

from the desk of...



Craig Latimer Supervisor of Elections



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BECOMING A CANDIDATE



Have you ever wondered how a candidate gets their name on the ballot? My office serves as the qualifying officer for candidates running for local and county offices. These include Constitutional Offices, County Commission, County Court Judges, School Board, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Community Development Districts and Special Districts. Candidates running for federal, state and multi-county offices qualify with the Department of State.

There are two steps to becoming a candidate: filing and qualifying. To file, candidates must submit forms that are required before they can begin campaigning. Those who file with my office are listed on the [Local Candidates page](#) on my website. They are then required to file regular financial reports showing the contributions they have received and their campaign expenditures for each reporting period.



In addition to filing for office, candidates must submit qualifying documents and a fee (*if applicable*) during the designated qualifying period. In lieu of paying a qualifying fee, candidates may choose to qualify by collecting petitions or by running as a write-in candidate. Write-in candidates' names do not appear on the ballot. Visit VoteHillsborough.gov/CandidateDashboard for more information.

During the last presidential election cycle we worked with **more than 200** candidates, so I expect that we'll be quite busy with candidates over the next several months.

2024 HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY QUALIFYING PERIODS



Judicial Candidates	<p>Pre-Qualifying: Begins April 8</p> <p>Qualifying: Noon, April 22 – Noon, April 26</p>
All Other Candidates	<p>Pre-Qualifying: Begins May 27</p> <p>Qualifying: Noon, June 10 – Noon, June 14</p>

the flip side



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Up Next



PRIMARY ELECTION

Deadline to Register/Change Party: July 22

Early Voting: August 5 - 18

Election Day: August 20

Vote By Mail: Due by 7 p.m. August 20

GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline to Register: October 7

Early Voting: October 21 - November 3

Election Day: November 5

Vote By Mail: Due by 7 p.m. November 5

Use my Voter Information Lookup tool at VoteHillsborough.gov/AreYouReady to see if you're ready to vote!

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY RECAP

I want to thank all of my staff members and poll workers who helped to conduct another successful election.



279,772

Eligible Voters



63,808

Voter Turnout



22% of voters

Voted on Election Day



20% of voters

Voted Early



58% of voters

Voted by Mail



Unofficial results as of March 22, 2024.

the last word

Thank you to the more than 200 students who participated in my 'I Voted' sticker contest and to this year's sponsors, The Tampa Bay Lightning, The Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Busch Gardens. Stay tuned next month to see the winners.

