

RULE 31 – Candidate Qualifying for Presidential Preference Primary

A. *Purpose of Candidate Qualifying Requirements*

The Republican Party of Florida finds it necessary for Republican presidential candidates to make a preliminary showing of substantial support in order to qualify for a place on the presidential preference primary ballot. The provisions of this rule are intended to accomplish the party's legitimate objectives through reasonable and non-discriminatory restrictions on ballot access.

B. *Form of Republican Presidential Candidate Oath*

Each Republican presidential candidate, in order to have his or her name submitted to the Secretary of State for placement on the presidential preference primary ballot under section 103.101(2) of the Florida Statutes, shall take or subscribe to an oath or affirmation in writing. A copy of the oath or affirmation shall be made available to the candidate upon request to the Republican Party of Florida and shall be substantially in the following form:

I, _____, am a candidate for the Republican Party's nomination for the office of President of the United States of America. I hereby request that the Republican Party of Florida include my name on the list of presidential candidates to be placed on Florida's Republican presidential preference primary ballot.

Signature of Candidate

Signature of Witness

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to (or affirm) and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Signature of Notary Public

Personally Known: _____ or

Produced Identification: _____

Type of Identification Produced: _____

C. *Methods of Qualifying for Presidential Preference Primary Ballot*

Each Republican presidential candidate seeking to appear on the presidential preference primary ballot shall:

1. *Sunshine Summit Option*—For any candidate invited to attend the Republican Party of Florida’s Sunshine Summit, qualify through personal appearance at the Sunshine Summit to execute and file the Candidate Oath prescribed by this rule, which shall be witnessed by the Chairman of the Republican Party of Florida or the Chairman’s designee; or

2. *Qualifying Fee Option*—At any time after the conclusion of the Sunshine Summit but not later than 5 p.m. on November 23, qualify by filing with the Republican Party of Florida the Candidate Oath prescribed by this rule and a candidate qualifying fee made payable to the Republican Party of Florida in the amount of \$25,000. Any qualifying fees collected under this Rule will be devoted entirely to grassroots engagement activities in support of the Republican Party’s candidates in the General Election; or

3. *Petition Option*—At any time after the conclusion of the Sunshine Summit but not later than 5 p.m. on November 23, qualify by filing with the Republican Party of Florida the Candidate Oath prescribed by this rule and RPOF Candidate Petitions, collected by volunteers, containing the signatures of 3,375 registered Republican voters including at least 125 registered Republican voters from each of Florida’s 27 Congressional Districts (as enacted by Chapter 2014-255, Laws of Florida). The Republican Party of Florida will: 1) check the signatures on the petitions to verify the signatories’ status as registered Republican voters in the stated Congressional Districts; and 2) determine whether the required number of signatures has been obtained.

No other proxy or alternative qualifying method for the presidential preference primary shall be available. The Republican Party of Florida retains the sole and exclusive authority to adjudicate compliance with all requirements of this party rule.

D. *Submission of List of Presidential Candidates*

By November 30 of the year preceding the presidential preference primary, the Republican Party of Florida shall submit to the Secretary of State a list of its presidential candidates who have qualified for the Republican presidential preference primary ballot in accordance with this rule.