



2026 Fort Pierce Municipal Election

Primary Election Day – August 18, 2026
(Early voting August 8, 2026 - August 15, 2026)

General Election Day – November 3, 2026
(Early voting October 19, 2026 – November 1, 2026)

Qualifying Period:

Monday, June 8, 2026 at NOON -
Friday, June 12, 2026 at NOON

*Note: Qualifying papers will be accepted beginning May 25, 2026,
pursuant to Section 99.061(8), F.S.*

Please make an appointment for Qualifying.

Contact:

Linda W. Cox
City Clerk

lcx@cityoffortpierce.com

467-3065



Dear Candidate:

Welcome to the City of Fort Pierce 2026 Election and congratulations on your decision to run for public office!

You are about to participate in a process that comes with great commitment. I hope to provide you with as much information as I can to assist with your campaign; however, to understand the specifics of the election process, it is important that you familiarize yourself with the Florida Election Laws, City Charter and City Code of Ordinances.

This packet offers a brief overview of the election process and is not intended to provide you with all of the information you need to know as a candidate. A full understanding of the election process is the responsibility of the candidate. Please review your election packet thoroughly so you have a clear understanding of the process and your responsibilities. Knowing the rules will save you time and money, and will keep your campaign open and fair. All forms are public records and open to all for inspection. Also, keep in mind that election laws are subject to change by the Florida Legislature.

The City Clerk's office is ready to assist you whenever we can. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions. If we do not have an immediate answer for you, we will research by whatever means available to get one for you.

Congratulations on your decision to run for public office. The City Clerk's staff wishes you a successful campaign.

Sincerely,

Linda W. Cox
City Clerk

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

PRIOR TO QUALIFYING

1. **FIRST STEP IN THE PROCESS:** The Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates is the first document to be filed with the City Clerk (filing officer). File Form DS-DE-9 with City Clerk. (F.S. 106.021). Once this form is filed, you may open your campaign account. You should not collect any contributions or make any expenditures until this form is properly filed. I recommend that you appoint a Treasurer and a Deputy Treasurer.
2. Open Campaign Account at any bank, savings and loan association, or credit union authorized to transact business in this state.
3. Obtain campaign checks "Campaign Account of (name of candidate)". (F.S. 106.11)
4. The Statement of Candidate Form, Form DS-DE-84, must be filed within ten (10) calendar days after Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository is filed indicating that the candidate read and understood Chapter 106 of the Florida Statutes.
5. The Supervisor of Elections allows all candidates to use their web site to post a photograph and biographical information. Visit www.slcelections.com or contact them at (772) 462-5633 to register.

QUALIFYING CHECKLIST:

1. The Qualifying Period begins at Noon, Monday, June 8, 2026 and ends at Noon, Friday, August 22, 2025. These dates and times are strictly enforced, and not flexible. The City Clerk's computer clock is the official clock for compliance purposes. (Sec. 63, City Charter)
2. Candidates must fill out and sign a Declaration of Candidacy form FP1. Form must state the District and Seat for which you are seeking election, your name as you wish it to appear on the Ballot and an address.
3. Every candidate for office shall take, sign, and subscribe to two (2) oaths which will be administered at time of Qualifying in the City Clerk's Office.
 - a. Candidate Oath Form DS-DE 302NP
 - b. Oath of Candidate Form FP4 (Sec. 65, City Charter)
3. Candidates must submit two (2) checks at the time of filing the Declaration of Candidacy.
 - (a) A check in the amount of \$25.00 for filing Fee drawn on your Campaign Account is required pursuant to Article VI, Sec. 63 of the City Charter. The fee is non-refundable.
 - (b) Candidate for Commissioner - Bring Check drawn on Campaign Account in the amount of \$381.60 for Election Assessment Fee. (F.S. 99.093(1)) The Election Assessment Fee is 1% of Annual Salary, including car allowance.
4. File Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests. Proof of electronic filing required.. (F.S. 112.3145(2)(a))
5. Proof of Residency. Article VI, Section 63 of the City Charter requires any qualified elector of the City seeking the office of mayor-commissioner or commissioner to be a resident of the City of Fort Pierce for at least two (2) years prior to the date of the election for which the elector becomes a candidate. Pursuant to Code of Ordinance, Chapter 12, Sec. 12-7(d), satisfactory proof of having met the residency requirements of the City Charter shall include submission of at least two of the following items, in the name of the candidate, for the two-year period prior to the date of the election for which the candidate is qualifying: homestead exemption documentation, a lease for residential property, a utility bill which reflects usage of utilities at a level indicating actual residence, a voter registration card, a Florida driver's license, or a Florida identification card. For purposes of meeting the residency requirements of this section sublease agreements are unacceptable. Candidates shall also submit documentation that they are a qualified elector.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSIONER: (Charter Sec. 63)

1. Qualified Elector of the City (Registered to Vote)
2. Continuous residence in the district for two years prior to the date of the election for which he or she may become a candidate.
3. Mayor may reside in any District (Seat 1). Two commissioners must reside in District 1 (Seats 3 and 5) and two commissioners must reside in District 2 (Seats 2 and 4).

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AS OF 5/2/2022- (Sec. 12-6 of City Code)

DISTRICT 1 - Seats 3 and 5 (North and West of Dividing Line)

DISTRICT 2 - Seats 2 and 4 (South and East of Dividing Line and Island)

The dividing line between the two election districts, formerly known as qualifying districts, shall be and is hereby established as the centerline of that portion of Okeechobee Road, beginning from the western boundary of the city and running east to Virginia Avenue; thence along the centerline of that portion of Virginia Avenue running east from Okeechobee Road to South 13th Street; thence along the centerline of that portion of South 13th Street running north to Georgia Avenue; thence along the centerline of Georgia Avenue running east to 4th Street (U.S. Highway 1); thence along the centerline of 4th Street (U.S. Highway 1) running north to the north city limits.

OTHER HELPFUL LINKS

Candidates should be familiar with the Fort Pierce Charter which can be found at:

<http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=10303>

Also important is the “Guide to the Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees” which can be viewed at:

<https://www.ethics.state.fl.us/Documents/Publications/GuideBookletInternet.pdf?cp=2026223>

GENERAL INFORMATION
Open Seats
<p>The purpose of the upcoming election will be to fill the following seats, currently held by:</p> <p>City Commission District #1, Seat #5, Arnold Gaines City Commission District #2, Seat #4, Michael Broderick</p>
Qualifying Period
<p>Monday, June 8, 2026 at NOON - Friday, June 12, 2026 at NOON</p> <p>When you are prepared to qualify, please make an appointment with the City Clerk by calling 467-3065 or email at LCox@CityofFortPierce.com.</p> <p>The Qualifying Officer may accept and hold qualifying papers for 14 days prior to the qualifying period, which is May 25, 2026.</p>
Voter Registration Deadline
<p>October 5, 2026</p>
Fees
<p>Filing Fee: \$25.00 Election Assessment Fee: \$381.60</p>
Resign to Run (F.S. 99.012)
<p>Deadline: Friday, May 29, 2026 - Written resignation must be submitted at least 10 days prior to the first day of qualifying for the office he/she intends to seek.</p>