

# Request for Board of Commissioners' Action

**From:** Faye Hughes, County Administrator

**Date:** December 15, 2017

**Subject:** 2016 Qualifying Fees

**Item Number:** VIII-E

County Commissioners are required to set qualifying fees for the 2018 election and publish fees prior to February 1, 2018.

Fees are calculated per OCGA § 21-2-131.

<u>Elected Office</u>	<u>Total Base Salary</u>	<u>Qualifying Fee</u>
Chief Magistrate	\$46,408.38	\$1,392.25
County Commissioner (District 5)	6,000.00	180.00
County Commissioner (District 1)	6,000.00	180.00
Board of Education Member (District 3)	3,300.00	99.00
Board of Education Member (District 5)	3,600.00	108.00

The county governing authority is required to set and publish the qualifying fees for county offices (i.e., commissioners, sheriffs, tax commissioners, superior court clerks, magistrates, probate judges, state court judges, solicitors general, coroners and surveyors) by February 1. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131. This should be done through the adoption of a resolution by the board of commissioners setting the qualifying fee for each office.

**County Officers and Magistrates.** Qualifying fees to run for the office of superior court clerk probate judge, magistrate, sheriff, and tax commissioner must be set at 3 percent of the minimum base salary specified in state law for each county based on the county's 2010 population. See O.C.G.A. §§ 15-6-88(a) for superior court clerks, 15-9-63(a)(1) for probate judges, 15-10-23(a) for magistrates, 15-16-20(a)(1) for sheriffs, and 48-5-183(b)(1) for tax commissioners.

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

**County Commissioners and Chairs.** Qualifying fees to run for the office of members of the county governing authority other than sole commissioners must be set at 3 percent of the base salary established by local legislation unless the commissioners have set a higher salary using their home rule authority (see below).

Qualifying fees to run for sole commissioner is 3 percent of the salary set by local legislation or by the state minimum salary law for sole commissioners (O.C.G.A. § 36-5-25), whichever is applicable.

**All Other Elected County Offices.** Qualifying fees to run for the office of coroner, surveyor or school board member is 3% of the total gross salary of the office paid in 2016, including all supplements authorized by law. If the elected official is not paid a salary, the commissioner must set a fee that is not more than 3 percent of the income that the elected official earned from the office in 2016.

Chairman will need: **A motion to set qualifying fees as printed above.**

Motion made by \_\_\_\_\_ Second made by \_\_\_\_\_

Any discussion: \_\_\_\_\_

Call for the vote \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

**COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**RESOLUTION SETTING 2018 QUALIFYING FEES**  
**FOR CANDIDATES SEEKING ELECTION TO CERTAIN OFFICES**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of O.C.G.A 21-2-131 the governing authority of Cook County is hereby required to set the qualifying fees for candidates seeking election to certain offices; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the qualifying fees for the Cook County 2018 Election Cycle are hereby set as stated below:

Chief Magistrate Judge	\$1392.25
County Commissioner, District 1	\$180.00
County Commissioner, District 5	\$180.00
Board of Education, District 3	\$ 99.00
Board of Education, District 5	\$108.00

Adopted by the Cook County Board of Commissioners on this 18th day of December, 2017.

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Dwight E. Purvis, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Vicki S. Parrish, County Clerk

County Seal