

**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 2:** Students will recognize the requirements to run for state and local political offices.

Each state has its own constitution that creates the state’s plan for government. The Florida Constitution lists the qualifications people must meet in order to run for state political offices. The qualifications for **candidates** running for city and county office are listed in city and county charters. (Charters serve as a constitution for a city or county).

No person may hold elected office in Florida unless that person is a U.S. citizen, a Florida resident, a registered voter, and at least 18 years old. City and county charters may have additional requirements. For example, cities and counties may require that candidates be older than 18 to hold office.

Examples of state and local political offices are governor, lieutenant governor, state representative, and state senator. The qualifications are unique to each office and are listed in the chart below.

State Elected Office	Description of Qualifications
<b>Governor</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. U.S. citizen</li> <li>2. At least 30 years old</li> <li>3. Resident of the state for at least 5 years</li> <li>4. May not serve more than two 4-year terms</li> </ol>
Lieutenant Governor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. U.S. citizen</li> <li>2. At least 30 years old</li> <li>3. Resident of the state for at least 5 years</li> <li>4. May not serve more than two 4-year terms. If the lieutenant governor becomes governor due to the resignation, death, or removal of the governor, the lieutenant governor may be governor for no more than 10 years (The lieutenant governor completes the governor’s term and can run for governor in the next two elections.)</li> </ol>
A member of the <b>Florida House of Representatives (State Representative)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. U.S. citizen</li> <li>2. Lives in the district he or she represents</li> <li>3. State resident for at least 2 years</li> <li>4. At least 21 years old</li> </ol>
A member of the <b>Florida Senate (State Senator)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. U.S. citizen</li> <li>2. Lives in the district he or she represents</li> <li>3. State resident for at least 2 years</li> <li>4. At least 21 years old</li> </ol>

**candidate** - a person running for political office

**governor** - the head of a state government

**Florida House of Representatives** - the lower house of the Florida legislature

**Florida Senate** - the upper house of the Florida legislature

**state representative** - a member of the lower house of a state legislature (the Florida House of Representatives)

**state senator** - a member of the upper house of a state legislature (the Florida Senate)

