



MEMORANDUM

TO: Candidates for the 2020 City Council Election

FROM: Jannette Goodall, City Clerk

DATE: May 1, 2020

SUBJECT: Candidacy Requirements for the City of Austin

City of Austin City Charter Article II, Section 2 and Texas Election Code, Section 141.001 outline the eligibility requirements for public office. *See also* Tex. Election Code § 141.003. To be eligible to be a candidate for, or elected or appointed to, a public elective office, a person must:

- 1) be a United States citizen;
- 2) be 18 years of age or older on the first day of the term to be filled at the election or on the date of appointment, as applicable;
- 3) have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be:
 - totally mentally incapacitated; or
 - partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote;
- 4) have not been finally convicted of a felony from which the person has not been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities;
- 5) have resided continuously in the state for 12 months and in the territory from which the office is elected for six months immediately preceding the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot; and
- 6) on the date described by the preceding item "5)", be registered to vote in the territory from which the office is elected.

Texas Election Code, Section 143.007(a) states that an application may not be filed earlier than the 30th day before the date of the filing deadline. Texas Election Code, Section 143.007(c) states that for an election to be held on a uniform election date, the day of the filing deadline is the 78th day before Election Day.

The election date is November 3, 2020; the 78th day before the election date is August 17, 2020. Therefore, the first day for filing is the 30th day preceding, that being Saturday, July 18, 2020. Regular business hours for the Office of the City Clerk are Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Therefore, the first day to file in person is Monday, July 20, 2020. The filing location is the Office of the City Clerk located at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas 78701; Fax number 512-974-2374. The last day a candidate may file is Monday, August 17, 2020 at 5 p.m.

Any candidate filing for a place on the ballot must be registered to vote in the territory from which the office is elected (registered to vote within the City of Austin in the mayor's race or registered to vote within the council district boundaries for council member races). Voter registration is effective on the 30th day after the date the voter registration application is submitted to the voter registrar.

Any citizen interested in running for City Council who is not currently a registered voter in the district for which he or she is running must **submit a voter registration application** to the appropriate County Voter Registrar's Office **at least 30 days prior to filing an application for place on the ballot**. Any candidate who is a registered voter is encouraged to confirm his or her voter registration information to ensure that the voter registration information is current and accurate. Information on becoming a registered voter can be located at:

Travis County: <https://tax-office.traviscountytexas.gov/voters>

Williamson County: <http://www.wilco.org/Departments/Elections/Voter-Registration>

Hays County: <https://hayscountytexas.com/departments/elections/>