



# 2020 Fort Pierce Municipal Election

Primary Election – August 18, 2020

General Election – November 3, 2020

Qualifying Period:

Monday, June 8, 2020 at NOON -  
Friday, June 12, 2020 at NOON

*Note: Qualifying papers will be accepted beginning May 25, 2020, pursuant to Section 99.061(8), F.S.*

Contact:

Linda W. Cox  
City Clerk

[lcox@cityoffortpierce.com](mailto:lcox@cityoffortpierce.com)

467-3065



Dear Candidate:

Welcome to the City of Fort Pierce 2020 Election and congratulations on your decision to run for public office!

You are about to participate in a process that comes with great commitment. I hope to provide you with as much information as I can to assist with your campaign; however, to understand the specifics of the election process, it is important that you familiarize yourself with the Florida Election Laws, City Charter and Ordinances that are included in this packet.

This packet offers a brief overview of the election process and is not intended to provide you with all of the information you need to know as a candidate. A full understanding of the election process is the responsibility of the candidate. Please review your election packet thoroughly so you have a clear understanding of the process and your responsibilities. Knowing the rules will save you time and money, and will keep your campaign open and fair. All forms are public records and open to all for inspection. Also, keep in mind that election laws are subject to change by the Florida Legislature.

The City Clerk's office is ready to assist you whenever we can. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions. If we do not have an immediate answer for you, we will research by whatever means available to get one for you.

Congratulations on your decision to run for public office. The City Clerk's staff wishes you a successful campaign.

Sincerely,

Linda W. Cox  
City Clerk

## INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

### PRIOR TO QUALIFYING

1. **FIRST STEP IN THE PROCESS:** The Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates is the first document to be filed with the City Clerk (filing officer). File Form DS-DE-9 with City Clerk. (F.S. 106.021). Once this form is filed, you may open your campaign account. You should not collect any contributions or make any expenditures until this form is properly filed. I recommend that you appoint a Treasurer and a Deputy Treasurer.
2. Open Campaign Account at any bank, savings and loan association, or credit union authorized to transact business in this state.
3. Obtain campaign checks "Campaign Account of (name of candidate)". (F.S. 106.11)
4. The Statement of Candidate Form, Form DS-DE-84, must be filed within ten (10) calendar days after Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository is filed indicating that the candidate read and understood Chapter 106 of the Florida Statutes.
5. The Supervisor of Elections allows all candidates to use their web site to post a photograph and biographical information. Visit [www.slcelections.com](http://www.slcelections.com) or contact them at (772) 462-5633 to register.

## QUALIFYING:

1. The Qualifying Period begins at Noon, Monday, June 15, 2020 and ends at Noon, Friday, June 19, 2020. These dates and times are strictly enforced not flexible. The City Clerk's computer clock is the official clock for compliance purposes. (Sec. 63, City Charter)
2. Candidates must fill out and sign a Declaration of Candidacy form. Form must state the District and Seat for which you are seeking election, your name as you wish it to appear on the Ballot and an address.
3. Candidates must submit two (2) checks at the time of filing the Declaration of Candidacy.
  - (a) A check in the amount of \$25.00 for filing Fee drawn on your Campaign Account is required pursuant to Article VI, Sec. 63 of the City Charter. The fee is non-refundable.
  - (b) Candidate for Commissioner - Bring Check drawn on Campaign Account in the amount of \$299.57 for Election Assessment Fee. (F.S. 99.093(1)) The Election Assessment Fee is 1% of Annual Salary, including car allowance.
  - (c) Candidate for Mayor – Bring Check drawn on Campaign Account in the amount of \$377.98 for Election Assessment Fee. (F.S. 99.093(1)) The Election Assessment Fee is 1% of Annual Salary, including car allowance.
  - (d) OR, alternative method of qualifying by Petition described below.
4. File Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests, with City Clerk. (F.S. 112.3145(2)(a))
5. Every candidate for office shall take, sign, and subscribe to two (2) oaths which will be administered at time of Qualifying in the City Clerk's Office. Oath of Candidate and form DS-DE 302NP (Sec. 65, City Charter and F.S. 99.021)
6. Function of the City Clerk as the "Elections Qualifying Officer" – F.S. 99.061(7)(c), The filing officer performs a ministerial function in reviewing qualifying papers. In determining whether a candidate is qualified, the filing officer shall review the qualifying papers to determine whether all items required by paragraph (a) have been properly filed and whether each item is complete on its face, including whether items that must be verified have been properly verified pursuant to s. 92.525(1)(a). **The filing officer may not determine whether the contents of the qualifying papers are accurate.**

## **ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF QUALIFYING (Petition) F.S. 99.095**

**Petition method:** You may choose to qualify by the alternative method which requires collecting petitions from 1% of the registered voters in the district. The district registered voter count used is that from the last general election. Using the alternative method (collecting petitions) allows you to waive the portion of the filing fee which represents 1% of the salary. You must file an Alternative Method Affidavit.

**District 1 – Total Registered voters -  $9,425 \times .01 = 95$  petitions required**

**District 2 – Total Registered voters - $14,099 \times .01 = 141$  petitions required**

**Mayor At Large – Total Registered voters –  $23,524 \times .01 = 236$  petitions required**

**Prerequisites for collecting petitions and deadline:** Please note that signatures may not be collected until the candidate has filed the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates. [Fla. Stat. 99.095 (2)( a)] The deadline for turning in the required number of petitions to the Supervisor of Elections is **May 11, 2020 at noon**, pursuant to Fla. Stat. 99.095(3).

**Verification fee:** Also required at the time the petitions are submitted is a check from the candidate's campaign account made payable to the Supervisor of Elections for verification by the St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections Office. The statutory charge is 10 cents per petition collected. This fee may be waived by filing an Affidavit of Undue Burden, pursuant to Fla. Stat. 99.097 (4).

## **QUALIFICATIONS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSIONER: (Charter Sec. 63)**

1. Qualified Elector of the City (Registered to Vote)
2. Continuous residence in the City for two years prior to the date of the election for which he or she may become a candidate.
3. Mayor may reside in any District (Seat 1). Two commissioners must reside in District 1 (Seats 3 and 5) and two commissioners must reside in District 2 (Seats 2 and 4).

### **DISTRICT BOUNDARIES - (Sec. 6-6 of City Code)**

DISTRICT 1 - Seats 3 and 5 (North and West of Dividing Line)

DISTRICT 2 - Seats 2 and 4 (South and East of Dividing Line and Island)

The dividing line between the two (2) election districts, formerly known as qualifying districts, shall be and is hereby established as the centerline of that portion of Okeechobee Road, beginning from the western boundary of the city and running east to Virginia Avenue; thence along the centerline of that portion of Virginia Avenue running east from Okeechobee Road to 23rd Street; thence along the centerline of that portion of 23rd Street running north from Virginia Avenue to Birch Street; thence along the centerline of that portion of Birch Street running northeasterly from 23rd Street to 21st Street; thence along the centerline of that portion of 21st Street running north from Birch Street to Georgia Avenue; thence along the centerline of Georgia Avenue running east from 21st Street to 4th Street (U.S. Highway 1); thence along the centerline of 4th Street (U.S. Highway 1) running north to the north city limits.

### **OTHER HELPFUL LINKS**

Candidates should be familiar with the Fort Pierce Charter which can be found at:

<http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=10303>

Also important is the "Guide to the Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees" which can be viewed at:

<http://www.ethics.state.fl.us/Documents/Publications/GuideBookletInternet.pdf?cp=2017411>

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Open Seats**

The purpose of the upcoming election will be to fill the following seats, currently held by:

Mayor, Seat #1, Linda Hudson  
City Commission District #1, Seat #3, Reggie Sessions  
City Commission District #2, Seat #2, Jeremiah Johnson

**Qualifying Period**

Monday, June 8, 2020 at NOON -  
Friday, June 12, 2020 at NOON

When you are prepared to qualify, please make an appointment with the City Clerk by calling 467-3065 or email at [L.Cox@CityofFortPierce.com](mailto:L.Cox@CityofFortPierce.com).

The Qualifying Officer may accept and hold qualifying papers for 14 days prior to the qualifying period, which is May 25, 2020.

**Voter Registration Book Closing**

July 20, 2020 for Primary Election  
October 5, 2020 for General Election

**Fees**

Filing Fee: \$25.00  
Election Assessment Fee: \$TBD Mayor  
Election Assessment Fee: \$TBD Commissioner

**Resign to Run (F.S. 99.012)**

Deadline: Friday, May 29, 2020 - Written resignation must be submitted at least 10 days prior to the first day of qualifying for the office he/she intends to seek.