



How do I become a Candidate?

You must meet certain qualifications in order to hold office. Unique qualifications exist for different elected offices.

If you meet the qualifications and want to run for an elected office, you will pick up a petition from the Smith County Election Office. For some state and federal offices the petition can be acquired from the State Election Office. For the office of sheriff and road superintendent, you must be certified by the appropriate organization at least 14 days before the qualifying deadline.

You must acquire 25 acceptable signatures on the petition from registered voters living within the jurisdiction of the office you are seeking. The signed petition must be returned to the Smith County Election Office by the qualifying deadline.

Once your petition is accepted and verified to have enough signatures, the Smith County Election Commission will determine if you have met all the qualifications in order to have your name placed on the ballot.

Before a candidate spends or receives any money for their campaign, an "Appointment of Political Treasurer" form must be submitted to our office. Candidates are required to file quarterly Campaign Financial Disclosure Reports during their campaign and at least one report after the election. Exceptions exist that would not require you to file these reports.

Within thirty days after the qualifying deadline, you will need to file a Statement of Interest report with the TN Ethics Commission.

You may pick up a petition within a specific time frame before every election. This date plus other important dates, forms, and information will be posted on our website or our office will be happy to assist you.

Smith County Election Office
122 Turner High Circle, Suite 105
Carthage, TN 37030
Phone: 615-735-8241
Email: vote@smithcountyelection.com
Website: www.smithcountyelection.com