

**Miami-Dade County
2020 County Court Judge
Candidate Qualifying Information**

Due to the current state of emergency and the guidance limiting person-to-person contact to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, an emergency rule relating to candidate qualifying was filed. Read [Rule No. 1SER20-1](#) for more information. As a result of this rule, Miami-Dade County candidates may submit their qualifying documents in PDF format at qualifyingdocuments@miamidade.gov. The qualifying fee can be mailed or hand delivered to our office located 2700 NW 87th Avenue, Miami, FL 33172.

- QUALIFICATIONS:** [\[Constitution of the State of Florida, Article V, Section 8\]](#) and [\[F.S. 34.021\(1\)\]](#)
1. Registered voter of the State.
 2. Resident of Miami-Dade County.
 3. No judge shall serve after attaining the age of seventy five years except upon temporary assignment or to complete a term, one-half of which he or she has served.
 4. Member in good standing of Florida Bar for the preceding five (5) years prior to qualifying.
- TYPE OF ELECTION:** Nonpartisan [\[F.S. 105.011\(2\)\]](#)
- ELECTION AREA:** Countywide
[\[Constitution of the State of Florida, Article V, Section 8\]](#) and [\[F.S. 34.021\(1\)\]](#)
- GROUPS UP FOR ELECTION:** Please refer to the [Miami-Dade County Judicial Directory](#)
- TERM:** Six (6) years [\[Constitution of the State of Florida, Article V, Section 10\(b\)\(3\)\(c\)\]](#)

The term for a County Court Judge shall commence on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January following his or her election (January 5, 2021).
[\[Constitution of the State of Florida, Article V, Section 10\(a\)\]](#) and [\[F.S. 100.041\(4\)\]](#)
- SALARY:** The salary of county judges shall be fixed annually in the General Appropriations Act. [\[F.S. 29.23\(1\)\]](#) (As of July 1, 2019, the salary was \$151,822.00)
- ELECTION DATES:** August 18, 2020 – Primary
[\[F.S. 105.051\(1\)\(b\)\]](#) and [\[F.S. 100.061\]](#)

November 3, 2020 – General (should a run-off election be required)
[\[F.S. 105.051\(1\)\(c\)\]](#) and [\[F.S. 100.031\]](#)
- QUALIFYING DATES:** Noon, Monday, April 20, 2020, through Noon, April 24, 2020 [\[F.S. 105.031\(1\)\]](#)

A qualifying office may accept and hold qualifying papers submitted not earlier than 14 days prior (April 6, 2020) to the beginning of the qualifying period, to be processed and filed during the qualifying period. [\[F.S. 105.031\(6\)\]](#)

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QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS:

The following items must be submitted to the Miami-Dade Elections Department located at 2700 NW 87th Avenue, Miami FL, 33172:

Qualifying Method – Qualifying Fee

1. Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates ([Form DS-DE 9](#))*
2. Statement of Candidate ([Form DS-DE 84](#))*
3. Statement of Candidate for Judicial Office ([Form DS-DE 83](#))*
4. Access to Handbook and the Election Laws of the State of Florida ([Form MD-ED 2](#))*
5. Campaign Treasurer's Report - Miami-Dade County Electronic Filing Requirement ([Form MD-ED 10](#))*
6. [Declaration and First Amendment Waiver](#) (optional)
7. [Declaration for Candidates Not Automatically Covered](#) (optional)
8. Candidate Oath - Judicial Office ([Form DS-DE 303JU](#))
9. Form 6 – Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests ([CE Form 6 - 2019](#)), along with any other applicable forms. Public officers who have filed financial disclosure with the Florida Commission on Ethics may file a copy with filing officer at time of qualifying.
10. Qualifying fee: \$6,072.88. The fee shall be paid by means of a bank check drawn from the candidate's campaign account as prescribed in [F.S. 106.11\(1\)\(a\)](#), made payable to "Miami-Dade County". The qualifying fee is 4% of the annual salary as of July 1, 2019 (3% filing fee plus 1% election assessment fee). [[F.S. 105.031\(3\)](#)]. *For the 2018 election cycle the qualifying fee was \$5,520.80.*
11. If you currently hold an elected or appointed position, please consult with your attorney to determine whether you are required to resign from the office you presently hold to run for this office. [[F.S. 99.012](#)]

** These forms must be submitted to the Miami-Dade Elections Department at time of announcing candidacy.*

Qualifying Method – Petitions

1. Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates ([Form DS-DE 9](#))*
2. Statement of Candidate ([Form DS-DE 84](#))*
3. Statement of Candidate for Judicial Office ([Form DS-DE 83](#))*
4. Access to Handbook and the Election Laws of the State of Florida ([Form MD-ED 2](#))*
5. Campaign Treasurer's Report - Miami-Dade County Electronic Filing Requirement ([Form MD-ED 10](#))*
6. [Declaration and First Amendment Waiver](#) (optional)
7. [Declaration for Candidates Not Automatically Covered](#) (optional)
8. Candidate Oath - Judicial Office ([Form DS-DE 303JU](#))
9. Form 6 – Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests ([CE Form 6 - 2019](#)), along with any other applicable forms. Public officers who have filed financial disclosure with the Florida Commission on Ethics may file a copy with filing officer at time of qualifying.
10. Candidate Petition ([Form DS-DE 104](#))
11. If you currently hold an elected or appointed position, please consult with your attorney to determine whether you are required to resign from the office you presently hold to run for this office. [[F.S. 99.012](#)]

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Miami-Dade County 2020 County Court Judge Candidate Qualifying Information

Who Can Sign Petitions? [[F.S. 99.095](#) and [F.S. 105.035](#)]

Any registered elector in the geographical area of candidacy may sign a petition.

Signatures may not be obtained until the candidate has filed the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates pursuant to [F.S. 106.021](#) and valid only for the qualifying period immediately following such filings.

Petition signatures of at least 1% (14,254) of the total registered electors (1,425,352) in the geographical area represented by the office sought for the immediately preceding general election are required. Each signature shall be dated when made and shall be valid for a period of 2 years following such date.

Deadline for Submitting Petitions: [[F.S. 99.095\(3\)](#) and [F.S. 105.035\(4\)\(b\)](#)]

Candidates must submit petitions for verification to the Miami-Dade Elections Department no later than noon on the 28th day preceding the first day of the qualifying period (March 23, 2020). All petitions submitted must contain the voter's original signature.

Petition Verification: [[F.S. 99.097](#) and [F.S. 105.035](#)]

There is a charge of 10 cents per name for verification of signatures, which must be paid to the Miami-Dade Elections Department upon submission of petitions. The candidate may file an "[Affidavit of Undue Burden](#)" with the Miami-Dade Elections Department to waive the cost of verification. [[F.S. 99.097\(4\)](#)]

If any person is paid to solicit signatures on a petition, an undue burden oath may not subsequently be filed in lieu of paying the fee to have signatures verified for that petition. If an undue burden oath has been filed and payment is subsequently made to any person to solicit signatures on a petition, the undue burden oath is no longer valid and a fee for all signatures previously submitted to the supervisor of elections and any that are submitted thereafter shall be paid by the candidate who submitted the undue burden oath. [[F.S. 99.097\(6\)](#)]

The Supervisor of Elections must certify the number of valid signatures no later than the 7th day before the first day of the qualifying period (Monday, April 13, 2020) and submit such certification to the Division of Elections. [[F.S. 105.035\(4\)\(b\)](#)]

If the candidate is unable to collect the required number of signatures, he/she may still qualify by paying the qualifying fee.

Qualifying Method – Write-In Candidate

1. Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates ([Form DS-DE 9](#))*
2. Statement of Candidate [Form DS-DE 84](#)*)
3. Statement of Candidate for Judicial Office ([Form DS-DE 83](#))*
4. Access to Handbook and the Election Laws of the State of Florida ([Form MD-ED 2](#))*
5. Campaign Treasurer's Report - Miami-Dade County Electronic Filing Requirement ([Form MD-ED 10](#))*
6. [Declaration and First Amendment Waiver](#) (optional)
7. [Declaration for Candidates Not Automatically Covered](#) (optional)
8. Candidate Oath - Judicial Office ([Form DS-DE 303JU](#))
9. Form 6 – Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests([CE Form 6 - 2019](#)), along with any other applicable forms. Public officers who have filed financial disclosure with the Florida Commission on Ethics may file a copy with filing officer at time of qualifying.
10. No qualifying fee required; a blank space will be provided on the general election ballot for names of write-in candidates. [[F.S. 105.041\(4\)](#)]
11. If you currently hold an elected or appointed position, please consult with your attorney to determine whether you are required to resign from the office you presently hold to run for this office. [[F.S. 99.012](#)]

** These forms must be submitted to the Miami-Dade Elections Department at time of announcing candidacy.*

Miami-Dade County 2020 County Court Judge Candidate Forms and Additional Resources

The following is a compilation of forms used by County Court Judicial candidates who qualify with the Miami-Dade County Elections Department and their campaign treasurer(s). A hyperlink has been provided for each form.

Opening of Account	
DS-DE 9	Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates
DS-DE 84	Statement of Candidate
DS-DE 83	Statement of Candidate for Judicial Office
MD-ED 2	Access to Handbook and the Election Laws of the State of Florida
MD-ED 10	Campaign Treasurer's Report - Miami-Dade County Electronic Filing Requirement
Declaration & First Amendment Waiver	Declaration and First Amendment Waiver (optional)
Declaration for Candidates Not Automatically Covered	Declaration for Candidates Not Automatically Covered by the Mandatory Provisions (optional)
Qualifying	
DS-DE 104	Candidate Petition
DS-DE 19A	Affidavit of Undue Burden – if unable to pay for the verification of signatures
DS-DE 303JU	Candidate Oath - Judicial Office
CE Form 6 (2019)	Form 6 – Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests - 2019; along with any other forms, if applicable.
Campaign Reporting (included in online Campaign Reporting Software)	
DS-DE 12	Campaign Treasurer's Report Summary
DS-DE 13	Campaign Treasurer's Report – Itemized Contributions
DS-DE 14	Campaign Treasurer's Report – Itemized Expenditures
DS-DE 14A	Campaign Treasurer's Report – Itemized Distributions
DS-DE 94	Campaign Treasurer's Report – Fund Transfers
DS-DE 87	Waiver of Report
DS-DE 86	Request for Return of Contribution
DS-DE 2	Contributions Returned
Termination Reports	
DS-DE 73	Campaign Loans Report
DS-DE 73A	Campaign Loans Report Itemized
Elected Officials – Opening an Office Account	
DS-DE 48	Office Account Report
DS-DE 48A	Office Account Disbursement or Deposit Information

In addition, the following resources are available online:

- [Calendar of Reporting Dates](#)
- [The Florida Election Code](#)
- [Code of Judicial Conduct Supreme Court of Florida](#)
- [2020 Judicial Campaign Conduct Forums](#)
- [Florida Supreme Court](#)
- [Ethical Campaign Practices Ordinance, Miami-Dade County Code at Sec. 2-11.1.1](#)
- [Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook](#)
- [2020 Candidate Petition Handbook](#)
- [Miami-Dade County Judicial Directory](#)