

**Attachment C  
Candidate Qualifications**

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE/FEDERAL OFFICES:**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Min. Age</b>	<b>State Resident</b>	<b>US Citizen</b>	<b>Registered Voter</b>	<b>Term of Office</b>	<b>Consecutive Terms</b>	<b>Special Qualifications/Notes</b>
US Senate	30	No time limit	9 years	Yes	6 years	Indefinite	
US House of Representatives	25	No time limit	7 years	Yes	2 years	Indefinite	
Governor	30	5 years	5 years	Yes	4 years	2	
Lieutenant Governor	30	5 years	5 years	Yes	4 years	2	
Secretary of State	18	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	
State Treasurer	18	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	
Attorney General	18	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	
Comptroller General	18	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	
State Superintendent of Education	18	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	
Adjutant General	18	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	
Agriculture Commissioner	18	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	
SC Senate	25	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	Must be a legal resident of the district at the time of filing
SC House of Representatives	21	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	2 years	Indefinite	Must be a legal resident of the district at the time of filing
Solicitors	18	No time limit	No time limit	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	Must be legal resident of circuit 30 days prior to the election. Must be licensed to practice law by the S.C. Bar at the time of his election and throughout his term.

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**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTY OFFICES:**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Min. Age</b>	<b>Residency Requirement</b>	<b>Registered Voter</b>	<b>Term of Office</b>	<b>Consecutive Terms</b>	<b>Special Qualifications/Notes</b>
Council	18	Must be a resident of the county and/or district at the time of the election	Yes	4 or 2 years	Indefinite	Term is 2 years in Anderson, Edgefield, Orangeburg, & York Counties.
Treasurer	18	Must be a resident of the county at the time of the election	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	Treasurer is appointed in Greenwood & York Counties.
Auditor	18	Must be a resident of the county at the time of the election	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	Auditor is appointed in Greenwood & York Counties.
Clerk of Court	18	Must be a resident of the county at the time of the election	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	
Coroner	21	Must be a resident of the county for at least 1 year immediately preceding the date of the election. Must be a U.S. citizen	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	*See below for complete qualifications
Probate Judge	21	Must be a resident of the county at the time of the election	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	S.C. Code of Laws Section 14-23-1040 includes an education/experience requirement for Probate Judge. (Act 678 of 1990) However, the U.S. Department of Justice objected to the requirement, and the act was never precleared and is therefore unenforceable.
Sheriff	21	Must be a resident of the county for at least 1 year immediately preceding the date of the election. Must be a U.S. citizen.	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	**See below for complete qualifications

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<b>Office</b>	<b>Min. Age</b>	<b>Residency Requirement</b>	<b>Registered Voter</b>	<b>Term of Office</b>	<b>Consecutive Terms</b>	<b>Special Qualifications/Notes</b>
Register of Deeds	18	Must be a resident of the county at the time of the election	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	
School Board	18	Must be a resident of the county and/or district at the time of the election	Yes	4, 3 or 2 years	Indefinite	Additional qualifications may exist for any particular school board or district. For specific lengths of terms and qualifications, contact the local school district or the S.C. School Board Association.
Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioner	18	Must be a resident of the county and/or district at the time of the election	Yes	4 years	Indefinite	

**\*Candidates for Coroner must meet the following qualifications (S.C. Code of Laws 17-5-130):**

- Must have a high school diploma or equivalent recognized by the State Department of Education.
- Must not have been convicted of a felony offense or an offense involving moral turpitude contrary to the laws of this State, another state, or the United States.
- Must have one of the following combinations of education and experience:
  - 3 years experience in death investigation with a law enforcement agency, coroner, or medical examiner agency; or
  - 2 year associate degree and 2 years experience in death investigation with a law enforcement agency, coroner, or medical examiner agency; or
  - 4 year baccalaureate degree and 1 year experience in death investigation with a law enforcement agency, coroner, or medical examiner agency; or
  - be a law enforcement officer, as defined by S.C. Code of Laws 23-23-10(E)(1), certified by the S.C. Law Enforcement Training Council with a minimum of 2 years of experience; or
  - be a licensed private investigator with a minimum of 2 years of experience; or
  - have completed a recognized forensic science degree or certification program or be enrolled in a recognized forensic science degree or certification program to be completed within 1 year of being elected to the office of coroner.
- Candidates must file a sworn affidavit with the county party chairman no later than the close of the filing period (petition candidates file the affidavit with the county election commission). A Coroner's Filing Affidavit is available for download from the [Filing Forms page](#). Affidavits must contain the following information:
  - date and place of person's birth
  - person's citizenship
  - county of residence and how long the person has been a resident of that county
  - whether the person is a registered voter
  - date person obtained high school diploma or its recognized equivalent

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- whether the person has been convicted of a felony offense or an offense involving moral turpitude contrary to the laws of this State, another state, or the United States.
- date person obtained an associate degree or baccalaureate degree, if applicable
- date person completed a recognized forensic science degree or certification program, or information regarding the person's enrollment in a recognized forensic science degree or certification program, if applicable

**\*\*Candidates for Sheriff must meet the following qualifications (S.C. Code of Laws 23-11-110):**

- Must have one of the following combinations of education and experience:
  - High school diploma & 5 years experience as a certified law enforcement officer; or
  - 2 year associate degree & 3 years experience as a certified law enforcement officer; or
  - 4 year bachelor's degree & 1 year experience as a certified law enforcement officer; or
  - Served as a summary court judge for at least 10 years.
- Must not have pled guilty or been convicted of a felony in this state or in any other state or pled guilty or been convicted of driving under suspension of a license or driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol within the past 10 years.
- Candidates must be fingerprinted and have SLED make a search of local, state and federal fingerprint files for any criminal record. Fingerprints are to be taken under the direction of any law enforcement agency and must be made available to SLED no later than 130 days prior to the General Election. The results of the records search are to be filed with the county executive committee of the person's political party. A person seeking nomination by petition must file the results with the county election commission in the county of his residence.
- Candidates must file a sworn affidavit with the county party chairman no later than the close of the filing period (petition candidates file the affidavit with the county election commission). A Sheriff's Filing Affidavit is available for download from the [Filing Forms page](#). Affidavits must contain the following information:
  - date and place of person's birth
  - date person graduated from high school or received equivalent of high school diploma
  - number of years experience person has as a certified law enforcement officer, when applicable
  - number of years experience person has as a summary court judge, when applicable
  - an affirmation the person meets all of the qualification requirements of 23-11-110(A)