

**SS.7.C.2.9**

Evaluate candidates for political office by analyzing their qualifications, experience, issue-based platforms, debates and political ads.

**Also Assesses**

**SS.7.C.2.7** - Conduct a mock election to demonstrate the voting process and its impact on a school, community or local level.

**SS.7.C.2.9 Benchmark Clarification 1:** Students will identify the constitutional requirements to run for federal political office.

According to the U.S. Constitution, people running for national office must meet certain qualifications. Examples of federal political offices are President, Vice President, Congressman/woman, and Senator. The qualifications are unique to each office and are listed in the chart below.

Federal Elected Office	Description of Qualifications
<b>President</b> Vice President (The qualifications to be vice president are not included in the U.S. Constitution. However, the vice president becomes president if the president resigns from office or dies. This means that the vice president must be qualified to be president in order to run for vice president).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 35 years old</li> <li>Has lived in the U.S. for 14 years</li> <li>Is a natural born citizen, which means born on U.S. soil (<b>law of soil</b>) or to U.S. citizen parents (<b>law of blood</b>)</li> <li>May not serve more than two 4-year terms.</li> <li>The vice president may become president because the president dies, resigns, or is removed from office. The vice president, upon becoming president, may be president for no more than 10 years, (This means that the vice president completes the president's unfinished term and can run for president in the next two presidential elections).</li> </ol>
A member of the <b>U.S. House of Representatives</b> ( <b>U.S. Representative</b> )	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 years old</li> <li>7 years as a U.S. citizen</li> <li>Members of the U.S. House of Representatives do not have to live in the district that they represent, but they must live in the state in which their district is located.</li> <li>No term limits; they can serve an unlimited number of 2-year terms</li> </ol>
A member of the <b>U.S. Senate</b> ( <b>U.S. Senator</b> )	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 years old</li> <li>9 years as a U.S. citizen</li> <li>Members of the U.S. Senate must live in the state that they represent.</li> <li>No term limits; they can serve an unlimited number of 6-year terms</li> </ol>

**law of blood** - a person's citizenship at birth is the same as that of his or her biological mother or father

**law of soil** - a person's citizenship at birth is determined by the country where he or she was born

**president** - the head of the executive branch

**U.S. House of Representatives** - the lower house of the U.S. Congress

**U.S. Representative** - a member of the U.S. House of Representatives; representatives are elected in districts throughout each state

**U.S. Senate** - the upper house of the U.S. Congress

**U.S. Senator** - a member of the U.S. Senate elected to represent an entire state; there are two senators per state

