



SCDEMOCRATS

CANDIDATE TOOLKIT:

GETTING TO YES!

No matter the office you are running for, or thinking of running for, it is never too soon to get started. Of course, there are many activities that the candidate can't perform until the campaign is under way.

There are many things, however, that candidates and potential candidates can do well in advance of Election Day to put them in a better position to win.

I'M READY TO RUN!

WE CAN LEAVE NO RACE UNCONTESTED.

South Carolina's future is on the ballot, and Democrats are ready to flip it.

Across this state, Democrats are running strong, competitive races up and down the ballot. Our values reflect the will of a majority of South Carolinians. Our vision is rooted in opportunity and fairness. It's time for our government to reflect our people.

That's where you come in.

You're already doing the work. You're organizing, showing up, and pushing for change in your neighborhoods, your churches, your schools, and your workplaces. Now it's time to turn that energy into leadership.

Now it's time to be a game-changer.

Running for office is about impact. It's about stepping up to flip the future of your community and your state. And you don't have to do it alone.

At the Democratic Party, our job is simple: put you in a position to win.

This guide is designed to help you take the first steps toward holding public office and help you understand what it really takes to run a successful campaign.

Together, we can flip the future of South Carolina.

Together, we can build a bench of leaders who look like our communities.

Together, we can fight for our values and change the game for generations to come.

Now let's get to work.



Christale Spain
Chair



Jay Parmley
Executive Director

CANDIDATE TOOLKIT

PURPOSE OF THE TOOLKIT:

1. We want you to be able to ask the right questions. Those often sound like: Where will I be most productive as a candidate? How do I create a support system to be successful? What needs to be included in my campaign plan? These are questions any candidate has to wrestle with and they are never easy to answer. But, they can only be answered if you know to ask them in the first place.

2. Move you closer toward action items. Campaigns are chaotic and confusing. Everyone is going to give you advice and everyone is an expert on what you're doing wrong. If you can get through the basics quickly, you'll have a better sense of how you want to run your campaign and you can keep your to-do list focused on the fundamentals. That's how you win and build a solid campaign.

TALK TO YOUR FAMILY

The first and most important step in launching a successful campaign for office is discussing it with your family. Even small local political campaigns can be demanding and stressful, and you need to have an honest conversation with your family about the sacrifices that might have to be made during the election season. Your spouse and children will be most affected by any decision you make to run for office, and you need to get their input and consent before making the plunge into a campaign.

Don't underestimate the hours and pressures of a campaign. They are overwhelming, but they don't have to be. They can only be managed if you're able to acknowledge and talk about them. Expect to have to cut back on your non-essential activities, even if you love them. Expect to be in the call room and on the road for long periods of time, often leaving you more tired than you'd like when you do get a few minutes with friends and family. Expect people to care about details of your life that you'd rather be kept private.

Also, be purposeful not to make this a one-time conversation with the important people in your life. Politics has a way of changing things quickly. Setting the stage early for regular and frank conversations, and then making time for those discussions, with your loved ones throughout the campaign can be crucial to your success.



CHOOSE THE OFFICE YOU WANT TO RUN FOR

Choosing the right office to run for is probably the most important decision you've got to make. It's important to consider your resume and expertise as it relates to each seat you're eligible for, the time that you'll want to devote to both your campaign and official duties, your knowledge of your community and your recognition within it, your fundraising ability, and the political situation for the incumbent. There are plenty of other factors to consider, but there are two essential questions that you'll want to be able to answer succinctly and decisively as soon as possible:

Why are you running for office?

What can you do in office to help improve your community?

If you're able to provide genuine, genuine, and decisive answers to both of these questions about a particular office, chances are you've found the right office to run for.

A couple of phrases you'll hear often while searching for the right office are **viability** and **name ID**.

Being a viable candidate boils down to your ability to execute a winning campaign strategy and the gap between the public's perception of you the candidate and you the public official. If it's hard for people to imagine you in an office, like Donald Trump as President, it can be hard to get over the hurdle to mount a winning campaign. That does not mean it's impossible, clearly, but it takes a campaign that is well funded and well executed to overcome that gap so that you're viable in the minds of enough voters by Election Day to win.

Well funded doesn't mean you have to raise ten of thousands, it means the budget you and your team establish is fully funded.

Name ID simply means the percentage of the voters in a particular district that know your name. If voters don't know who you are, it is much harder to convince them to vote for you. Often, we have to compete for independent and swing voters to win elections. Name ID is particularly important with these voters by Election Day and, generally, can go a long way toward helping you be a viable candidate.

Much of your campaign will focus on building your name ID.

While the idea of being President may be tempting, it's always best to start on a local or state level. For one, local and state offices are where the majority of government decisions are made. If you want to make a difference, it's best to be close to the action.



CHECK THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THAT OFFICE

(See Appendix for details)

At minimum, this usually means that you must be a registered voter in the geographical area in which you are running; there may also be age, residency or experience qualifications. In Appendix 1, there is a listing of qualifications for many of the offices in South Carolina.



START YOUR RESEARCH

Running a successful campaign requires a great deal of research, even in the smallest districts. The candidate should gather all the information he or she can, including past election data, maps of the precincts and polling places, election regulations for your community, vote builder, research on issues important for your race and information about your possible opponents. Research should be compiled into a written campaign plan.

Past Election Data: The best place to search past election results is SCVotes.org, which is the South Carolina Election Commission's website. Here you can find the full reports on the precinct by precinct breakdown for recent elections. Be sure to reach out to the SCDP if you're searching for more detailed results or individual voter profiles.

Maps: The two best places to go for district and precinct maps are the South Carolina Department of Revenue and your county election commission.

Election Regulations: While most smaller races will not require counsel, it can certainly make life easier for campaigns during hectic moments. State regulations focus mostly on a candidate's donations and expenditures — be sure to file your ethics reports on time. Local regulations can get a bit trickier though. It is important to know the sign ordinances for the municipalities in your district. It is probably best to start by contacting your local county party about any local ordinances that could prove tricky.

Voter File: The SCDP, in conjunction with the DNC and NGP VAN, operates VoteBuilder. VoteBuilder is our most important tool in winning elections.

It contains past voting history, contact information and addresses for registered voters, past campaign contacts, and modeling on how we expect voters to vote. It's also built to manage your field program and everything your volunteers do. Having a team that understands the ins and outs of VoteBuilder so that they can take advantage of this tool is critically important.

Issue Research: A deep policy background is certainly helpful when running for office, but not necessary. You will need to be able to speak knowledgeably, in detail, and locally on the issues that affect the district you plan to run for. There are lots of groups that provide information on specific issues for candidates and officials; think about the Conservation Voters of South Carolina (CVSC) for environmental issues and the Women's Rights and Empowerment Network (WREN) for women's issues as examples of these groups.

Community Knowledge: In your campaign, there is nothing that can replace your knowledge of the people and the voters in your district. There is no replacing it and your network will be crucial to your success. As you take this on in a more purposeful manner, it can be a good idea to take a tour of the district or municipality. While your "tour" need not be a formal or announced effort, you should be sure to spend time in every corner of the district, learning about the businesses that affect the local economy, the issues that are important and the demographics of the area. Possible activities including spending a day in local businesses and factories, visiting schools and nursing homes and stopping by local churches and events.



SPEAK WITH LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS & PARTY LEADERS

Organization meetings aren't the only place to speak with local leaders. Take the time to visit with various leaders or speak with them on the phone. Try to get together with political, business, community and church leaders to not only lay the foundations for support in the future, but also to learn what issues are important to them and the people they represent.



WORK WITH YOUR COUNTY OR STATE PARTY

Many of the tasks an individual campaign needs to accomplish can be done much more efficiently or less expensively if they can be coordinated with other similar campaigns. Coordinating these efforts and achieving these savings should be the role of a political party in an election cycle. Your campaign may be expected to help the Party achieve its objectives as well. Your campaign should clearly understand what the Party expects from you and what you can expect from the Party.

Often candidates think that the central Party organization should for some reason fund their campaign and their voter contact relies on the visit of the Party leader to their region. In most cases there is not enough money at the county, state and/or national level to fund everyone's campaign and the state/national leader cannot go everywhere. A campaign that cannot raise its own funds and relies on the Party to contact voters will not be successful.



VOTER FILE

The South Carolina Democratic Party's voter file is the single most valuable technology resource you'll have in your campaign. Our database contains all of the registered voters in South Carolina, their voting history, demographic information, and a whole host of other tags and data points from past campaigns and other vendors. When it comes to contacting voters and managing those important interactions, there is no more important tool.

VoteBuilder is the database that we use to manage SC voter file. As a candidate, we can create a Committee for your campaign in VoteBuilder to manage all of your organizing and voter outreach efforts. There is a fee associated with maintaining that Committee, we require all users to sign a Voter File Agreement, and there are certain trainings that we expect all users to complete. The details for completing these forms and getting set up in VoteBuilder can be found at the Party's website, SCDP.org, or by calling the Party office at 803-799-7798, or email matt@scdp.org.



BUILD YOUR CAMPAIGN TEAM

This is crucial, and you need people on your side to help. You must be concerned about your message and your ideas, not the day-to-day technicalities of running a campaign. Some key campaign team positions include, Campaign Manager, Fundraising Director and Communications Director.

The timing of hiring staff and the number of staff you decide to bring on will also be very important. Be sure that you can meet all of the monetary commitments you make to the campaign staff you bring onboard and focus on the core areas of your campaign with your staff hires. Also be sure to focus on when to bring on particular skill sets to your effort. For example, it's often helpful to hire finance and communications staff early because it's your work with them that will give you the capacity to add other staff later.

Consultants can also be extremely helpful in adding capacity to your effort, though they very rarely replace the on-the-ground campaign staff that will do the majority of the bread and butter work required by a campaign. You would tend to hire a consultant for their expertise in a particular area, such as direct mail, polling, or digital ads. Typically, it is important to have staff that can manage the various consultants for a campaign and keep the trains moving on time.

It's never too early to start preparing your run for office. If you haven't decided whether to run or not, taking these steps will help you make your decision. If you've committed to the campaign, getting a head start will make it easier to implement your campaign strategy and build momentum.



RAISE MONEY

There is a very simple rule to remember about fundraising: no one will give you money unless you ask them. That ask can take many different forms, including phone calls, emails, and in-person meetings, but the most important part is that you, the candidate, make the point of personally asking individuals to support you financially.

As a rule, your first funds will always come from individuals you know personally. As you think through what you think is a realistic amount of money you're capable of raising, within your contribution limits, think about what your collection of friends and family could give you tomorrow. They will always be your first asks. Your circle of asks should grow with time, but the people you know best should be your foundation for a healthy fiscal environment on your campaign.

It's also okay if asking for money is uncomfortable for you: you still have to do it. If you'd like to be a viable candidate for any office, learning how to politely and convincingly ask for money from donors is an invaluable skill.

The process of asking for money does not need to be overly complicated.

First, you have to compile your prospect list of potential donors. Make sure you have contact information and introductions. It's also important to have a target amount identified for each

donor. You never want to simply ask for a donation, but instead ask for a specific amount that is tailored to your needs and their ability to give.

Once you're organized, you must do the call time. Be diligent about messages, follow up with thank you email and letters, chase pledged donations, and speak to donors about your campaign and why their donation is important to its success. **There is no substitute for the hours of call time that campaigning requires.** Remember: nobody will give you money unless you ask. Call time is a grind, but it's the most important thing you can do as a candidate early in a campaign.

The hardest part of call time for most candidates is the actual ask. "Joe, you know how important this campaign is for South Carolina and we need your \$500 donation to be successful in November." You need to be able to quickly and efficiently get to that part of the conversation with each and every donor you talk to in-person and on the phone.

✓ DEVELOP A BUDGET

For first time candidates, budgets can be the hardest part of running a campaign. It's hard to gauge what type of funds you'll have months into a campaign. Your budget is tied to your ability to raise campaign funds, so it matters. You don't always know how much to spend in a primary and how much to save for the general. It can be hard to tell what's a good investment in the moment, something that should be saved for later, and money you should never spend.

These are normal concerns to have as you're starting out and reality has a way of intervening in the best made plans. There's not a single golden rule of budgeting for all campaigns, but there are a few terms and principles that can help you maintain a better handle on your financial situation.

✓ WRITE YOUR CAMPAIGN PLAN

The campaign plan is where you should chart your path to victory. Your budget should be part of the implementation of the campaign plan. You should start with your win number, which is the number of votes you will need based on your prediction of turnout to have 1 more vote than your opponent. The more precise this number is, the more helpful it can be, but you should also avoid the impulse to overcomplicate this calculation.

Local races often have win numbers in the hundreds or low thousands. If you're running for Congress, for example, your win number is likely around 200,000 or so. Once this number is combined with the amount of money you think you can raise, you can begin to conceptualize how much you'll have to spend per vote to be successful. This can also be extremely helpful as you decide which office to run for.

Once you have a win number, you'll want to segment the voters in your district into discreet universes. These groupings will help you decide when and how to communicate with voters in aggregate terms throughout the campaign. Again, it's easy to quickly overcomplicate this process. In small races with limited budgets, you may only need a couple universes and spend money talking to voters from a single universe. In a statewide campaign with a robust budget, this process can be poll-tested and refined with detailed targeting, resulting in tailored messages and spends to each universe. The point is to help you know who you need to talk to and when you need to do it to win.

By the time you've built your universes, you'll bound to be teeming with good ideas about how to contact voters. "We're going to do Facebook videos every day!" "I'm going to knock on every Democratic door in my district!" "We're going to win this before Election Day with an awesome absentee program!" All awesome ideas, but are they realistic to accomplish within your budget and time constraints? Be sure to write them down. The devil is always in the details. Be sure you have a plan for the programs you want to run in each universe. Voters often take far more than one touch to be persuaded to vote for a candidate.

Don't pin your hopes to a single door knock or phone call. In short, make sure you're matching your capacity for voter outreach with the voters you need to reach and you'll be much more successful.

Finally, it's important to be able to adjust your plan, particularly with the specifics of dollar amounts and timelines. You need flexibility to address the reality of your campaign as you meet it. That's not something to be scared by, but instead something to be planned for. However, there are many campaigns that have suffered greatly from chaotic course corrections mid-stream. There is a subtle but important difference between moving from one plan to another and moving from a plan to no plan. You're going to become a better candidate throughout the campaign and learn new things. Make sure to improve your plan and implement them, but also be sure to not compromise your entire effort in doing so.

✓ FILE TO GET ON THE BALLOT

In South Carolina, filing for office occurs in March, though it may vary for special elections. Procedures for filing also vary by city and county, depending on the office. A filing fee may also be required and is paid to the Party, which will be paid to the Election Commission on behalf of its candidates.

Nomination by Political Party---All candidates for state office, except President, seeking a political party's nomination to run in a general or special election must now file a Statement of Intention of Candidacy/Party Pledge Form (SICPP) with the appropriate county or state election commission during the appropriate filing period.

- Candidates must also file a Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) form with the State Ethics Commission. This must be done electronically on the State Ethics Commission website.
- Candidates may also be required to make Campaign Disclosure reports. Visit the State Ethics Commission website for more information.
- Candidates for federal office, statewide office, and solicitor must file with the State Election Commission.
- Candidates for State Senate and the State House of Representatives must file with the State Election Commission or with the County Election Commission in the candidate's county of residence.
- Countywide office, and less-than-countywide office must file with the county election commission in the candidate's county of residence.

Nonpartisan Municipal Elections---Cities and towns conduct their elections at various times throughout the two-year election cycle.

- Municipalities set election dates, filing periods, filing fees, candidate qualifications, methods of election, methods of determining results, and other election-related rules by ordinance. For specific requirements, check with your municipal or county election commission.
- Generally, if the municipality uses the filing by statement of intention of candidacy method, the filing deadline is not later than 60 days prior to the date of the election. If the municipality holds its election at the same time as the statewide general election, the filing deadline will be earlier. Check locally for specific deadlines.
- Generally, if the municipality uses the filing by petition method, the filing deadline is not later than 75 days prior to election. If the municipality holds its election at the same time as the statewide general election, the filing deadline will be earlier. Check locally for specific deadlines.

The first will feel simplistic, but make sure that your money is going toward communicating with voters. There are several ways to do this at various levels of expense, effectiveness, and responsiveness, but people won't vote for you if they don't know you. There are many opportunities to spend your campaign funds on things that don't allow you to better communicate with voters

and, while some of those are absolutely necessary, you shouldn't let them take your eye off the ball of asking individuals for their votes.

Another is to ensure that only recurring revenues are paying for recurring expenses. For large non-recurring expenses, like your GOTV operation, you'll want to make sure that you are banking money for several months to be able to cover it.

It's never too early to start preparing for your campaign. Successful campaigns take a lot of hard, thankless work, long hours, and a bit of luck. Even if you're just getting started thinking about running for office, our hope is that this toolkit helps you make an informed decision about what it would take to win.

Quickly, you'll get to the point where you have moved past preparing and are announcing your campaign. Remember to act on your values and talk about your vision for the district, county or state. You've got to do the basics like call time to raise money, write a campaign plan, And volunteers or staff to help you execute those efforts, but they're all in service of communicating your message to voters. Throughout that process, the Party is here to help and we're so excited that you're thinking about running for office!

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Using your research and your best judgment, answer the following questions and incorporate the answers into your written campaign plan:

1. How many people (not just voters) live in your district?
2. How many registered voters in your district?
3. What percentage of registered voters do you expect to vote in this election?
4. How many expected voters is this in real numbers?
5. How many candidates will be running for this position?
6. How many of these candidates could be considered serious?
7. If the election were held today, what percentage of the vote do you think each candidate would receive?
8. What percentage of the votes cast will be needed to win?
9. How many votes cast in real numbers are needed to win?
10. On average, how many voters live in one household?
11. Do these voters living in the same household all tend to vote for the same candidate?
12. If they do tend to vote for the same candidate, how many households will you need to receive the support of to guarantee victory?
13. If you talk to ten average voters, how many can you persuade to vote for you?
14. How many households will you need to communicate with for your message to reach enough voters to achieve victory?



APPENDIX 1: CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

The first step in developing a winning strategy must begin with a realistic assessment of the political landscape in which you will be running. It is true that you can never know everything about your district, your opponents and the voters. However, by using your time wisely and setting clear priorities, you will be able to compile the kind of information you need to develop a good strategy and be prepared for most events in the coming campaign.

POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

There are a number of factors that should be understood as completely as possible as you prepare to write a campaign plan:

1. **What is the type of election and what are the rules?**
2. **What are the characteristics of the district?**
3. **What are the demographics of the voters?**
4. **What has happened in past elections?**
5. **What are the main factors affecting this election?**
6. **What are your strengths and weaknesses as a candidate?**
7. **What are the strengths and weaknesses of all the viable opponents?**

Each elected office in South Carolina has specific statutory qualifications that a candidate must meet to be eligible to run. In the charts that follow, we've done our best to organize the standardized information about those qualifications and how they impact each individual office across the state. It is worth understanding that there are many types of offices you can run for as a citizen of South Carolina. These range from local offices, including school boards, municipal offices, and county offices, to federal offices such as the United States Senate.

The specific qualifications for each can vary widely. Qualifications for municipal offices may vary by ordinance. Check with your municipal or county election commission for specific qualifications. County governments also vary widely by county. Not all counties elect all of the typical positions within county government. For example, the Treasurer is appointed in both Greenwood and York Counties. Be sure to check the local details for your municipality or county if you're thinking around running for a local office.

The qualifications for state office holders are included in the chart below. No person may be popularly elected to and serve in any office in the State unless **he is registered to vote** in the geographical area represented by the office (S.C. Constitution, Article VI, Section 1). Also for state offices, A person convicted of **a felony or an offense against the election laws is not qualified** to file for or hold office, unless it has been fifteen years since the completion of the sentence for the crime or unless the person has been pardoned (S.C. Constitution, Article VI, Section 1). This does not apply to federal offices.

Qualifications for federal office are determined by the United States Constitution. Some individuals may be restricted from running for public office by the federal Hatch Act. The Act applies to federal employees and others receiving federal funds and restricts their participation in campaigns for partisan offices. For detailed information regarding the Hatch Act, visit the website of the U.S. Office of Special Counsel.

Candidate's qualifications for all offices, are determined at the time of the election and not at the time of filing or nomination. However, candidates for 'the state Senate and House **must be a resident** of the district at the time of filing.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE/FEDERAL OFFICES

OFFICE	MINIMUM AGE	STATE RESIDENT	US CITIZEN	REGISTERED VOTER	TERM OF OFFICE	CONSECUTIVE TERMS	SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS NOTES
US SENATE	30	No time limit	9 years	Yes	6 years	Indefinite	
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	25	No time limit	7 years	Yes	2 years	Indefinite	
GOVERNOR	30	5 years	5 years	Yes	4 years	2	
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	30	5 years	5 years	Yes	4 years	2	
SECRETARY OF STATE	18	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	
STATE TREASURER	18	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	
ATTORNEY GENERAL	18	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	
COMPTROLLER GENERAL	18	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION	18	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	<p>Must possess the minimum of a master's degree</p> <p>Must have experience as detailed in S.C. Code of Laws 59-3-10(b)</p>
AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER	18	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	
SC SENATE	25	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	<p>Must be a legal resident of the district at the time of filing</p>
SC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	21	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	2 years	Indefinite	<p>Must be a legal resident of the district at the time of filing</p>
SOLICITORS	18	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	<p>Must be legal resident of circuit 30 days prior to the election</p> <p>Must be licensed to practice law by the S.C. Bar at the time of his election and throughout his term.</p>

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTY OFFICES

OFFICE	MINIMUM AGE	RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT	REGISTERED VOTER	TERM OF OFFICE	CONSECUTIVE TERMS	SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS NOTES
COUNCIL	18	Must be a resident of the county and/or district at the time of the election	Yes	4 or 2 years	Indefinite	Term is 2 years in Anderson, Edgefield, Orangeburg, & York Counties.
TREASURER	18	Must be a resident of the county at the time of the election	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	Treasurer is appointed in Greenwood & York Counties.
AUDITOR	18	Must be a resident of the county at the time of the election	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	Auditor is appointed in Greenwood & York Counties.
CLERK OF COURT	18	Must be a resident of the county at the time of the election	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	
CORONER	21	Must be a resident of the county for at least 1 year immediately preceding the date of the election. Must be a U.S. citizen	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	*See below for complete qualifications
PROBATE JUDGE	21	Must be a resident of the county at the time of the election	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	S.C. Code of Laws Section 14-23-1040 includes an education/experience requirement for Probate Judge. (Act 678 of 1990) However, the U.S. Department of Justice objected to the requirement, and the act was never precleared and is therefore unenforceable.
SHERIFF	21	Must be a resident of the county for at least 1 year immediately preceding the date of the election. Must be a U.S. citizen.	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	**See below for complete qualifications
REGISTER OF DEEDS	18	Must be a resident of the county at the time of the election	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	
SCHOOL BOARD	18	Must be a resident of the county and/or district at the time of the election	Yes	4, 3 or 2 years	Indefinite	Additional qualifications may exist for any particular school board or district. For specific lengths of terms and qualifications, contact the local school district or the S.C. School Board Association.
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER	18	Must be a resident of the county and/or district at the time of the election	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	

CANDIDATES FOR CORONER MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS*

(S.C. CODE OF LAWS 17-5-130)

- + Must have a high school diploma or equivalent recognized by the state department of education.
- + Must not have been convicted of a felony offense or an offense involving moral turpitude contrary to the laws of this state, another state, or the united states.

+ Must have one of the following combinations of education and experience:

- 3 Years experience in death investigation with a law enforcement agency, coroner, or medical examiner agency; or
- 2 Year associate degree and 2 years experience in death investigation with a law enforcement agency, coroner, or medical examiner agency; or
- 4 Year baccalaureate degree and 1 year experience in death investigation with a law enforcement agency, coroner, or medical examiner agency; or
- Be a law enforcement officer, as defined by s.C. Code of laws 23-23-10(e)(1), certified by the s.C. Law enforcement training council with a minimum of 2 years of experience; or
- Be a licensed private investigator with a minimum of 2 years of experience; or
- Have completed a recognized forensic science degree or certification program or be enrolled in a recognized forensic science degree or certification program to be completed within 1 year of being elected to the office of coroner.

+ Candidates must file a sworn affidavit with the county party chair no later than the close of the filing period (petition candidates file the affidavit with the county election commission). A coroner's filing affidavit is available for download from the filing forms page. Affidavits must contain the following information:

- Date and place of person's birth
- Person's citizenship
- County of residence and how long the person has been a resident of that county
- Whether the person is a registered voter
- Date person obtained high school diploma or its recognized equivalent
- Whether the person has been convicted of a felony offense or an offense involving moral turpitude contrary to the laws of this state, another state, or the united states.
- Date person obtained an associate degree or baccalaureate degree, if applicable
- Date person completed a recognized forensic science degree or certification program, or information regarding the person's enrollment in a recognized forensic science degree or certification program, if applicable

CANDIDATES FOR SHERIFF MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS**

(S.C. CODE OF LAWS 23-11-110)

+Must have one of the following combinations of education and experience:

- High school diploma & 5 years experience as a certified law enforcement officer; or
- 2 year associate degree & 3 years experience as a certified law enforcement officer; or
- 4 year bachelors degree & 1 year experience as a certified law enforcement officer; or
- Served as a summary court judge for at least 10 years.

+ Must not have pled guilty or been convicted of a felony in this state or in any other state or pled guilty or been convicted of driving under suspension of a license or driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol within the past 10 years.

+ Candidates must be fingerprinted and have SLED make a search of local, state and federal fingerprint files for any criminal record. Fingerprints are to be taken under the direction of any law enforcement agency and must be made available to SLED no later than 130 days prior to the General Election. The results of the records search are to be filed with the county executive committee of the person's political party. A person seeking nomination by petition must file the results with the county election commission in the county of his residence.

+ Candidates must file a sworn affidavit with the county party chairman no later than the close of the filing period (petition candidates file the affidavit with the county election commission). A Sheriff's Filing Affidavit is available for download from the Filing Forms page.

Affidavits must contain the following information:

- Date and place of person's birth
- Date person graduated from high school or received equivalent of high school diploma
- Number of years experience person has as a certified law enforcement officer, when applicable
- Number of years experience person has as a summary court judge, when applicable
- An affirmation the the person meets all of the qualification requirements of 23-11-110(A)

APPENDIX 2: CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

APPENDIX 3: FILING FEES

Contribution Limits for State Candidates

Candidates may not accept more than the following amounts from individuals during an election cycle:

\$3,500 for statewide candidates or \$1,000 for state or local candidates.

These figures are based on a cumulative total for the election cycle.

Contribution Limits for Federal Candidates

The limits are cumulative for an election cycle, though they apply separately to primary and general election campaigns only if a candidate has opposition in a primary campaign. For clarification, here is the language directly from the South Carolina Ethics Commission: “[T]he contribution limits under Sections 8-13-1314 and 8-13-1316 apply only to elections for each primary, runoff, or special election in which a candidate has opposition and for each general election. If the candidate remains unopposed during an election cycle, one contribution limit shall apply.”

RECIPIENT				
DONOR	FEDERAL CANDIDATE COMMITTEE	PAC (SSF AND NONCONNECTED)	PARTY COMMITTEE: STATE/ DISTRICT/ LOCAL	
	INDIVIDUAL	\$3,500 per election	\$5,000 per year	\$10,000 per year (combined)
	CANDIDATE COMMITTEE	\$2,000 per election	\$5,000 per year	Unlimited transfers
	PAC: MULTICANDIDATE	\$5,000 per election	\$5,000 per year	\$5,000 per year (combined)
	PAC: NONMULTICANDIDATE	\$3,500 per election	\$5,000 per year	\$10,000 per year (combined)
	PARTY COMMITTEE: STATE/DISTRICT/ LOCAL	\$5,000 per election	\$5,000 per year	Unlimited transfers
	PARTY COMMITTEE: NATIONAL	\$5,000 per election	\$5,000 per year	Unlimited transfers

FILING FEE SCHEDULE		
OFFICE	SALARY	FILING FEE
President		\$20,000.00
U.S. Senate	\$174,000.00	\$10,440.00
U.S. House of Representatives	\$174,000.00	\$3,480.00
Solicitor All Circuits	\$196,752.00	\$7,870.88
State Senate	\$10,400.00	\$416.00
State House of Representatives	\$10,400.00	\$208.00
Governor	\$106,078.00	\$4,243.12
Secretary Of State	\$92,007.00	\$3,680.28
State Treasurer	\$92,007.00	\$3,680.28
Attorney General	\$92,007.00	\$3,680.28
Comptroller General	\$92,007.00	\$3,680.28
State Superintendent Of Education	\$92,007.00	\$3,680.28
Commissioner of Agriculture	\$92,007.00	\$3,680.28

For individual county information, visit:

<https://scvotes.gov/candidates/>