



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File ID: 2019-4827

Substitute

1/14/2020

Public Hearing: YES NO

Department: Voter Registration & Elections

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All Districts

Establishing Qualifying Fees for Public Office

Information Contact: Erica Hamilton, Voter Registration and Elections

Phone Number: 404.298.4040

PURPOSE:

To set the qualifying fees for each county office to be filled in the upcoming primaries and elections as required by O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131.

NEED/IMPACT:

O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131 requires the governing authority of any county, not later than February 1 of any year in which a primary, nonpartisan election, or general election is to be held, to fix and publish a qualifying fee for each county office to be filled in the upcoming primary or election.

County Commissioners and Chairs

Qualifying fees to run for the offices of Chief Executive Officer and Board of Commissioners must be set at 3% of the base salary set pursuant to the 2018 Salary Ordinance. For purposes of calculating the qualifying fees for these offices, base salaries are not adjusted to include supplements, cost-of-living increases, or longevity increases.

Constitutional County Officers and Magistrates

Qualifying fees to run for the offices of superior court clerk, probate judge, sheriff, tax commissioner and chief magistrate must be set at 3% of the minimum base salary specified by state law based on the county's 2010 population. For purposes of calculating the qualifying fees for these offices, base salaries are not adjusted to include supplements, cost-of-living increases, or longevity increases.

All Other Elected County Officers

Qualifying fees to run for the office of solicitor, state court judge, and school board member is 3% of the total gross salary of the office paid in 2019, including all supplements authorized by law. If the elected official is not paid a salary, the commissioners must set a fee that is not more than 3 percent of the income that the elected official earned from the office in 2019.



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FISCAL IMPACT:

The fees collected by the county superintendent are applied to the cost of holding the elections, except that a portion of fees paid by a person qualifying as a candidate of a political party are paid to the political party as set forth in O.C. G.A. § 21-2-131.

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve and set the qualifying fees for each county office to be filled in the upcoming elections as set forth in the attached schedule.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Qualifying Fee</u>
Chief Executive Office	\$166,478.40	\$4,994.35
Board of Commissioners	\$ 64,741.60	\$1,942.25
Chief Magistrate	\$109,425.84	\$3,282.78
Clerk of Superior Court	\$109,425.84	\$3,282.78
Sheriff	\$114,040.36	\$3,421.21
Tax Commissioner	\$109,425.84	\$3,282.78
Solicitor	\$167,614.80	\$5,028.44
Probate Judge	\$109,425.84	\$3,282.78
Judge, State Court of DeKalb County	\$167,614.80	\$5,028.44
Associate Judge, State Court of DeKalb (Traffic Division)	\$148,990.92	\$4,469.73
Board of Education	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 540.00