



NORTH CAROLINA

State Board of Elections

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FACT SHEET: Running for Congress in NC, 2016 Election

1) How does a person's name get on the ballot for the primary election?

[NCGS §§ 163-106, 163-107, 163-107.1, 163-108, S.L. 2015-258 § 2\(c\)](#)

- Candidates must file a notice of candidacy with the State Board of Elections office and pay a filing fee of 1% of the annual salary of the office sought. (It is also possible to present petitions signed by registered voters in lieu of paying the filing fee. For more information, see [North Carolina General Statute § 163-107.1](#).) Notice of candidacy forms may be obtained from the State Board of Elections office or website prior to the date on which candidates may commence filing.
- A candidate must be a registered voter affiliated with the same political party in which he or she intends to file (a person changing party affiliation must do so 75 days prior to the date the candidate files).
- Before filing at the State Board of Elections office, all candidates must also file a certificate signed by the Director or Chairperson of the County Board of Elections where they are registered to vote at their current residential address in that county. The certification states the party with which the person is affiliated, and that the person has not changed party affiliation in the past 75 days.
- The notice of candidacy includes questions about any previous felony convictions of the candidate, and will require a further report on those convictions if there are any. Active felons who have not had their citizenship rights restored (full completion of any felony sentence, including probation, restitution, etc.) are not eligible to be registered to vote or to run for elected office.
- A candidate may not file for more than one office in the same election.
- A filed primary candidate who remains unopposed after the close of the filing period will be certified as his or her party's nominee without a primary.
- The winners of the party primaries (or certified nominees, if unopposed) will be listed on the general election ballot as the nominee of their party for the office they filed for.

2) When is the filing period? [S.L. 2015-258 § 2\(b\)](#), [G.S. §163-106\(c\)](#)

- Begins: Noon on **Tuesday, December 1, 2015**
- Ends: Noon on **Monday, December 21, 2015**

3) What if a candidate wants to run as unaffiliated with a political party?

[NCGS §§ 163-122, 163-123](#)

- If a candidate wishes to run unaffiliated, he or she should review [North Carolina General Statute § 163-122](#) and fact sheet on running as an unaffiliated candidate.
- If a candidate wishes to run as a write-in, they need to review [North Carolina General Statute § 163-123](#) and the fact sheet on running as a write-in candidate.

4) When are the elections? [S.L. 2015-258 §§ 1\(b\), 2\(d\)](#), [G.S. § 163-1](#)

- **Primary: Tuesday, March 15, 2016**
- **Second primary** (will only be held in certain situations, and if requested by a candidate): **Tuesday, May 24, 2016**
For more information, see [North Carolina General Statute § 163-111](#)
- **General election:** The Tuesday after the first Monday in November, **Tuesday, November 8, 2016**

5) What are the qualifications to be elected to Congress?

[N.C. Const. Art. VI § 6](#); U.S. Const. Art. I §§ 2, 3

- **U.S. House**
 - 25 years of age or older
 - A U.S. citizen for at least 7 years
 - Resident and registered voter of the state where seeking office (a candidate running for U.S. House is not required to be a resident of the Congressional District in which the candidate is seeking election)
- **U.S. Senate**
 - 30 years of age or older
 - A U.S. citizen for at least 9 years
 - Resident and registered voter of the state where seeking office

6) What are the campaign reporting requirements? [NCGS §163-278.30](#); Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, P.L. 92-225, as amended (Title 2, U.S.C. Section 439)

If you plan to be a candidate for Congress, you or your campaign treasurer should contact the Federal Election Commission (FEC) for filing requirements. The FEC has a toll-free phone number, 1-800-424-9530, or visit www.fec.gov.