

Qualifications for All Public Offices

Public Office Sought	U.S. Citizen	Texas Resident	District Resident	Registered to Vote in Area of Office Sought	Minimum Age	Practicing Lawyer or Judge	Source Law	Term of Office
President	Yes; Natural Born	-	-	not req'd	35	-	US Const. Art. II, § 1	4 yrs.
United States Senator	9 yrs. ^k	Yes ^a	not req'd	not req'd	30 ^k	-	US Const. Art. I, § 3	6 yrs.
United States Representative	7 yrs. ^k	Yes ^a	not req'd	not req'd	25 ^k	-	US Const. Art. I, § 2	2 yrs.
Governor	Yes	5 yrs.	-	not req'd	30 ^b	-	TX Const. Art. IV, § 4	4 yrs.
Lieutenant Governor	Yes	5 yrs.	-	not req'd	30 ^b	-	TX Const. Art. IV, § 16	4 yrs.
Attorney General	Yes	12 mo. ^c	-	Yes ^c	18 ^h	not req'd	TX Const. Art. IV, § 22	4 yrs.
Comptroller of Public Accounts	Yes	12 mo. ^c	-	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	TX Const. Art. IV, § 23	4 yrs.
Commissioner of General Land Office	Yes	12 mo. ^c	-	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	TX Const. Art. IV, § 23	4 yrs.
Commissioner of Agriculture	Yes	12 mo. ^c	-	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	TX Const. Art. IV, § 23	4 yrs.
Railroad Commissioner	Yes	12 mo. ^c	-	Yes ^c	25 ^h	-	Nat. Res. Code §§	6 yrs.

								81.01003, 81.01004
Chief Justice & Justice, Supreme Court	Yes	12 mo. ^c	-	Yes ^c	35 ^b	10 yrs. ^{b i j}	TX Const. Art. V, § 2	6 yrs.
Presiding Judge and Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals	Yes	12 mo. ^c	-	Yes ^c	35 ^b	10 yrs. ^{b i j}	TX Const. Art. V, § 4	6 yrs.
State Senator	Yes	5 yrs. ^b	12 mo. ^b	not req'd ^d	26 ^b	-	TX Const. Art. III, § 6	4 yrs.
State Representative	Yes	2 yrs. ^b	12 mo. ^b	not req'd ^d	21 ^b	-	TX Const. Art. III, § 7	2 yrs.
Member, State Board of Education	Yes	12 mo. ^b	12 mo. ^b	Yes ^c	26 ^b	-	Educ. Code § 7.103	4 yrs.
Chief Justice and Justice, Court of Appeals	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	35 ^b	10 yrs. ^{b i j}	TX Const. Art. V, § 6	6 yrs.
District Judge	Yes	2 yrs. ^b	2 yrs. ^b	Yes ^c	25 ^b	8 yrs. ^{b & j}	TX Const. Art. V, § 7 Gov't Code § 24.001	4 yrs.
Criminal District Judge	Yes	2 yrs. ^b	2 yrs. ^b	Yes ^c	25 ^b	8 yrs. ^{b & j}	TX Const. Art. V, § 7 Gov't Code § 24.001	4 yrs.
Family District Judge	Yes	2 yrs. ^b	2 yrs. ^b	Yes ^c	25 ^b	8 yrs. ^{b & j}	TX Const. Art. V, § 7 Gov't Code § 24.001	4 yrs.
District Attorney ^e	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	Yes	TX Const. Art. V, §§ 21, 30 Gov't	4 yrs.

								Code § 41.001
Criminal District Attorney	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	Yes	TX Const. Art. V, § 30 Gov't Code Ch. 44, § 41.001	4 yrs.
County Judge	Yes	12 mo ^c .	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	Not req'd	TX Const. Art. V, § 15	4 yrs.
Judge, County Court-at-Law ^e	Yes	2 yrs. ^e	2 yrs. ^{b e}	Yes ^c	25 ^e	4 yrs. ^e	TX Const. Art. V, § 30 Gov't Code § 25.0014	4 yrs.
Judge, County Criminal Court ^e	Yes	2 yrs. ^e	2 yrs. ^{b e}	Yes ^c	25 ^e	4 yrs. ^e	TX Const. Art. V, § 30 Gov't Code § 25.0014	4 yrs.
Judge, County Probate Court ^e	Yes	2 yrs. ^e	2 yrs. ^{b e}	Yes ^c	25 ^e	4 yrs. ^e	TX Const. Art. V, § 30 Gov't Code § 25.0014	4 yrs.
District Clerk	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	TX Const. Art. V, § 9	4 yrs.
District & County Clerk	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	TX Const. Art. V, § 20	4 yrs.
County Clerk	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	TX Const. Art. V, § 20	4 yrs.
County Treasurer	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	TX Const. Art. XVI, § 44	4 yrs.
County Surveyor	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	TX Const. Art. XVI,	4 yrs.

								§ 44	
County Attorney	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	Yes	TX Const. Art. V, § 21 Gov't Code § 41.001	4 yrs.	
Sheriff ^f	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	TX Const. Art. V, § 23 Loc. Gov't Code § 85.0011	4 yrs.	
Tax Assessor-Collector	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	TX Const. Art. VIII, § 14	4 yrs.	
County Commissioner	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	TX Const. Art. V, § 18	4 yrs.	
Constable ^g	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	TX Const. Art. V, § 18 Loc. Gov't Code § 86.0021	4 yrs.	
Justice of the Peace	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	TX Const. Art. V, § 18	4 yrs.	

- a. No duration specified.
- b. Before date of general election.
- c. As of December 11, 2023, if candidate for Democratic or Republican Party nomination. As of the date of nomination, if other party nominee for statewide, multi-county district, single-county district, county, or precinct office. As of June 27, 2024, if independent candidate. As of November 5, 2024, if declared write-in candidate.
- d. The offices of state senator and state representative must be qualified voters as defined by Tex. Const. Art. VI, Sec 2. This definition provides that an individual must be eligible to register to vote but need not actually be a registered voter.
- e. Statutory qualifications may vary; contact your local party chair or the Secretary of State.
- f. Additional qualifications for sheriff: A person must (1) have a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate; and (2) either: (A) hold an active permanent peace

officer license; **or** (B) be eligible to be licensed under Sections 1701.309 and 1701.312 of the Texas Occupations Code and has a minimum of five years of experience as a federal special investigator or is a military veteran with a minimum of 10 years of combined active duty or national guard service experience. Tex. Loc. Gov't Code § 85.0011.

NOTE: Per guidance from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), a person would be considered to hold an "active permanent peace officer license" if the person has a peace officer license that is in active status and has not been revoked. For more guidance on the applicable requirements relating to licensure, please contact TCOLE at 512-936-7700, press 4, then 1.

- g. Additional qualifications for constable: A person must be either (1) eligible to be licensed under Sections 1701.309, 1701.312, and 1701.502 of the Texas Occupations Code AND (a) has at least an associate's degree, or (b) is a special investigator under Article 2.122(a) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, or (c) is an honorably retired peace officer or honorably retired federal criminal investigator who holds a certificate of proficiency issued under Section 1701.357 of the Texas Occupations Code OR (2) an active or inactive licensed peace officer under Chapter 1701 of the Texas Occupations Code.
- h. On first day of term to be filled at election. Note: A candidate might need to be age 18 at an earlier date than the first day of the term to be filled at election if the candidate is required to be a registered voter. See offices requiring voter registration.
- i. **NEW LAW:** No person shall be eligible to serve in the office of Chief Justice or Justice of the Supreme Court unless the person has been either: (A) a practicing lawyer licensed in the State of Texas for at least ten years; or (B) a practicing lawyer licensed in the State of Texas and judge of a state court or county court established by the Legislature by statute for a combined total of at least ten years. Tex. Const. Art V, Sec. 2(b).
- j. **NEW LAW:** No person shall be eligible to serve in the office of District Judge unless the person has been a practicing lawyer or a Judge of a Court in the State of Texas, or both combined, for eight years next preceding the person's election, during which time the person's license to practice law cannot have been revoked, suspended, or subject to a probated suspension. Tex. Const. Art V, Sec. 7(b).
- k. At the time the oath of office is administered. (See S. Rep. No. 904, 74th Congress, 1st sess. (1935), *reprinted in* 79 Cong. Rec. 9651–9653 (1935))

Special Note 1: Please be advised that due to the removal of the staggering schedule from Article XVI, Section 65 of the Texas Constitution, there are various local offices which may have been created by your county commissioners court or the Texas Legislature but are not listed in this guide. For further information on filing for county offices not listed, please contact the county clerk's/elections administrator's office or the Secretary of State.

Special Note 2: Please be advised that executive and judicial officers elected in a statewide election, state appellate and district judges, members of the State Board of Education, and

district or criminal district attorneys (among others) are subject to the provisions of Chapter 572 of the Texas Government Code, which relates to personal financial disclosure, standards of conduct, and conflicts of interest issues. For further information on the applicability and requirements of Chapter 572, candidates should contact the Texas Ethics Commission.