

Oklahoma Candidate Qualifications

District Judge and Associate District Judge

Oklahoma Constitution, Article 7, Section 8[g]:

“Each **District Judge** shall have had prior to election or appointment, a minimum of four years' experience as a licensed practicing attorney, or as a judge of a court of record, or both, within the State of Oklahoma; shall be a qualified elector of the respective district; and shall have such additional qualifications as may be prescribed by statute. Each **Associate District Judge** shall be an attorney licensed to practice in the State of Oklahoma and an elector in the County at the time of filing; and they shall have such additional qualifications as prescribed by statute. Both District Judges and Associate District Judges shall continue to be licensed attorneys while in office.”

Oklahoma Statutes, Title 20, Section 121.1:

“No person shall be eligible for appointment to, or for election to, the office of **associate district judge** unless he has had a minimum of two (2) years of experience as a licensed practicing attorney, or as a judge of a court of record, or a combination thereof, within the State of Oklahoma. Provided that this section shall not apply to any person who held the office of associate district judge on or before July 15, 1974.”

Oklahoma Statutes, Title 20, Section 92i:

“To file as a candidate for the office of **district judge or associate district judge**, one must have been a registered voter and actual resident of the appropriate county for at least six (6) months prior to the first day of the filing period. Should no one file for any such office, and should a vacancy thereby created be filled by appointment according to law, there shall be no such residency or durational registration requirement imposed on the appointee, providing said appointee is otherwise qualified, nor shall any person appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of district judge or associate district judge be required to comply with such residency or durational registration requirement in becoming a candidate for a full term following such appointment. No one who has been removed from judicial office or who has resigned from office pending disciplinary proceedings shall qualify to file as a candidate for judicial office.”

Oklahoma Statutes, Title 26, Section 11-108:

“The ballots for retention of Justices of the Supreme Court and Judges of the Court of Criminal Appeals, and the ballots for Judges of the Court of Appeals, **district judges** and **associate district judges** shall be without party designation.”

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."