Candidate Filing Guidelines

Residency Requirements

US Senate: Candidates must be at least 30 years of age, US citizens and residents of the state for which they shall be chosen. (Reference US Constitution, Article 1, Section 3)

US Representative: Candidates must be at least 25 years of age, US citizens and residents of the state for which they shall be chosen. (Reference US Constitution, Article 1, Section 2)

State Legislature: Candidates must be a citizen of the US and a qualified voter in the district. (Reference State Constitution, Article II, Section 7)

State Offices: Candidates must be a citizen of the US and a qualified elector of the State of Washington. (Reference State Constitution, Article III, Section 25)

Supreme and District Court Judges: Candidates must be resident electors of their district and admitted to practice law in the courts of record of the State of Washington. (Reference State Constitution, Article IV, Section 17)

Superior Court Judges: Candidates must be resident electors of the State of Washington and admitted to practice law in the courts of record of the State of Washington. (Reference State Constitution, Article IV, Section 17)

Court of Appeals Judges: Candidates must be residents of the district for not less than one year and admitted to practice law in the courts of the State of Washington for not less than five years prior to taking office. (Reference RCW 2.06.050)

Tacoma Municipal Court Judges: Candidates must be qualified resident electors of Pierce County and admitted to practice law in the courts of record of the State of Washington. (Reference Tacoma City Charter Article 5, State Constitution, Article IV, Section 17, RCW 3.50.057, 35.20.170)
**County Offices:** Candidates must be US citizens, residents and registered voters of Pierce County. County Council candidates must be residents and registered voters of their district for one year prior to filing. No County Council District boundary change shall disqualify the council member from holding office during the remainder of the term. (Reference Pierce County Charter 4.30, RCW 29A.24.075)

**Port Districts:** Candidates must be registered voters of Pierce County. (Reference RCW 53.12, 29A.24.075)

**City of Tacoma:** Candidates for Council shall be qualified electors (registered voters) and residents of the City for two years immediately preceding the time of filing, and residents of their district for one year immediately preceding the time of filing. No person shall be eligible for the office of council person while holding any other elective public office. (Reference Tacoma City Charter Section 2.2, RCW 29A.24.075)

**Non-Charter Code Cities:** Candidates must be registered voters at the time of filing and residents for a year on election day. (Reference RCW 35A.12.030, 35A.13.020, 29A.24.075)

**4th Class Cities and Towns:** Candidates must be resident electors (registered voters). (Reference RCW 35.27.080, 29A.24.075)

**School Districts:** Candidates must be registered voters of district or director district. (Reference RCW 28A.343.350, 29A.24.075)

**Fire, Water and Sewer Districts:** Candidates must be qualified electors (registered voters) of district. (Reference RCW 52.14.010)

**Park and Recreation Districts:** Candidates must be resident electors (registered voters) of district. (Reference RCW 36.69, 29A.24.075)

**Water and Sewer Districts:** Candidates must be qualified electors (registered voters) of district. (Reference RCW 52.12)
**Drainage Districts:** Candidates must be both property owners in the district and registered voters in the State of Washington for thirty days. Note: Drainage District Elections are held in February in even years. (Reference RCW 85.38)

*Only appear on ballot in odd years.*

**Precinct Committee Officer:** Be a registered voter in the precinct where you live.

**Term Limits**

**Pierce County Offices**
Councilmember or Executive
- Two consecutive four-year terms in the same position.
Sheriff, Assessor-Treasurer and Auditor
- Three consecutive four-year terms in the same position.
Prosecuting Attorney
- The Prosecuting Attorney is not subject to term limits.

For all positions, the establishment of residency in an alternate district will not circumvent this restriction. (Reference Pierce County Charter 4.90)

**City of Edgewood**
No person may serve more than two consecutive four-year terms. (City of Edgewood Municipal Code Ord. 2.10.010)

**City of Tacoma**
No person shall be allowed to serve on the Council for more than ten consecutive years as a Council person, Mayor, or combination thereof. (Tacoma City Charter Article II, Sec. 2.35)

**No Double Filings**
RCW 29A.36.201

Excluding the office of Precinct Committee Officer, Freeholder, or Charter Review Commissioner, a candidate’s name shall not appear for more than one office on the ballot.