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Qualifications for All Public Offices

Note: This chart provides a list of qualifications for all public offices that could appear on the ballot at a general election for state and county officers. This includes offices that may not be currently listed on the ballot. For a list of offices that will be on the ballot in 2020, please see [Offices up for Election in 2020](#).

Public Office Sought	U.S. Citizen	Texas Resident	District Resident	Registered to Vote in Area of Office Sought	Minimum Age	Practicing Lawyer or Judge	Source Law	Term of Office
United States Senator	9 yrs.	Yes ^a	not req'd	not req'd	30 ^b	—	I § 3 ⁱ	6 yrs.
United States Representative	7 yrs.	Yes ^a	not req'd	not req'd	25 ^b	-	I § 2 ⁱ	2 yrs.
Governor	Yes	5 yrs.	-	not req'd	30 ^b	-	IV § 4 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Lieutenant Governor	Yes	5 yrs.	-	not req'd	30 ^b	-	IV § 16 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Attorney General	Yes	12 mo ^c	-	Yes ^c	18 ^g	not req'd	IV § 22 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Comptroller of	Yes	12 mo ^c	-	Yes ^c	18 ^g	-	IV § 23 ⁱ	4 yrs.

Public Accounts								
Commission of General Land Office	Yes	12 mo. ^c	-	Yes ^c	18 ^g	-	IV § 23 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Commissioner of Agriculture	Yes	12 mo. ^c	-	Yes ^c	18 ^g	-	IV § 23 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Railroad Commissioner	Yes	12 mo. ^c	-	Yes ^c	25 ^g	-	§ 81.01003, 81.01004 ^j	6 yrs.
Chief Justice & Justice, Supreme Court	Yes	12 mo. ^c	-	Yes ^c	35 ^b	10 yrs. ^b	V § 2 ⁱ	6 yrs.
Presiding Judge and Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals	Yes	12 mo. ^c	-	Yes ^c	35 ^b	10 yrs. ^b	V § 4 ⁱ	6 yrs.
State Senator	Yes	5 yrs. ^b	12 mo. ^b	not req'd ^h	26 ^b	-	III § 6 ⁱ	4 yrs.
State Representative	Yes	2 yrs. ^b	12 mo. ^b	not req'd ^h	21 ^b	-	III § 7 ⁱ	2 yrs.
Member, State Board of Education	Yes	12 mo. ^b	12 mo. ^b	Yes ^c	26 ^b	-	§ 7.103 ^k	4 yrs.
Chief Justice and Justice, Court of Appeals	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	35 ^b	10 yrs. ^b	V § 6 ⁱ	6 yrs.

District Judge	Yes	2 yrs. ^b	2 yrs. ^b	Yes ^c	25 ^b	4 yrs. ^b	V § 7§24.001 [!]	4 yrs.
Criminal District Judge	Yes	2 yrs. ^b	2 yrs. ^b	Yes ^c	25 ^b	4 yrs. ^b	V § 7§24.001 [!]	4 yrs.
Family District Judge	Yes	2 yrs. ^b	2 yrs. ^b	Yes ^c	25 ^b	4 yrs. ^b	V § 7§24.001 [!]	4 yrs.
District Attorney ^e	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^g	Yes	V § 21, 30 § 41.001 [!]	4 yrs.
Criminal District Attorney	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^g	Yes	V § 30, Ch. 44, § 41.001 [!]	4 yrs.
County Judge	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^g	not req'd	V § 15	4 yrs.
Judge, County Court-at-Law ^e	Yes	2 yrs. ^e	6 mo.c, e	Yes ^c	25 ^e ,	4 yrs. ^e	V § 30 §25.0014 [!]	4 yrs.
Judge, County Criminal Court ^e	Yes	2 yrs. ^e	6 mo.c, e	Yes ^c	25 ^e ,	4 yrs. ^e	V § 30 §25.0014 [!]	4 yrs.
Judge, County Probate Court ^e	Yes	2 yrs. ^e	6 mo.c, e	Yes ^c	25 ^e ,	4 yrs. ^e	V § 30 §25.0014 [!]	4 yrs.
District Clerk	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^g	-	V § 9 ⁱ	4 yrs.
District & County Clerk	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^g	-	V § 20 ⁱ	4 yrs.
County Clerk	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^g	-	V § 20 ⁱ	4 yrs.
County Treasurer	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^g	-	XVI § 44 ⁱ	4 yrs.

County Surveyor	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^g	-	XVI § 44 ⁱ	4 yrs.
County Attorney	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^g	Yes	V § 21 § 41.001 ^l	4 yrs.
Sheriff ^f	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^g	-	V § 23 85.0011 ^m	4 yrs.
Tax Assessor-Collector	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^g	-	VIII § 14 ⁱ	4 yrs.
County Commissioner	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^g	-	V § 18 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Constable ^g	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^g	-	V § 18 § 86.0021 ^m	4 yrs.
Justice of the Peace	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^g	-	V § 18 ⁱ	4 yrs.

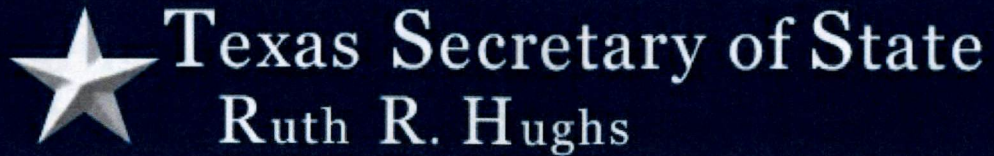
- a. No duration specified.
- b. Before date of general election or special election, whichever is applicable.
- c. As of December 9, 2019, if candidate for Democratic or Republican Party Nomination. As of the date of nomination, if other party nominee for statewide, multi-county district, single-county district, county or precinct office. As of June 25, 2020, if independent candidate. As of November 3, 2020, if declared write-in candidate.
- d. Citations refer to article and section number of the U.S. Const. for U.S. Senator and U.S. Rep.; section number of the Tex. Educ. Code for Member, State Board of Education; section number of the Tex. Nat. Res. Code for Railroad Commission; section number of the Tex. Gov't Code for district judge, district attorney and statutory county court; section number for Texas Loc. Gov't Code for constable; and article and section number of the Tex. Const. for all others. Also see § 141.001 of the Tex. Elec. Code.
- e. Statutory qualifications may vary; contact your local party chair or the Secretary of State.
- f. Additional qualifications for constable: must be either (1) eligible to be licensed under sections 1701.309, 1701.312, and 1701.502 of the Texas Occupations Code AND (a) has at least an associate's degree, (b) is a special investigator under Article 2.122(a), Code of Criminal Procedure, or (c) is an honorably retired peace officer or honorably retired federal criminal investigator who holds a certificate of

proficiency issued under Section 1701.357, Texas Occupations Code OR (2) an active or inactive licensed peace officer under Chapter 1701 of the Texas Occupations Code.

- g. On first day of term to be filled at election. Note: A candidate might need to be age 18 at an earlier date than the first day of the term to be filled at election if the candidate is required to be a registered voter. See offices requiring voter registration.
- h. The offices of state senator and state representative must be qualified voters as defined by Tex. Const. Art. VI, Sec. 2. This definition provides that an individual must be eligible to register to vote but need not actually be a registered voter.
- i. Citation refers to an article and section number of the United States Constitution. For general qualifications for other offices, please see Section 141.001, Texas Election Code.
- j. Citation refers to section number of the Texas Natural Resources Code.
- k. Citation refers to section number of the Texas Education Code.
- l. Citation refers to an article of the United States Constitution and a section number of the Texas Government Code.
- m. Citation refers to an article and section number of the United States Constitution and a section number of the Texas Local Government Code.

Special Note 1: Please be advised that due to the removal of the staggering schedule from Article XVI, Section 65 of the Texas Constitution, there are various local offices which may have been created by your county commissioners court or the Texas Legislature but are not listed on all pages of this guide. For further information on filing for county offices not listed, please contact the county clerk's/elections administrator's office or the office of the Secretary of State.

Special Note 2: Please be advised that executive and judicial officers elected in a statewide election, state appellate and district judges, members of the State Board of Education, and district or criminal district attorneys (among others) are subject to the provisions of Chapter 572 of the Texas Government Code Ann., which relates to personal financial disclosure, standards of conduct, and conflicts of interest issues. For further information on the applicability and requirements of Chapter 572, candidates should contact the Texas Ethics Commission.



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Offices up for Election in 2020

Note: This is a preliminary list that is subject to change as we are notified about vacancies and newly-created offices. Also, visit our website for an unofficial list of candidates once filing is underway.

Office	Term
U.S. President	4 yr. term
United States Senator <ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Cornyn	6 yr. term
All 36 United States Representatives	2 yr. term
<u>Railroad Commissioners</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ryan Sitton	6 yr. term
<u>3 members of the Supreme Court</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nathan L. Hecht, Place 1• Jeffrey S. Boyd, Place 7• J. Brett Busby, Place 8	6 yr. term

<u>3 members of the Court of Criminal Appeals</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bert Richardson, Place 3• Kevin Yeary, Place 4• David Newell, Place 9• Michael E. Keasler, Place 6 (unexpired term, 2 years remaining)	6 yr. term
<u>8 Members, State Board of Education</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Georgina C. Perez, District 1• Ken Mercer, District 5• Donna Bahorich, District 6• Barbara Cargill, District 8• Keven Ellis, District 9• Tom Maynard, District 10• Sue Melton-Malone, District 14• Marty Rowley, District 15	4 yr. term
<u>16 State Senators</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bryan Hughes, District 1• Brandon Creighton, District 4• Carol Alvarado, District 6• Larry Taylor, District 11• Jane Nelson, District 12• Borris Miles, District 13• Lois Kolkhorst, District 18• Pete Flores, District 19• Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, District 20• Judith Zaffirini, District 21• Brian Birdwell, District 22• Dawn Buckingham, District 24• José Menéndez, District 26• Eddie Lucio, Jr., District 27	4 yr. term

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Perry, District 28 • José Rodríguez, District 29 	
All 150 State Representatives	2 yr. term
<u>Chief Justice of Courts of Appeals</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Rose, 3rd Court of Appeals • Sandee Bryan Marion, 4th Court of Appeals • Brian Quinn, 7th Court of Appeals • Ann Crawford McClure, 8th Court of Appeals • Steve McKeithen, 9th Court of Appeals • James T. Worthen, 12th Court of Appeals • Kem Thompson Frost, 14th Court of Appeals 	6 yr. term
Various Court of Appeals Justices	6 yr. term
Various District Judges, Criminal District Judges	4 yr. term
Family District Judges	4 yr. term
District Attorneys	4 yr. term
Sheriff	4 yr. term
County Court at Law	4 yr. term
County Attorneys	4 yr. term

Tax Assessor-Collector	4 yr. term
County Commissioners	4 yr. term
Justices of the Peace (Place 1 designation only) <u>a</u>	4 yr. term
Constable	4 yr. term

a. Generally, the office of Justice of the Peace in Place 1 for a county is up for election in 2020. However, we recommend that you contact your county election official to confirm the place number.

NOTE: Incumbent office holders appear where listed. This is not a list of current candidates or those who have filed a candidate application for the office.

NOTE: For many years, article XVI, Section 65 of the Texas Constitution set out which county offices would be up for election. This language (setting up the staggering scheme) was omitted in 1999 in "clean-up" legislation. Our office requested an attorney general opinion, expressing our concern about the omitted staggering scheme. The attorney general opined that because the staggering scheme was removed, any newly-created offices would be on the next ballot for the full four-year term. See Texas Attorney General Opinion Number JC-0519 (2002). You will need to check your county records to see if your county created new offices since the 1999 constitutional change.

NOTE: Under Article V, Section 1-a of the Texas Constitution, certain judicial offices are subject to a mandatory retirement age of 75. This may lead some additional judicial offices being listed on the ballot for an unexpired term due to a mid-term vacancy.