percent (20.0%) of the qualified electors of the district.



## **STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST**

Excluding federal office holders, all elected officials, appointed officials and candidates seeking office are required to electronically file a Statement of Economic Interest with the Mississippi Ethics Commission. Candidates for elected office must file within fifteen (15) days of qualifying. Persons appointed to office must file within thirty (30) days of the appointment. Incumbents must file each and every year on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Additional information may be obtained directly from the Mississippi Ethics Commission:

Mississippi Ethics Commission  
600 North Street, Suite 100-C  
Post Office Box 22746 (39225-2746)  
Jackson, Mississippi 39202  
Telephone: (601) 359-1285  
Facsimile: (601) 359-1292  
[info@ethics.state.ms.us](mailto:info@ethics.state.ms.us); [www.ethics.state.ms.us](http://www.ethics.state.ms.us)

## **CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Excluding candidates for federal office, Mississippi law requires all candidates for elective office to file campaign finance disclosure reports. Under the law, one is a candidate if he/she has filed qualifying papers or has spent or received *over \$200 in the aggregate* in furtherance of an election campaign. Following the qualifying deadline, all persons who have filed qualifying papers are candidates under the law, even if they have not received or spent any money whatsoever in furtherance of a campaign. Forms necessary for compliance with these laws are available from the Secretary of State's Office or the Circuit Clerk's Office. Campaign Finance reporting forms also may be downloaded from the Secretary of State's website located at <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Campaign-Finance-Lobbying.aspx>.

### ***What information must be reported?***

All Reports of Receipts and Disbursements filed under state law must be complete and include:

- Name, address, contact information, the office sought and political party affiliation, if any, of the candidate,
- The total amount of contributions received during the reporting period, both itemized and non-itemized, and an aggregate year-to-date total of all contributions,
- The total amount of disbursements made during the reporting period, both itemized and non-itemized, and an aggregate year-to-date total of all disbursements, and
- The total amount of cash on hand to date.

### **Itemized Contributions**

A contribution must be included within the itemized total of contributions on the "Report of

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Receipts and Disbursements” and separately reported on the “Itemized Receipts” attachment to the report if the year-to-date aggregate total of the contribution(s) received from a particular person, business or entity exceeds \$200.00. A contribution separately itemized on the “Itemized Receipts” must identify the contribution by contributor type, contributor name and address, date(s) and amount(s) for the reporting period and aggregate year-to-date total, and the occupation or employer of the contributor, if applicable.

### Itemized Disbursements

A disbursement must be included within the itemized total of disbursements on the “Report of Receipts and Disbursements” and separately reported on the “Itemized Disbursements” attachment to the report if the year-to-date aggregate total of the disbursement(s) made to a particular person, business or entity exceeds \$200.00. A disbursement separately itemized on the “Itemized Disbursements” must be identified by the recipient’s name and address, the date(s) and amount(s) for the reporting period and aggregate year-to-date total, and purpose of the disbursement. *Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-807(d)(ii)(iii).*

### Non-Itemized Contributions and Disbursements

Contributions and disbursements with year to date aggregate totals equal to or less than \$200.00 in a calendar year are not itemized. However, these amounts are included in the totals of all contributions and of all disbursements for the reporting period on the “Report of Receipts and Disbursements.”

### ***When are reports due?***

Reports are due in the appropriate office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the deadline. If a deadline falls on a weekend or legal holiday, the report is due at 5:00 p.m. on the first working day preceding the weekend or legal holiday. Statutory deadlines are provided on the front of each reporting form and on the schedule following hereafter.

The appropriate office must be in actual receipt of the report by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline. It is the responsibility of the candidate to make sure the report is delivered on time. *Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-807(e).*

### ***Where to Report?***

Candidates for **Federal Office** file with the Federal Election Commission.

Candidates for **Judicial Office, excluding County Court Judge**, file with the Secretary of State’s Office.

Candidates for **County and County District Office (including County Court Judge)** file with the Circuit Clerk’s Office.

***What types of reports must a candidate file this year?***

Candidates for **Federal Office** (United States Senate and United States Representative) should familiarize themselves with the reporting requirements of the Federal Election Commission.

Candidates for **Judicial Office and political committees supporting or opposing a 2018 judicial candidate** must file the following campaign finance reports on the following deadlines:

- May 10, 2018 Periodic Report, for the period beginning January 1, 2018 through April 30, 2018
- June 8, 2018 Periodic Report, for the period beginning May 1, 2018 through May 31, 2018.
- July 10, 2018 Periodic Report, for the period beginning June 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018.
- October 10, 2018 Periodic Report, for the period beginning July 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018
- October 30, 2018 Pre-Election Report, for the period beginning October 1, 2018 through October 27, 2018.
- November 20, 2018 Pre-Runoff Election Report, for the period beginning October 28, 2018 through November 17, 2018 (for only those candidates and political committees supporting or opposing those judicial candidates whose names will appear on a Runoff Election ballot on November 27, 2018)
- January 10, 2019 Periodic Report, for the period beginning October 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

Candidates for the **Mississippi Levee District** must file the following campaign finance reports on the following deadlines:

- May 29, 2018 Pre-Election Report, for the period beginning January 1, 2018 through May 26, 2018.
- June 12, 2018 Pre-Runoff Election Report, for the period beginning May 27, 2018 through June 9, 2018 (for only those candidates whose names will appear on a Runoff Election ballot on June 19, 2018).
- 2018 Annual Report due no later than January 31, 2019, for the period beginning on January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

Candidates for **School District** must file the following campaign finance reports on the following deadlines:

- October 30, 2018 Pre-Election Report, for the period beginning January 1, 2018 through October 27, 2018
- November 20, 2018 Pre-Runoff Election Report, for the period beginning October 28, 2018 through November 17, 2018 (for only those candidates whose names will appear on a Runoff Election ballot on November 27, 2018).
- 2018 Annual Report due no later than January 31, 2019, for the period beginning on January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

A candidate should simply check (✓) the type of report being submitted on his/her form. A

candidate may submit a Termination Report at the same time as another scheduled report by placing a check in the blank preceding both the scheduled report and the Termination Report. Candidates and political committees are required to continue to file campaign finance disclosure reports in accordance with the applicable statutory schedule, which changes from year to year, unless and until a Termination Report is filed with the appropriate office. A Termination Report may only be filed, however, if the candidate or political committee no longer accepts contributions or makes expenditures and has no outstanding debts.

Campaign finance forms are available on the Secretary of State's website located at <http://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/Campaign-Finance-Lobbying.aspx>. Please refer to the separately published *Campaign Finance Guide* for more detailed information pertaining to the campaign finance disclosure and reporting requirements.

## Learning More about Elections in Mississippi

For further information about Mississippi elections, visit our website at [www.sos.ms.gov](http://www.sos.ms.gov). At that location, you will find additional publications and resources for both the candidate as well as the voter.

This qualifying guide has been produced as an aid and a convenience for candidates who wish to qualify for elected office in 2018. Candidates should be aware changes in state law enacted or court decisions made after the printing of this guide may affect deadlines or other substantive provisions of election law. Accordingly, candidates should review all current election and campaign finance disclosure laws.

This guide does not provide information for candidates seeking to qualify for any specially called election in 2018. Candidates interested in qualifying for a specially called election should contact their Circuit Clerk's Office or the Secretary of State's Office for additional information.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Mississippi Secretary of State's Office  
Post Office Box 136  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205**

<b>Elections Call Center</b>	<b>(601) 576-2250</b>
<b>Elections Hotline</b>	<b>(800) 829-6786</b>
<b>Elections Fax</b>	<b>(601) 576-2545</b>
<b>Mississippi Ethics Commission</b>	<b>(601) 359-1285</b>
<b>Mississippi Attorney General's Office</b>	<b>(601) 359-3680</b>