



SMITH COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

122 TURNER HIGH CIRCLE SUITE 105
CARTHAGE, TN 37030
615.735.8241

October 26, 2021

Information for Candidates

Candidates will have an earlier qualifying deadline than in years past due to the local Republican and Democratic parties calling for a May 3, 2022 primary election.

A Primary is an election held for a political party for the purpose of allowing voters to select a candidate to represent that party in the general election or in this case in the August election.

Historically, all local candidates appearing on the August ballot ran as “independents” and qualified later in the calendar year.

This year, when candidates pick up a petition they will decide to run for office as either a Republican, Democrat or Independent and must qualify by Noon, February 17, 2022. Petitions will be available beginning December 20, 2021.

Republican and Democratic candidates will appear on their party’s primary ballot in May, with the winners advancing to the August ballot. Qualified Independent candidates will skip the May election, and will automatically appear on the ballot in August. Regardless of the candidate’s decision to run as a Republican, Democrat or as an Independent, the qualifying deadline for all candidates is Noon, February 17, 2022.

Exempt from the February deadline are school board members and city elected officials. Those races are considered non-partisan and they will have a Noon April 7 qualifying deadline.

Local offices that will appear on both the May and August election ballot include:

County Mayor	Circuit Court Clerk
County Commission (3 from each district)	County Clerk
Trustee	Register of Deeds
General Sessions Judge	Road Superintendent (to fill an unexpired term)
Sheriff	

The Sheriff and Highway Superintendent candidates will have an additional filing due earlier on February 3, 2022 with the Peace Officers Standards & Training Commission and the Tennessee Highway Officials Certification Board respectively.

Offices for School Board Members in Districts 3, 4, 6, and 8 and South Carthage mayor along with an alderman from Ward 1 and an alderman from Ward 2 will appear on the August ballot only.

Also appearing on the May Primary Ballot are the 15th Judicial District offices which include...

Circuit Court Judge, Division 1	Criminal Court
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Potential candidates with questions are encouraged to call the Smith County Election Office at 615-735-8241.

Photo IDs for Voting

July 22, 2021

Recently there has been a lot of interest and questions about the types of identification (ID) that may be used for voting. In Tennessee, a voter who shows up at the polls on election day or for early voting will be asked to show a photo ID that has been issued by the Tennessee State government or by the United States government. The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security issues photo IDs in addition to Tennessee drivers licenses with photo, including a REAL ID. Despite recent comments to the contrary, a REAL ID is not necessary for voting purposes.

Additional examples of the most common type of ID that can be used for voting are a U.S. passport, U.S. Military photo ID, or Tennessee handgun permit. All the above-mentioned IDs are acceptable even if it is expired.

College student IDs and photo IDs issued by other states or private businesses and schools are not acceptable forms of ID for the purpose of voting.

More information about the acceptable types of IDs can be found at www.sos.tn.gov or by calling the Smith County Election office at 615-735-8241.



Election Commission Meeting

When: November 16, 2021 @ 5 pm
December 2, 2021 @ 5 pm

Where: 122 Turner High Circle, Suite 105
Carthage, TN 37030