



Voting and Elections:
 SS.7.CG.2.7
Qualifications for Elected Office
READING

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.2.7 Benchmark Clarification 1: Students will recognize the qualifications to seek election to local, state, and national political offices.

According to the U.S. Constitution, people running for national office must meet certain qualifications. Examples of national political offices are President, Vice President, U.S. Representative and U.S. Senator. The qualifications are unique to each office and are listed in the chart below.

National Elected Office	Description of Qualifications
<p>President Vice President (The qualifications to be vice president are not included in the U.S. Constitution. However, the vice president becomes president if the president resigns from office, is removed, or dies. This means that the vice president must be qualified to be president to run for vice president).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 35 years old 2. Has lived in the U.S. for at least 14 years 3. Is a natural born citizen, which means born on U.S. soil (law of soil) or to a U.S. citizen parent (law of blood) 4. May not serve more than two four-year terms, or a total of ten years. 5. The vice president may become president because the president dies, resigns, or is removed, The vice president, upon becoming president, may be president for no more than 10 years, (This means that the vice president completes the president's unfinished term and can serve as president for one or two more terms. If more than two years remain in the president's term, the vice president may serve one term as president. If less than two years remain in the president's term, the vice president may serve two terms as president.
<p>A member of the U.S. House of Representatives (U.S. Representative)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 25 years old 2. At least seven years a U.S. citizen 3. Must live in the state they represent (living in the district they represent is an option, but not a requirement). 4. May serve an unlimited number of two-year terms
<p>A member of the U.S. Senate (U.S. Senator)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 30 years old 2. At least 9 years as a U.S. citizen 3. Must live in the state they represent 4. May serve an unlimited number of six-year terms

Each state has its own constitution that creates its government plan. The Florida Constitution lists the qualifications to run for state office. State political offices include governor, lieutenant governor, state representative, and state senator. The qualifications are unique to each office and are listed in the chart below.

State Elected Office	Description of Qualifications
Governor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. U.S. citizen 2. At least 30 years old 3. Resident of the state for at least 5 years 4. May not serve more than two 4-year terms
Lieutenant Governor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. U.S. citizen 2. At least 30 years old 3. Resident of the state for at least 5 years 4. May not serve more than two 4-year terms. If the lieutenant governor becomes governor due to the resignation, death, or removal of the governor, the lieutenant governor may be governor for no more than 10 years (The lieutenant governor completes the governor’s term and may serve no more than two four-year terms)
A member of the Florida House of Representatives (State Representative)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. U.S. citizen 2. Lives in the district represented 3. State resident for at least 2 years 4. At least 21 years old
A member of the Florida Senate (State Senator)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. U.S. citizen 2. Lives in the district represented 3. State resident for at least 2 years 4. At least 21 years old

The qualifications for local city and county office **candidates** are listed in city and county charters. Charters serve as a constitution for a city or county. Qualifications for local offices may vary as there are numerous counties and cities in Florida, each many elected officials. However, no person may hold elected office in Florida unless that person is a U.S. citizen, a Florida resident, a registered voter, and at least 18 years old.

candidate - a person running for political office

Florida House of Representatives - the lower house of the Florida legislature

Florida Senate - the upper house of the Florida legislature

governor - the head of a state government

law of blood - a person's citizenship at birth is the same as that of his or her biological mother or father

law of soil - a person's citizenship at birth is determined by the country where he or she was born

president - the head of the executive branch

state representative - a member of the lower house of a state legislature (the Florida House of Representatives)

state senator - a member of the upper house of a state legislature (the Florida Senate)

U.S. House of Representatives - the lower house of the U.S. Congress

U.S. Representative - a member of the U.S House of Representatives; representatives are elected in districts throughout each state

U.S. Senate - the upper house of the U.S. Congress

U.S. Senator - a member of the U.S. Senate elected to represent an entire state; there are two senators per state