



Candidate FAQs

Question: When does the candidate filing period open, and what is the deadline for filing?

Answer: The candidate filing period opens at 8 a.m. on Monday, August 26, 2019 and the filing period closes at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 6, 2019.

Question: What seats are up for election this year and how long is the term?

Answer: Mayor and City Council seats 1, 3, and 5 are up for election this November 2019. The term is four years. All seats are elected City-wide and not tied to a geographic area within the City.

Question: Can I run for any seat or do I have to specify which seat I am running for?

Answer: You must specify on your Declaration of Candidacy for which seat you are specifically running.

Question: When must the political treasurer be certified?

Answer: The treasurer must be certified before an individual becomes a candidate for city office, or prior to the time an organization becomes a political committee. According to Idaho Code 67-6603, it is illegal for a contribution to be received or an expenditure made by a candidate or a political action committee until a treasurer is certified.

Question: What are the duties of a Political Treasurer?

Answer: These are the key responsibilities to being a Political Treasurer.

- a. Keep detailed accounts, current within not more than seven days after the date of receiving a contribution or making an expenditure.
- b. Keep a detailed record of accounts for at least one year after the date of the election or filing of the last Campaign Financial Disclosure Report, whichever is later.
- c. File the required Campaign Financial Disclosure Reports on time while reporting all required information.
- d. Obtain the full name and complete address of any individual or organization which has made a contribution. Only those contributing more than \$50 during a calendar year must be itemized on the Campaign Financial Disclosure Report.
- e. Transmit any anonymous contribution of more than \$50 to the State Controller for deposit in the public school fund.
- f. Obtain a receipt, canceled check or an accurate copy thereof for an expenditure of \$25 or more.
- g. Clearly indicate on all public political advertising the person responsible for such communications. For example: Print "Paid for by Candidate X for City Council, John Doe Political Treasurer" on all printed materials.

Items Exempt from Advertising Regulation:

Campaign buttons, bumper stickers, pins, pens and similar small items upon which

a disclaimer cannot be conveniently printed are not deemed to be regulated by the provisions of Section 67- 6614A, Idaho Code.

- h. Notify the City Clerk, in writing (fax accepted), of:
- i. Any contribution of \$1,000 or more received after the 16th day, but more than 48 hours before any Primary or General Election. This notification shall be made within 48 hours after the receipt of such contribution.
 - ii. Any Independent Expenditures.
 - iii. Any Electioneering Communication.

Question: What is the maximum contribution allowed?

Answer: Contributions and loans from any source other than the candidate are limited to \$1,000 per contributor. There is no dollar limit on personal contributions and loans from the candidate to their own campaign.

Question: Where do I go to get the forms to file?

Answer: The forms are available on our website or you may come to the City Clerk's Office located on the 1st Floor of City Hall at 33 E. Broadway Ave.

Question: How do I get my name on the ballot?

Answer: Candidates get their name on the ballot by filing a Declaration of Candidacy indicating the office sought, the term of office, and that the individual is qualified to hold the office. The Declaration of Candidacy must also be accompanied by one of the following: A petition signed by at least five qualified city electors or a nonrefundable filing fee of \$40.00.

Question: How do I know if I am qualified to hold the office?

Answer: Candidates must meet the following criteria:

- ✓ At least 18 years of age;
- ✓ A U.S. Citizen;
- ✓ The candidate's primary residence must be with the City;
- ✓ The address of the candidate's voter registration must match the residence address provided on the candidate's declaration; and
- ✓ The candidate must be a resident of the City for at least 30 days prior to submitting their declaration

<https://meridiancity.org/clerk/2019election>

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