

## Constitutional Qualifications for Political Office-Sample Answers

**Directions:** Read the excerpts below from the U.S. Constitution, Florida Constitution, and Florida Statutes. After reading, determine the political office that is being described, and in a complete sentence, explain the required constitutional qualifications to seek election for that office.

1	U.S Constitution	Article I, Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members... No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.
	Political Office	<i>Members of the U.S. House of Representatives</i>
	Constitutional Qualifications	<i>At least 25 years old, a citizen for 7 years, and live in the state they represent</i>
2	U.S Constitution	Article I, Section 3. No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.
	Political Office	<i>Member of the U.S. Senate</i>
	Constitutional Qualifications	<i>At least 30 years old, a citizen for 9 years, and live in the state they represent.</i>
3	U.S. Constitution	Article II, Section 1 No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.
	Political Office	<i>The President</i>
	Constitutional Qualifications	<i>A natural born citizen, at least 35 years old, and a resident of the United States for at least 14 years.</i>

4	<b>Florida Constitution</b>	Section 15. Terms and qualifications of legislators – (a) SENATORS. (b) REPRESENTATIVES. (c) QUALIFICATIONS. Each legislator shall be at least twenty-one years of age, an elector and resident of the district from which elected and shall have resided in the state for a period of two years prior to election.
	<b>Political Office</b>	<i>Florida legislators (Senators and Representatives)</i>
	<b>Constitutional Qualifications</b>	<i>At least 21 years old, live in the district they are running to represent and live in the state for at least 2 years before the election</i>
5	<b>Florida Constitution</b>	Article IV, Section 5 ...the governor, lieutenant governor and each cabinet member must be an elector not less than thirty years of age who has resided in the state for the preceding seven years.
	<b>Political Office</b>	<i>Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Cabinet Members</i>
	<b>Constitutional Qualifications</b>	<i>The governor, lieutenant governor and cabinet members must be at least 30 years old and live in the state for at least seven years.</i>
6	<b>Florida Statute Title IX, Chapter 99: Candidates</b>	<b>99.021 Form of candidate oath.—</b> (1)(a)1. Each candidate, whether a party candidate, a candidate with no party affiliation, or a write-in candidate, in order to qualify for nomination or election to any office other than a judicial office as defined in chapter 105 or a federal office, shall take and subscribe to an oath or affirmation in writing...
	<b>Summary of Text</b>	<i>Candidates, except for judicial candidates, have to take an oath to qualify in order to run for office.</i>

**Candidate Oath  
State of Florida  
County of**

Before me, an officer authorized to administer oaths, personally appeared (please print name as you wish it to appear on the ballot), to me well known, who, being sworn, says that he or she is a candidate for the office of ; that he or she is a qualified elector of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Florida; that he or she is qualified under the Constitution and the laws of Florida to hold the office to which he or she desires to be nominated or elected; that he or she has qualified for no other public office in the state, the term of which office or any part thereof runs concurrent with that of the office he or she seeks; that he or she has resigned from any office from which he or she is required to resign pursuant to s. [99.012](#), Florida Statutes; and that he or she will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Florida.

(Signature of candidate)  
(Address)

7	Summary of Text	<i>A candidate must sign an oath stating that they are an elector for the county where they live, they are qualified to hold office, they are not running for another office and that they will support the U.S. and Florida Constitutions.</i>
	Definition of Florida Elector	<i>The definition of elector is one who elects.  To be a registered voter in Florida you have to be a U.S. citizen, a Florida resident and at least 18 years old.</i>