

SB165 INTRODUCED



1 SB165
2 YMEKWN6-1
3 By Senator Jones
4 RFD: County and Municipal Government
5 First Read: 14-Jan-26



4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, the governing body of a
6 Class 4 municipality with a mayor-council form of
7 government has the authority to set, by ordinance,
8 qualification fees for candidates participating in its
9 municipal elections.

10 This bill would allow the governing body of a
11 Class 4 municipality to set qualification fees for
12 mayoral candidates at \$500 and qualification fees for
13 council member and municipal board of education member
14 candidates at \$250.

15 Under existing law, an indigent candidate is
16 exempt from paying qualification fees upon filing a
17 statement signed by three other people verifying the
18 indigent candidate cannot afford to pay the
19 qualification fees.

20 This bill would require indigent candidates to
21 provide documentation showing that their gross income
22 does not exceed 130 percent of the federal poverty
23 level in order to receive an exemption from
24 qualification fees.

25
26
27 A BILL
28 TO BE ENTITLED



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AN ACT

Relating to elections; to amend Section 11-43B-4, Code of Alabama 1975; to further provide for qualification fees for municipal elections in certain Class 4 municipalities; to require indigent candidates to submit certain documentation to qualify for fee exemptions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 11-43B-4, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§11-43B-4

(a) The initial elections provided for ~~herein in this chapter~~, and all subsequent elections, shall be conducted, the vote canvassed, the results declared, and those elected assume the duties of their offices in the same manner as provided by the general law of the state pertaining to municipal elections for mayor-council forms of government, except as otherwise provided by state statute.

(b) (1) The mayor shall be elected by the whole of the electors of the city and shall have been a resident of the city for at least 90 days prior to his or her election.

(2) Council members shall be elected by the electors of the district which they represent, ~~and~~ and shall have been residents of the district which they represent for at least 90 days prior to their election.

(c) (1) Any ~~person individual~~ desiring to become a candidate for mayor, ~~or council member~~, or member of the municipal board of education ~~must~~, at the time of filing a



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statement of candidacy, shall pay to the city clerk the qualifying fee to be set by ordinance. Notwithstanding Section 11-46-2, the qualifying fee for mayoral candidates shall be five hundred dollars (\$500), and the qualifying fee for council member and municipal board of education member candidates shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(2) If any ~~person~~ individual desiring to become a candidate for mayor, ~~or~~ or council member, or member of the municipal board of education is financially unable to pay the filing fee, then that ~~person~~ individual shall be exempted from the fee upon attesting that the individual has a gross income that does not exceed 130 percent of the federal poverty level and filing with the city clerk a copy of the individual's most recent federal tax return. ~~verified statements from three city electors that said candidate is indigent and not financially capable of paying the fee.~~

(d) Within 30 days after the election, every candidate shall file with the city clerk a sworn statement of all election campaign expenses and of each ~~person~~ individual, firm, or corporation which has contributed funds, itemized for all expenditures and contributions of one hundred dollars (\$100-~~00~~) or more."

Section 2. This act shall become effective immediately.