

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Democratic Party to qualify candidates January 5-23

Democratic Candidate Qualifying dates for the 2026 Election were set by the Shelby County Democratic Executive Committee to begin Monday, January 5, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., simultaneously with the Democratic state party, and end Friday, January 23, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in accordance with Alabama election law.

Candidates seeking a county spot on the Democratic Primary ballot must qualify with County Chair Marsha Sturdevant. The county ballot positions include sheriff, coroner, property tax commissioner, county school board member seat 1, and county superintendent. Candidates for a four-year term on the Shelby County Democratic Executive Committee also qualify locally with Dr. Sturdevant..

The county qualifying fee for partisan elected offices is set at zero. Shelby County Executive Committee candidates' qualifying fee is \$25. You can request candidate qualifying information for a county ballot position at shelbycountydems65@gmail.com.

All other ballot positions including state senate, state house district representatives, judges, and candidates to the State Democratic Executive Committee (SDEC) are qualified through the state party's election portal at aldemocrats.org. The state party's qualifying fee is two percent of the annual salary of the position. SDEC candidates may be required to pay a \$50.00 qualifying fee.

Dr. Sturdevant said that, since last Spring, hundreds of Democratic candidates across the state have already declared their candidacies and begun campaigning.

"The current political landscape is complicated and an excellent opportunity for Democrats to gain ground in Alabama. We're here to help," she said.

The Democratic Primary Election will take place on May 19, 2026.