

# Oklahoma Candidate Qualifications

## State House of Representatives

**Oklahoma Constitution, Article 5, Section 17:** “Members of the Senate shall be at least twenty-five years of age, and members of the **House of Representatives** twenty-one years of age at the time of their election. They shall be qualified electors in their respective counties or districts and shall reside in their respective counties or districts during their term of office.”

**Oklahoma Constitution, Article 5, Section 17A:** “Any **member of the Legislature** who is elected to office after the effective date of this amendment shall be eligible to serve no more than 12 years in the Oklahoma State Legislature. Years in Legislative office need not be consecutive and years of service in both the Senate and the **House of Representatives** shall be added together and included in determining the total number of Legislative years in office. The years served by any member elected or appointed to serve less than a full Legislative term to fill a vacancy in office shall not be included in the 12-year limitation set forth herein; but no member who has completed 12 years in office shall thereafter be eligible to serve a partial term. Any member who is serving a Legislative term in office or who has been elected or appointed to serve a term in office on the effective date hereof shall be entitled to complete his or her term and shall be eligible to serve an additional 12 years thereafter. This amendment shall be effective on the 1st day of the year following its adoption.”

**Oklahoma Constitution, Article 5, Section 18:** “No person shall serve as a **member of the Legislature** who is, at the time of such service, an officer of the United States or State government, or is receiving compensation as such; nor shall any person be eligible to election to the Legislature, who has been adjudged guilty of a felony.”

**Oklahoma Statutes, Title 14, Section 108:** “To file as a candidate for the House of Representatives in any House district, a person must have been a registered voter in such district and a resident residing 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 **House of Representatives** in any House district in 2022, a person must have been a registered voter and a resident residing in such district no later than December 31, 2021. Any member of the House of Representatives whose district has been changed by redistricting may change residence with the intent of becoming qualified to seek reelection in such district in the first election applicable to such district following redistricting without thereby being deemed to have vacated his or her existing office.”

**Oklahoma Statutes, Title 26, Section 5-105:** “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.”