

**Miami-Dade County
2024 School Board Member
Candidate Qualifying Information**

QUALIFICATIONS: An elected candidate for district school board must reside in the district school board member residence area by the date she or he assumes office. [[House Bill 411](#)]

TYPE OF ELECTION: Nonpartisan [[F.S. 1001.361](#)]

ELECTION AREA: District [[F.S. 1001.361](#)]

DISTRICTS UP FOR ELECTION: [[F.S. 1001.362\(2\)\(c\)](#)]

District	Incumbent
1	Steve Gallon III
3	Lucia Baez-Geller
5	Danny Espino
7	Mary Blanco
9	Luisa Santos

TERM: Four (4) years [[F.S. 100.041\(3\)\(a\)](#)] and [[F.S. 1001.362\(2\)\(c\)](#)]

The term for School Board Member shall commence on the second Tuesday following the General Election (November 19, 2024). [[F.S. 100.041\(3\)\(a\)](#)]

However, a person may not appear on the ballot for reelection to the office of school board member if, by the end of his or her current term of office, the person will have served, or but for resignation would have served, in that office for 8 consecutive years. Service of a term of office which commenced before November 8, 2022, will not be counted toward the limitation imposed by this section. [[House Bill 477](#)]

SALARY: The salary of a School Board Member shall be fixed according to [F.S. 1001.395](#) (On July 1, 2021, the annual salary for School Board Members was \$46,773.00)

ELECTION DATES: August 20, 2024 – Primary
[[F.S. 105.051\(1\)\(b\)](#)] and [[F.S. 100.061](#)]

November 5, 2024 – General (should a run-off election be required)
[[F.S. 105.051\(1\)\(c\)](#)] and [[F.S. 100.031](#)]

QUALIFYING DATES: Noon, Monday, June 10, 2024, through Noon, Friday, June 14, 2024
[[F.S.105.031\(1\)](#)]

A qualifying office may accept and hold qualifying papers submitted not earlier than 14 days prior (Monday, May 27, 2024) to the beginning of the qualifying period to be processed and filed during the qualifying period. [[F.S. 99.061\(8\)](#)] *{Please note that our office will be closed on May 27, 2024 in observance of Memorial Day.}*

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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. Access to Handbook and the Election Laws of the State of Florida ([Form MD-ED 2](#))*
4. Campaign Treasurer's Report – Miami-Dade County Electronic Filing Requirement ([Form MD-ED 10](#))*
5. [Declaration and First Amendment Waiver](#) (optional)
6. [Declaration for Candidates Not Automatically Covered](#) (optional)
7. Candidate Oath – School Board Nonpartisan Office ([Form DS-DE 304SB](#))
8. Form 6 – Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests ([CE Form 6 - 2023](#)) *will be available after 01/01/2024 -To be filed electronically via Electronic Financial Disclosure Management System (EFDMS) – For more information, please visit www.ethics.state.fl.us or call 850-488-7864.* You will be required to submit a hard copy to the filing officer at the time of qualifying. Public officers who have filed financial disclosure with the Florida Commission on Ethics may file a copy with filing officer at time of qualifying.
9. Qualifying fee: TBD. 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." Qualifying fee is 4% of the annual salary as of July 1 of the preceding year (3% filing fee plus 1% election assessment fee). [F.S. 105.031(3)]. *(For the 2022 election cycle, the qualifying fee was \$1,870.92). As a reminder, the campaign checks should include the name of the candidate and the words "Campaign Account" for example, "John Doe Campaign Account".*
10. 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. Access to Handbook and the Election Laws of the State of Florida ([Form MD-ED 2](#))*
4. Campaign Treasurer's Report – Miami-Dade County Electronic Filing Requirement ([Form MD-ED 10](#))*
5. [Declaration and First Amendment Waiver](#) (optional)
6. [Declaration for Candidates Not Automatically Covered](#) (optional)
7. Candidate Oath – School Board Nonpartisan Office ([Form DS-DE 304SB](#))
8. Form 6 – Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests ([CE Form 6 - 2023](#)) *will be available after 01/01/2024 - To be filed electronically via Electronic Financial Disclosure Management System (EFDMS) – For more information, please visit www.ethics.state.fl.us or call 850-488-7864.* You will be required to submit a hard copy to the filing officer at the time of qualifying. Public officers who have filed financial disclosure with the Florida Commission on Ethics may file a copy with filing officer at time of qualifying.
9. Candidate Petition ([Form DS-DE 104](#))
10. 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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Who Can Sign Petitions? [\[F.S. 99.095\]](#) and [\[F.S. 105.035\]](#)

Any registered elector in the County 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% of the total registered electors in the geographical area represented by the office sought for the immediately preceding general election are required as follows:

2024 Petition Signature Requirements by District For Miami-Dade County School Board Members Registered Voters as of Book Closing for November 8, 2022 General Election

District	Total Registered Voters In District	1% of Total Registered Voters*
1	171,156	1,712
3	179,587	1,796
5	146,428	1,465
7	189,332	1,894
9	173,160	1,732

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

Candidates must submit petitions for verification to the Miami-Dade Elections Department no later than noon of the 28th day preceding the first day of the qualifying period (Monday, May 13, 2024). 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, June 3, 2024) 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.

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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. Access to Handbook and the Election Laws of the State of Florida ([Form MD-ED 2](#))*
4. Campaign Treasurer's Report – Miami-Dade County Electronic Filing Requirement ([Form MD-ED 10](#))*
5. [Declaration and First Amendment Waiver](#) (optional)
6. [Declaration for Candidates Not Automatically Covered](#) (optional)
7. Candidate Oath – School Board Nonpartisan Office ([Form DS-DE 304SB](#))
8. Form 6 – Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests ([CE Form 6 - 2023](#)) *will be available after 01/01/2024 - To be filed electronically via Electronic Financial Disclosure Management System (EFDMS) – For more information, please visit www.ethics.state.fl.us or call 850-488-7864.* You will be required to submit a hard copy to the filing officer at the time of qualifying. Public officers who have filed financial disclosure with the Florida Commission on Ethics may file a copy with filing officer at time of qualifying.
9. No qualifying fee required; a blank space will be provided on the general election ballot for names of write-in candidates. [[F.S. 99.061\(4\)\(b\)](#)]
10. 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.*

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Launch of Electronic Filing – Full & Public Disclosure of Financial Interests (Form 6)

Recent changes to the financial disclosure laws provide that beginning January 1, 2023, the Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests (Form 6) is available only by utilizing the Commission on Ethics' electronic filing system.

Anyone wishing to file a Form 6 for qualifying purposes MUST register in the system to access the disclosure form. A valid email is required to register. Within the system, candidates will find helpful videos.

Candidates are required to submit a hard copy of the Form 6 to the filing officer at the time of qualifying.

Candidates are urged to allow ample time to register, create a profile, username/password, and complete the disclosure. Waiting until the last day of qualifying may not provide sufficient time to access the system, accurately complete the disclosure, print and file it with the Qualifying Officer.

Questions pertaining to Form 6 should be addressed to the Florida Commission on Ethics. For more information, please visit www.ethics.state.fl.us or call 850-488-7864.

Miami-Dade County 2024 School Board Member Candidate Forms and Additional Resources

The following list is a compilation of forms to be used by School Board Member candidates who qualify with the Miami-Dade County Elections Department and their campaign treasurer(s). For your convenience, 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
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 304SB	Candidate Oath – School Board Nonpartisan Office
CE Form 6 (2023) will be available after 01/01/2024	Form 6 – Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests - 2023; along with any other forms, if applicable [<i>To be filed electronically via the Electronic Financial Disclosure Management System (EFDMS) – Hard copy required for qualifying</i>]
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](#)
- [School District Governance Laws of the State of Florida](#)
- [Ethical Campaign Practices Ordinance, Miami-Dade County Code at Sec. 2-11.1.1](#)
- [Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook](#)
- [Candidate Petition Handbook](#)
- [Elected Officials Information](#)
- [Precincts in School Board Districts](#)
- [School Board Districts Map](#)