



Voting and Elections SS.7.CG.2.7  
**Qualifications for Elected Office**  
**VIDEO SCRIPT**




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**CONSTITUTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR FEDERAL OFFICE**

1. On Election Day, voters are handed a ballot that usually includes more than one contest. Oftentimes, citizens cast their vote for candidates in races for national, state and local offices. For each race there is a list of candidates. Candidates are people running for a specific office.
2. In this video we will learn about the qualifications required for candidates to run for national/federal office.
3. In general, official requirements for running for political office can be sorted into a few categories: age, citizenship, residency, or where someone lives, and term limits which is how many terms a person can hold the same office.
4. After watching this video, you will be able to:
  - ◆ Identify the constitutional qualifications required to hold national/federal office. Let's get started!
5. The requirements for federal, or national, political offices – President, U.S. Senator and U.S Representative – are outlined in the United States Constitution.
6. Let's begin with the office of the president. According to the U.S. Constitution, a person running for president must meet the following qualifications:
  - ◆ Be at least 35 years old,
  - ◆ Must be a natural born citizen. A natural born citizen is a person born in the United States or born to at least one parent who is a U.S. citizen,
  - ◆ Must live in the United States for at least 14 years, and
  - ◆ He or she can serve for two four-year terms.
7. The Constitution does not list specific qualifications for the vice president. However, the vice president may become president if the president dies, resigns or is removed from office. So, the vice president must meet the same requirements as the president.
8. Let's check in– Using the chart on the viewing guide, can you identify the age, citizenship, residency and term limits for running for president?

Position	Age	Citizenship	Residency	Term Limits
President				
Senator				
Representative				

→ ANSWER TO QUESTION COMPLETES CHART



9. Let's recap what we've learned so far:
- ◆ The U.S. Constitution outlines the requirements to run for federal political offices.
  - ◆ To run for the presidency, a person must be at least 35 years old, a natural born citizen, and lived in the United States at least 14 years.
  - ◆ A president may only serve two four-year terms.
10. Now that we know the constitutional requirements to run for president, let's take a look at the constitutional requirements to run for the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.
11. The U.S. Constitution sets the following requirements for candidates running for the U.S. Senate:
- ◆ Be at least 30 years old.
  - ◆ Be a U.S. citizen for at least 9 years.
  - ◆ Must live in the state that they are running to represent, and
  - ◆ They can serve an unlimited number of times for a 6-year term.
12. Now let's look at the other house of Congress-The U.S. House of Representatives.
13. The U.S. Constitution sets the following requirements for candidates to run, for the U.S. House of Representatives:
- ◆ Be at least 25 years old.
  - ◆ Be a U.S. citizen for at least 7 years.
  - ◆ Must live in the state that they represent, they DO NOT have to live in the district that they want to represent, and
  - ◆ They can serve an unlimited number of times for a 2-year term.
14. Let's check in- Using the chart on the viewing guide, identify the constitutional requirements for the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

Position	Age	Citizenship	Residency	Term Limits
President				
Senator				
Representative				

→ ANSWER TO QUESTION COMPLETES CHART

15. Let's recap what we've learned about running for Congress:
- ◆ The U.S. Constitution outlines the requirements to run for federal political offices.
  - ◆ To run for the Senate, the person must be 30 years old, must be a citizen for 9 years, and live in the state they are running to represent, and
  - ◆ A senator serves a six-year term and does not have term limits.
16. To run for the House of Representatives, a person must be 25 years old, must be a citizen for 7 years, and must live in the state they are running to represent. A representative serves a two-year term and does not have term limits.
17. Now we understand the constitutional requirements to run for national/federal elected offices!  
Good job!

18. When citizens get ready to vote on Election Day, it is up to them to decide which will do the best job. By doing so, they engage in one of the most important civic responsibilities, informed voting!

