

Qualifications for Office

The general qualifications of persons permitted to hold public office are set out in TCA 8-18-101. This section provides that all persons of the age of eighteen (18) years who are citizens of the United States and of this state, and have been inhabitants of the state, county, district, or circuit for the period required by the constitution and laws of the state, are qualified to hold office under the authority of this state except:

Those who have been convicted of offering or giving a bribe, or of larceny, or any other offense declared infamous by law, unless restored to citizenship in the mode prescribed by law.

Those against whom there is a judgment unpaid for any moneys received by them, in any official capacity, due to the United States, to this state, or any county in the state.

Those who are defaulters to the treasury at the time of the election, and the election of any such person shall be void.

Soldiers, seamen, marines, or airmen in the regular armed forces of the United States.

Members of congress and persons holding any office or profit or trust under any foreign power, other state of the union, or under the United States.

Federal Offices

United States President

35 years of age

Natural-born citizen

A resident within the United States for 14 years.

United States Senator

30 years of age

Citizen of the United States for 3 years

A Tennessee resident.

United States Representative

25 years of age

Citizen of the United States for 7 years

A Tennessee resident.

State Offices

Governor

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101 and

At least 30 years of age

A resident of the state for seven (7) years before the next election.

State Senator

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101 and

At least 30 years of age

A resident in the state for 3 years

A resident in the county or district for 1 year immediately preceding the election

A qualified voter of the district.

State Representative

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101 and

At least 21 years of age

A resident of the state for 3 years

A resident in the county represented for one year immediately preceding the election

A qualified voter of the district at the time they take office.

State Executive Committee

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101 and

Shall be a bona fide member of the political party whose election they seek

Tennessee Supreme Court

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101 and

35 years of age

A resident of the state for 5 years

Authorized to practice law in the courts of Tennessee

Tennessee Court of Appeals Judge

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101 and

30 years of age

A resident of the state for 5 years

Authorized to practice law in the courts of Tennessee

Resident of the grand division of the state from which they seek election

Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals Judge

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101 and

30 years of age

A resident of the state for 5 years

Authorized to practice law in the courts of Tennessee

Resident of the grand division of the state from which they seek election

Chancellor

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101 and

30 years of age

A resident of the state for 5 years

A resident of the circuit or district for one year

Authorized to practice law in the courts of Tennessee

Circuit Court Judge/Criminal Court Judge

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101 and

30 years of age

A resident of the state for 5 years

A resident of the circuit or district for 1 year

Authorized to practice law in the courts of Tennessee

General Sessions Judge/Juvenile Court Judge

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101

30 years of age

A resident of the state for 5 years

A resident of the circuit or district for one year

Authorized to practice law in the courts of Tennessee

District Attorney General

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101 and

A resident of the state for 5 years

A resident of the circuit or district for one year

District Public Defender

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101

A resident of the state for 5 years

A resident of the district for one year

Authorized to practice law in the courts of Tennessee

County Offices

County Mayor

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101 and

A qualified voter of the county

25 years of age

A resident of the county for 1 year prior to filing a nominating petition

Must continue to reside in the county during the term of office

Cannot hold any other public office for profit

County Commissioner

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101 and

A qualified voter

A resident of the district from which they seek election one year prior to the election

A registered voter in that district on the date they file their nominating petition.

Sheriff

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101

Cannot be a member of the general assembly

Cannot be a practicing attorney

25 years of age prior to qualifying

A qualified voter

Have obtained a high school diploma or GED

Have not been convicted of or pleaded guilty to or entered a plea of nolo contendere to any felony charge or any violation of any federal or state laws or city ordinances relating to force, violence, theft, dishonesty, gambling, liquor or controlled substances or a crime of domestic violence

Have been fingerprinted, under the direction of the Tn. Bureau of Investigation, and the TBI has made a search of local, state and federal files for any criminal record

Have not been released, separated or discharged from any branch of the armed forces with a dishonorable or bad conduct discharge or as a consequence of conviction or court martial for either state or federal offenses

Have been certified by a qualified professional in the psychiatric or psychological fields to be free of all apparent mental disorder as described in the latest edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of

Mental Disorders

Possess a current and valid POST certification issued within 12 months of the qualifying deadline for the office

Trustee

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101
Shall reside within the county

Register of Deeds

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101
Shall reside within the county

Court Clerks

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101
Shall reside in the county

Assessor of Property

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101
Shall reside in the county
Cannot be a member of the county legislative body

School Board Member

Basic qualifications of TCA 8-18-101
A resident and registered voter of the district from which they seek election on the date they file a nominating petition

Shall have been a resident of the district one year prior to the election
Shall have obtained a high school diploma

No member of the County Commission or any other public official or employee of the Board of Education shall be eligible

City of Knoxville Offices

Mayor of Knoxville

Basic qualifications of 8-18-101. At least 25 years of age. Shall have been a resident of Knoxville for one year preceding the deadline for qualifying for election. Shall reside within the city during the term.

City Council

At least 21 years of age. Shall have been a resident of Knoxville for one year prior to taking office. Shall reside within the city during the term.