

Oklahoma Candidate Qualifications

County Sheriff

Oklahoma Statutes, Title 19, Section 131.1: “A. To file as a candidate for any county office, except as provided in subsection B of this section, a person must have been a registered voter and have maintained a current principal residence within the county for the six-month period immediately preceding the first day of the filing period prescribed by law.

“B. To file as a candidate for the office of county commissioner, a person must have been a registered voter within the county commissioner district and have maintained a current principal residence within such district for the six-month period immediately preceding the first day of the filing period prescribed by law. Except, however, to file as a candidate for the office of county commissioner in 2022, a person must have been a registered voter within the county commissioner district and have maintained a current principal residence within such district no later than December 31, 2021.

“C. For purposes of this section, evidence of a “principal residence” may include, but not be limited to, the address listed on:

1. A federal or state tax return;
2. A driver license; or
3. An automobile registration.”

Oklahoma Statutes, Title 19, Section 132: “No person shall be eligible to any county office unless he shall be, at the time of his election or appointment, a qualified voter of the county.”

Oklahoma Statutes, Title 19, Section 510: “Any person, otherwise qualified, who has been a resident of the State of Oklahoma for two (2) years, has been a registered voter of the party whose nomination he or she seeks, or a registered Independent, within the county from which such person seeks election for the six (6) months next preceding the first day of the filing period, is at least twenty-five (25) years of age next preceding the date of filing for office, possesses at least a high school education and has served as a duly certified peace officer, in a full-time capacity, for a period of four (4) years or more prior to the date of filing for the office of county sheriff, shall be eligible to hold the office of county sheriff or to file therefor. Within twelve (12) months of taking office, all newly elected or appointed sheriffs shall complete a sheriff's administrative school which has been developed by the Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association and which has been approved by the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET). Failure to complete the sheriff's administrative school within the specified period shall preclude the new sheriff from obtaining CLEET certification. New sheriffs with prior CLEET certification, who fail to attend the sheriff's administrative school, shall have their CLEET certification revoked. Provided, however, the provisions of this section relating to qualifications shall not apply to any person serving as a county sheriff or to any person previously serving as county sheriff prior to the adoption of this statute.

“For purposes of this section, ‘peace officer’ shall mean a full-time duly appointed or elected officer who is paid for working more than twenty-five (25) hours per week and whose duties are to preserve the public peace, protect life and property, prevent crime, serve warrants, and enforce state, federal or military laws and local ordinances of this state or any political subdivision thereof.”

Oklahoma Statutes, Title 26, Section 5-105: “A. Except as provided in subsection C of this section, to file as a candidate for nomination by a political party to any state or county office, a person must have been a registered voter of that party for the six-month period immediately preceding the first day of the filing period prescribed by law and, under oath, so state. Provided, this requirement shall not apply to a candidate for the nomination of a political party which attains recognition less than six (6) months preceding the first day of the filing period required by law. However, the candidate shall be required to have registered with the newly recognized party within fifteen (15) days after such party recognition.

“B. Except as provided in subsection C of this section, to file as an independent candidate for any state or county office, a person must have been registered to vote as an independent for the six-month period immediately preceding the first day of the filing period prescribed by law and, under oath, so state.

“C. To file as a candidate in 2022 for nomination by a political party for State Senator, State Representative, or County Commissioner for any regular or special election to be held after April 5, 2022, a person must have been a registered voter of the political party no later than December 31, 2021. To file as an independent candidate in 2022 for State Senator, State Representative, or County Commissioner for any regular or special election to be held after April 5, 2022, a person must have been registered to vote as an independent no later than December 31, 2021.”

Oklahoma Statutes, Title 26, Section 5-105a: “A. A person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor involving embezzlement or a felony under the laws of this state or of the United States or who has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to such misdemeanor involving embezzlement or felony or who has been convicted of a crime in another state which would have been a misdemeanor involving embezzlement or a felony under the laws of this state or has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to such crime shall not be eligible to be a candidate for or to be elected to any state, county, municipal, judicial or school office or any other elective office of any political subdivision of this state for a period of fifteen (15) years following completion of his sentence or during the pendency of an appeal of such conviction or plea.

“B. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to preclude a person who has received a pardon from being eligible for or from holding public office.”