

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Anyone seeking to hold office must meet certain qualifications. While there are minimum requirements that apply to every office, some offices may require additional qualifications. Candidates are responsible for determining whether or not they are eligible to hold public office. The Elections Department will provide information regarding the qualifications to hold specific offices to interested individuals and will verify the candidates' qualifications to the best of our ability.

General Qualifications to Run for and Hold Public Office:

Age/Citizenship

A person is incapable of holding a civil office if at the time of his/her election or appointment he/she is not 18 years of age and a citizen of the state. [Gov. Code Sec. 1020]

Registered Voter/District Resident

Unless otherwise specifically provided, no person is eligible to be elected or appointed to an elective office unless that person is a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person or at the time of the person's appointment. [Election Code Sec. 201]

Following this page are additional specific qualifications for individual offices as prescribed by law.

QUALIFICATIONS SPECIFIC TO OFFICE OF SHERIFF

Government Code 24004.3 (a)(b)

(a) No person is eligible to become a candidate for the office of sheriff in any county unless, at the time of the final filing date for election, he or she meets one of the following criteria:

(1) An active or inactive advanced certificate issued by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

(2) One year of full-time, salaried law enforcement experience within the provisions of Section 830.1 or 830.2 of the Penal Code at least a portion of which shall have been accomplished within five years prior to the date of filing, and possesses a master's degree from an accredited college or university.

(3) Two years of full-time, salaried law enforcement experience within the provisions of Section 830.1 or 830.2 of the Penal Code at least a portion of which shall have been accomplished within five years prior to the date of filing, and possesses a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

(4) Three years of full-time, salaried law enforcement experience within the provisions of Section 830.1 or 830.2 of the Penal Code at least a portion of which shall have been accomplished within five years prior to the date of filing, and possesses an associate in arts or associate in science degree, or the equivalent, from an accredited college.

(5) Four years of full-time, salaried law enforcement experience within the provisions of Section 830.1 or 830.2 of the Penal Code at least a portion of which shall have been accomplished within five years prior to the date of filing, and possesses a high school diploma or the equivalent.

(b) All persons holding the office of sheriff on January 1, 1989 shall be deemed to have met all qualifications required for candidates seeking election or appointment to the office of sheriff.