



# LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS

(239) LEE-VOTE (533-8683)

[www.lee.vote](http://www.lee.vote)

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## POLITICAL PARTY PRECINCT COMMITTEEMEN AND COMMITTEEWOMEN

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### QUALIFYING PERIOD:

Noon, June 15, 2020 through Noon, June 19, 2020  
(Candidates may pre-qualify beginning June 1, 2020)

Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen must file  
Form DS-DE 305CM Candidate Oath before Noon, June 19, 2020  
in order to qualify for party office.

Please direct questions regarding eligibility to serve as a  
Precinct Committeeman or Committeewoman  
for the Democratic or Republican Party to:

[Democratic Party of Lee County](#)

Interested members and individuals contact:

Yoseph Tedros, Chairman  
(239) 939-2866 (Headquarters)  
[leecountydems@gmail.com](mailto:leecountydems@gmail.com)

[Republican Party of Lee County](#)

Interested members and individuals contact:

(239) 936-8779 (Headquarters)  
Kerri Tonkin, Membership Chair  
[Lcrecmembership@gmail.com](mailto:Lcrecmembership@gmail.com)

Carefully review the information provided in this guide before filing  
Form DS-DE Candidate Oath for Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen.

04/03/2018

# POLITICAL PARTY PRECINCT COMMITTEEMEN AND COMMITTEEWOMEN (continued)

## Determination of Allowable Men and Women per Precinct

The determination of allowable precinct committeeman and committeewoman representation permitted by the party in each Lee County precinct is based upon specific guidelines set forth in each party's rules of procedure, constitution or bylaws. The Democratic and Republican Party each have different guidelines that must be applied in making this determination. Each party's allocation method is very different and the number of allowable precinct committeemen and committeewomen will vary by party and per precinct.

## Filing Requirement Pursuant to the Florida Election Code

In accordance with Section 99.021(2), Florida Statutes, "candidates" for precinct committeemen and committeewomen are subject to the provisions of Section 99.021(1), Florida Statutes, which requires the "candidate" to file the Candidate Oath for Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen in order to qualify for party office. The oath requires that the "candidate" be "qualified under the Constitution and the laws of Florida to hold the office to which he/she desires to be nominated or elected". The oath does not require that the "candidate" to be qualified under party rules.

The Florida Constitution and Florida law do not require "candidates" for precinct committeemen and committeewomen to file an internal loyalty oath with the party or be a member in good standing at the time of qualifying for party office with the Supervisor of Elections.

## Supervisor of Elections Jurisdiction

The Supervisor of Elections will accept Form DS-DE 305CM Candidate Oath for Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen, however, the Supervisor of Elections merely performs a ministerial function in accepting the form and acts only as a "vendor" for each party. The Supervisor of Elections is not required to verify internal party eligibility requirements prior to accepting the form.

## Party Rule Compliance and Required Internal Party Document Filings

A precinct committeeman or committeewoman is responsible for verifying, with the party, that he/she has timely filed, with the party, a loyalty oath or additional documents (if required). Additionally, an individual is responsible for ensuring that he/she has met the statutory filing requirement in Section 99.021, Florida Statutes. *(See [Registered Membership in the Party Prior to Qualifying](#))*

## Registered Membership in the Party Prior to Qualifying

Section 99.021, Florida Statutes provides that a precinct committeeman or committeewoman must not be a [registered member of any other political party for 365 days before the beginning of qualifying preceding the general election for which the person seeks to qualify](#). For the 2020 election cycle, if you were registered member in a different political party and wish to file as a precinct committeeman or committeewoman for the Democratic or Republican Party, you must have registered in your party [on or before June 16, 2019](#).

The Supervisor of Elections performs a ministerial function in accepting the Candidate Oath, therefore, Supervisor of Elections will not contact the party to verify the length of time you have been registered in your party or whether you have complied with internal party membership requirements. Placement of your name on the ballot or subsequent election *may not* constitute qualification for party office under the rules of the party. The party has sole discretion and authority to determine whether a person has met the party's requirements to hold party office.

## Filing a Candidate Oath in the Wrong Precinct

An individual who files Form DS-DE 305CM Candidate Oath for Committeemen or Committeewomen and designates the wrong precinct on his/her form, may rescind and file a revised form [PRIOR TO](#) the close of the qualifying period.

Once the qualifying period has passed, if a form is filed for the wrong precinct and the filing creates an election in the precinct, the Supervisor of Elections may not place the candidate's name on the ballot in the correct precinct. The Supervisor of Elections must place the candidate's name on the ballot in the precinct reflected on the Candidate Oath, even if the precinct designation is incorrect. The party has sole discretion and authority to determine whether a person has met party requirements to hold party office [AFTER](#) the election is over.

# POLITICAL PARTY PRECINCT COMMITTEEMEN AND COMMITTEEWOMEN (continued)

## Ballot Placement in a Precinct with an Election

A contest for precinct committeeman or committeewoman will appear on the ballot at the Primary Election, if more persons than are allowed in a precinct qualify for party office.

When a precinct is authorized more than one Precinct Committeeman or Committeewoman, "candidates" will be grouped on the ballot under the office title of "Precinct Committeeman" or "Precinct Committeewoman" in the precinct for which the election will be held. Each party will notify the Supervisor of Elections, prior to the end of the qualifying period, of its vote casting preference for precinct committeemen and committeewomen contests. For example, each party will specify its preference of "vote for one" or vote for no more than \_\_\_\_".

Precinct committeemen and committeewomen take office on December 1 following the November 3, 2020 General Election. Terms are for (4) four years.



## Filing of Campaign Finance Reports for Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen with an EXCEPTION!

A precinct committeeman or committeewoman *is not required to file a campaign finance reports unless* the individual receives a contribution or makes an expenditure. If the individual receives a contribution or makes an expenditure in connection with his/her campaign, he/she must file a campaign finance report detailing all contributions received and all expenditures made. *Contributions and expenditures include use of your personal funds.*

The report must be filed on the 4th day immediately preceding the August 25, 2020 Primary Election.

*Please contact the Qualifying Department at the Lee County Elections Office (239) LEE-VOTE (533-8683) Option #5, if you accept a contribution or make an expenditure in the furtherance of your candidacy as a precinct committeeman or committeewoman. You must file a campaign report if you accept a contribution or make an expenditure on or before Friday, [August 21, 2020](#). Late reports will be assessed a fine in accordance with Section 106.0702, Florida Statutes.*

## Contribution Limits for Precinct Committeemen and Committeewoman Campaigns (Limit on Cash and Cashier's Checks)

Precinct committeemen and committeewomen campaigns are not subject to contribution limits, with the exception of cash or cashier's checks. You may not accept an aggregate cash contribution or contribution by means of a cashier's check from the same contributor in excess of \$50 per election.

A precinct committeeman or committeewoman's campaign may be subject to Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements. It is the responsibility of the individual to contact the Political Organizations Division of the Internal Revenue Service to determine if there are IRS reporting or registration requirements that must be met in order to ensure compliance with federal campaign finance regulations. Contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 for guidance.