

**A RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF SPALDING COUNTY
SETTING QUALIFYING FEES FOR THE 2026 ELECTION AND AUTHORIZING
PUBLICATION OF SAME**

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. §21-2-131(a) requires the governing authority of each county, not later than February 1 of any year in which a general primary, nonpartisan election, or general election is to be held, to fix and publish a qualifying fee for each county office to be filled in the upcoming primary or election; and

WHEREAS, a general primary, nonpartisan election, and general election are scheduled to be held in 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners, as the governing authority of Spalding County, does hereby set qualifying fees for candidates for the county offices to be elected in 2026 as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Manager is authorized and directed to publish the list of qualifying fees in accordance with the requirements of O.C.G.A. §21-2-131 no later than February 1, 2026.

THIS RESOLUTION is adopted and made effective this 5th day of January, 2026.

SPALDING COUNTY

By:

Clay W Davis
Chairman

Attest :

Steve Ledbetter
Steve Ledbetter, PhD
County Clerk



QUALIFYING FEES FOR 2026 ELECTIONS

In General The county governing authority is required to set and publish the qualifying fees for 2026 elections for salaried or non-salaried county offices (i.e., members of county boards of commissioners, members of the governing authority of consolidated governments, sole commissioners, sheriffs, tax commissioners, superior court clerks, magistrates, probate judges, state court judges, solicitors general, coroners, surveyors, and county school board members) by February 1, 2026.ⁱ A county governing authority should adopt a resolution setting the qualifying fee for each office that is scheduled for election in 2026.ⁱⁱ Calculation of qualifying fees is explained below.

Although state law does not specify the particular method of publication, it might be best practice to publish the fees in the legal organ rather than in a newspaper of general circulation. In addition to publication in physical media, the fees could also be posted on the county's website.

County Constitutional Officers and Magistrates

Qualifying fees to run for the offices of superior court clerk, probate judge, sheriff, and tax commissioner (county constitutional officers) and magistrates must be set at 3 percent of the minimum base salary specified in state law for each county based on the county's population under the 2020 census.ⁱⁱⁱ The effective date of the 2020 census for this purpose is January 1, 2022.^{iv} Note that if a county's population decreases according to a more recent census below its population according to an earlier census, then, notwithstanding any other provision of law, any officer who is compensated under a minimum salary law and who is in office on January 1, 2022 continues during his or her entire tenure in such office (including any future terms of office in such office) to be compensated on the basis of the county's population according to such earlier census. In such case, the qualifying fee would be set at 3% of the minimum base salary according to the 2010 census.^v

Note that in calculating the qualifying fee for the county constitutional officers and magistrates, the minimum base salary is not to be adjusted to reflect supplements, cost-of-living increases, or longevity increases.

County Governing Authorities and Chairs

Qualifying fees to run for the office of members of the county governing authority (including the members and chair of a board of commissioners or governing body of a consolidated government, but not including sole commissioners) must be set at 3 percent of the base salary established by local Act of the General Assembly unless the county governing authority has set a higher salary using the process allowed by general law (see below).

The qualifying fee to run for sole commissioner is 3 percent of the salary set by local Act of the General Assembly or by the state minimum salary law for sole commissioners,^{vi} whichever is applicable.

In those counties where the governing authority has exercised its general-law power to increase its members' base salary,^{vii} the qualifying fee is 3% of that salary. As with the county officers and

magistrates, the qualifying fee for commissioners is not adjusted to reflect the training supplement, cost-of-living increases, or longevity increases.

All Other Elected County Offices

The qualifying fee to run for all other county offices, including but not limited to the offices of coroner, state court judge, surveyor, or county school board member, is 3% of the total gross salary of the office paid in 2025, including all supplements authorized by law.^{viii} If the elected official is not paid a salary, the county governing authority must set a fee that is not more than 3 percent of the income that the elected official earned from the office in 2025.

State Officials

Qualifying fees for state officials (e.g., legislators, superior court judges, district attorneys) are set by the Georgia Secretary of State. For more information, please contact the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office at (404) 656-2871.

i O.C.G.A. §21-2-131(a)(1)(A).

ii See ACCG Sample Resolution.

iii O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131(a)(1)(B) references: O.C.G.A. § 15-6-88(a) for superior court clerks; O.C.G.A. § 15-963(a)(1) for probate judges; O.C.G.A. § 15-10-23(a) for magistrates; O.C.G.A. § 15-16-20(a)(1) for sheriffs; and O.C.G.A. § 48-5-183(b)(1) for tax commissioners.

iv O.C.G.A. §1-3-1(d)(2)(A).

v. Id.

vi O.C.G.A. § 36-5-25.

vii O.C.G.A. § 36-5-24.

viii O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131(a)(1)(A).

Qualifying Fees for Elected Officials 2026

County Office

County Commissioner	\$ 695.96
Solicitor General	\$4,587.60
Board of Education Member	\$ 289.19