FACT SHEET

Information for Unaffiliated Candidates
2012 Election

Once qualified to be placed on the ballot, all unaffiliated candidates shall pay a filing fee equal to that provided for candidates for that office filing a notice of candidacy.

The petition form to be used can be found on the State Board of elections website or provided to you by the State Board.

N.C. Resident Voters Running for U.S. Senate, Governor and other state-wide offices. ***(§163-122)*** Any qualified voter who seeks to have his/her name printed on the general election ballot as an unaffiliated candidate shall file a petition with the SBE by 12:00 Noon on the last Friday in June (**June 29, 2012**) preceding the general election. This petition must be signed by two percent (2%) of the total number of registered voters who voted in the most recent general election for Governor (85,379 signatures). Also, the petition must be signed by at least 200 registered voters from each of four congressional districts in North Carolina. Verification of the petition names by the chairman of the county board of elections shall be completed within two weeks from the date the petitions are presented to the county board of elections at least 15 days prior to the June 29th SBE deadline . After the county verification, the petitions are returned to the candidate who must then file the verified petitions with the SBE by **June 29, 2012** at noon.

N.C. Resident Voters Running for U.S. House. ***(§163-122)*** Any qualified voter who seeks to have his/her name printed on the general election ballot as an unaffiliated candidate shall file a petition with the SBE by 12:00 Noon on the last Friday in June (**June 29, 2012**) preceding the general election. This petition must be signed by 4% of the registered voters in the district as reflected in the voter registration records of the State Board of Elections as of January 1, 2012. Contact the SBE for that figure after that date. Verification of the petition names by the chairman of the county board of elections shall be completed within two weeks from the date the petitions are presented to the county board of elections at least 15 days prior to the June 29th SBE deadline . After the county verification, the petitions are returned to the candidate who must then file the verified petitions with the SBE by **June 29, 2012** at noon.

Residents Running for State House and State Senate district offices comprised of parts or all of two or more counties. ***(§163-122)*** Any qualified voter who seeks to have his/her name printed on the general election ballot as an unaffiliated candidate shall file a petition with the SBE by 12:00 Noon on the last Friday in June (**June 29, 2012**) preceding the general election. This petition must be signed by four percent (4%) of the total number of registered voters in the district as reflected by the voter registration records of the State Board of Elections as of January 1, 2012. Contact the SBE for that figure after that date. Verification of the petition names by the chairman of the county board of elections shall be completed within two weeks from the date the petitions

are presented to the county board of elections at least 15 days prior to the June 29th SBE deadline . After the county verification, the petitions are returned to the candidate who must then file the verified petitions with the SBE by **June 29, 2012** at noon.

Residents Running for State House and State Senate district offices comprised of parts of or all of only one county and all other county offices. ***(§163-122)*** Any qualified voter who seeks to have his/her name printed on the general election ballot as an unaffiliated candidate shall file a petition with the appropriate county board of elections by 12:00 Noon on the last Friday in June **(June 29, 2012)** preceding the general election. This petition must be signed by qualified voters equal in number to four percent (4%) of the total number of registered voters in the legislative district (for legislative offices) or the entire county (for county offices) according to the voter registration records of the State Board of Elections as of January 1, 2012. Contact the county board of elections for the exact figure after that date. Verification by the chairman of the county board of elections shall be completed within two weeks from the date the petitions are presented.

Requirements for Campaign Reporting Filing *(§163-278.9)* The Campaign Reporting Act requires financial disclosure of all political activities. Law provides that reports are due to be filed at the State Board of Elections Campaign Reporting Office for candidates in the 2012 Elections. The time of filing of these reports and the types of reports will vary by the type of campaign. Every candidate will be responsible for their compliance with campaign finance mandates. A Candidate Campaign Finance Manual is available on-line on the SBE website. It is required that all campaign committee treasurers receive training in handling campaign finance reports and law. This can be accomplished on-line or in-person at numerous training sessions being offered.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT: An **organizational report** must be filed with the State Board of Elections within ten days of becoming a candidate. Being a candidate includes taking positive action for the purpose of obtaining nomination or being elected, soliciting or receiving contributions, making expenditures to enhance a campaign, or filing a notice of candidacy, whichever comes first. The report can be found on-line and the Campaign Finance Division is available to help you with the filing.

Are there other filings required of Legislative candidates? North Carolina General Statute § 138A-22(d), as part of the State Government Ethics Act requires that certain "covered persons" file a statement of economic interest at the time they file for office. Currently, Legislative candidates would be considered such "covered persons". As to who is "covered" please see GS §138A-11 and refer to the State Ethics Commission. You may obtain copies of this candidate statement of economic interest form from the State Ethics Commission or a board of elections.