

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES QUALIFYING WITH THE LEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

The candidate oath form that must be filed during the qualifying period requires you to designate your “name as you wish it to appear on ballot.” Case law and Division of Elections Opinions 86-06 and 09-05 permit a nickname to be printed on the ballot along with one’s surname when the nickname is one by which the person is generally known or one that the person has used as part of his or her legal name. For example, if John Jones is generally known as Bo Jones, permissible designations on the ballot may be John “Bo” Jones, John (Bo) Jones, Bo Jones or John Jones. The Division of Elections opinions recognize that a qualifying officer may require the candidate to make a satisfactory showing that the candidate is generally known by the nickname or the nickname has been used as part of the candidate’s legal name before a nickname is printed on the ballot.

If you plan to designate a nickname on your candidate oath form other than a generally recognized shortened version of your legal name (e.g., “Rob” or “Bob” for Robert, “Bill” for William, “DJ” for David Joseph, etc.), you should provide notice of your intention well in advance of the qualifying period and make a satisfactory showing that you are generally known by the nickname or that you have used the nickname as part of your legal name. Failure to provide such information in advance may result in not having sufficient time during the qualifying period to determine if the nickname may be printed on the ballot.

Florida Division of Elections Opinion 86-06 states: “Descriptive information such as a title (for example, Dr. or M.D.), although not part of a person’s name, is permissible only when two persons of the same name or whose names are so similar as to reasonably cause confusion, seek the same office.” Therefore, ordinarily, even if a candidate is commonly referred to as “Doctor,” “Professor,” or “Colonel,” those titles would not be allowed as a nickname or as part of a nickname unless such descriptive information is reasonably necessary to avoid confusion among candidates.

**PLEASE USE THE ATTACHED AFFADAVIT TO SUBMIT YOUR REQUEST
FOR USE OF A NICKNAME ON THE BALLOT.**

AFFIDAVIT OF NICKNAME

STATE OF _____

COUNTY OF _____

BEFORE ME, the undersigned, personally appeared:

_____ (write legal name of candidate)

who being first duly sworn or placed under affirmation says:

1. My legal name is: _____.
I am over the age of eighteen (18) and the contents of this affidavit are true and correct.

2. I am a candidate for the office of: _____.

3. My nickname is: _____.

I am generally known by this nickname or have used it as part of my legal name. I have not created the nickname to mislead voters. I plan to designate this nickname on my candidate oath as the same name I wish to have printed on the ballot when I submit the candidate oath form during the qualifying period for the above office.

4. Attached are documents that show that my nickname is one by which I am generally known or one that I have used as a part of my legal name. [List the title of any documents or affidavits from other persons reflecting that the candidate is generally known by the nickname or that it has been used as part of the candidate's legal name.]

A. _____.

B. _____.

C. _____.

Printed /Typed Name of Affiant

Signature of Affiant

Sworn to me this _____ day of _____ 20____.

Notary Public

Printed Name

My Commission Expires

Personally known _____ or Produced Identification

Type of Identification Produced: _____