

Request for Board of Commissioners' Action

From: Faye Hughes, County Administrator **Date:** December 15, 2019

Subject: 2020 Qualifying Fees **Item Number:** VIII-F

County Commissioners are required to set qualifying fees for the 2020 election and publish fees prior to February 1, 2020.

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

	Total Base Salary	Qualifying Fee		
Clerk of Superior Court	\$ 46,408.38	\$ 1,392.25		
Sheriff	\$ 53,880.12	\$ 1,616.40		
Probate Judge	\$ 46,418.38	\$ 1,392.55		
Tax Commissioner	\$ 46,408.38	\$ 1,392.25		
County Commissioners (D2)	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 180.00		
County Commissioners (D3)	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 180.00		
County Commissioners (D4)	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 180.00		
Coroner	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 72.00		
Board of Education				
District 1	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 108.00		
District 2	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 108.00		
District 4	\$ 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, 2020. 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 2019, 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 2019.

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

Motion carries _____ Motion fails _____

Publishing Qualifying Fees

In accordance with O.C.G.A. 21-2-131(a), the governing authority shall no later than February 1st fix and publish the qualifying fees for each county office to be filled in the upcoming election cycle.

The following offices will be on the ballot for 2020:

Judge of Probate Court
Clerk of Superior Court
Sheriff
Tax Commissioner
County Coroner
County Commissioner, District 2
County Commissioner, District 3
County Commissioner, District 4
County Board of Education, District 1
County Board of Education, District 2
County Board of Education, District 4

Important 2020 dates for publication:

March 2, 2020 (9:00 am) – Qualifying begins
March 6, 2020 (12:00 noon) – Qualifying ends
May 19, 2020 – General Primary/Nonpartisan Election
November 3, 2020 – General Election

STATE OF GEORGIA

Cook COUNTY

QUALIFYING FEE NOTICE

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131(a)(1), the following qualifying fees were set by the Cook County Commissioners in the 12/23/2019 meeting:

Sheriff	\$ <u>1616.40</u>
Judge, Probate Court	\$ <u>1392.25</u>
Clerk, Superior Court	\$ <u>1392.25</u>
Tax Commissioner	\$ <u>1362.25</u>
Coroner	\$ <u>72.00</u>
County Commissioner, District <u>2</u>	\$ <u>180.00</u>
County Commissioner, District <u>3</u>	\$ <u>180.00</u>
County Commissioner, District <u>4</u>	\$ <u>180.00</u>
Board of Education, District <u>1</u>	\$ <u>108.00</u>
Board of Education, District <u>2</u>	\$ <u>108.00</u>
Board of Education, District <u>4</u>	\$ <u>108.00</u>

Qualifying for the offices listed above will begin at 9:00 a.m. on March 2, 2020 and will end at noon on March 6, 2020. The General Primary will be held on May 19, 2020 and the General Election will be held on November 3, 2020.

Election Superintendent
Cook County, Georgia