



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



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## EVALUATING CANDIDATES FOR STATE OFFICE

1. On Election Day, voters are handed a ballot that usually includes more than one contest. Oftentimes, citizens cast their vote 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 state and local political 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:
  - ◆ Recognize the qualifications to seek election to state and local political offices.Let's get started!
5. Each state has its own constitution that creates the structure, function and powers of the state government.
6. The Florida Constitution outlines the qualifications people must meet in order to run for state-level political offices in Florida.
7. These state-level offices include: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, some Florida Cabinet offices, State Senator and State Representative.
8. In general, in order to hold an elected office in Florida a person must be a U.S. citizen, a Florida resident, a registered voter and at least 18 years old.
9. Let's look at specific state political officials, starting with the governor. According to the Florida Constitution, a person running for governor must meet the following requirements:
  - ◆ Be at least 30 years old.
  - ◆ Be a U.S. citizen.
  - ◆ Be a Florida resident for at least 7 years.
  - ◆ He or she can serve for only two consecutive four-year terms. If a two-term governor would like to serve again as governor he or she must wait at least one four-year term before running again.
10. Let's check in- Using the chart on the study guide, identify Florida's requirements to run for the office of governor.

Position	Age	Citizenship	Residency	Term Limits
Governor				
State Senator				
State Representative				

→ ANSWER TO QUESTION COMPLETES CHART

Well done!

11. Now that we know Florida’s constitutional requirements to run for governor, let’s take a look at the requirements to run for the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives.

12. The Florida Constitution sets the following requirements to run for the Florida Senate. A candidate must be:

- ◆ At least 21 years old,
- ◆ A U.S. citizen,
- ◆ A Florida resident for at least 2 years and live in the district they want to represent,
- ◆ And a state senator can only serve for two four-year terms.

Now let’s look at the other house of the Florida Legislature, the Florida House of Representatives.

13. The Florida Constitution sets the following requirements to run for the Florida House of Representatives. A candidate must be:

- ◆ At least 21 years old,
- ◆ A U.S. citizen,
- ◆ A Florida resident for at least 2 years and living in the district they want to represent,
- ◆ A state representative can only serve for four two-year terms.

14. Let’s check in– Using the chart on the study guide, identify the requirements to run for the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives.

Position	Age	Citizenship	Residency	Term Limits
Governor				
State Senator				
State Representative				

→ ANSWER TO QUESTION COMPLETES CHART

15. The only difference for candidates running for the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives is term of office. State senators are limited to 2 four-year terms, and state representatives are limited to 4 two-year terms.

16. The Florida Constitution gives cities and counties the power to create their own charters, which are rules for governing themselves.

17. County and city charters outline the elected offices in those political units including minimum qualifications and residency requirements to hold those offices. These can differ depending on where you live in Florida and what the office is!

18. As you learned earlier, no person may hold elected offices in Florida unless that person is a U.S. citizen, a Florida resident, a registered voter, and at least 18 years old.
19. Now we understand the constitutional requirements to run for state and local elected offices.
20. As with federal/national elections, when citizens get ready to vote on Election Day, they decide which qualified candidate they will vote for. Ultimately, it is up to each voter to decide which candidate they think will do the best job, and they fulfill their civic responsibility of informed voting!