



2025 REGULAR LOCAL ELECTION

FAQ'S

****DISCLAIMER**** The City of Santa Fe and the City of Santa Fe's Attorney's Office is not providing legal advice to any particular candidate.

Question: I want to be a candidate in the 2025 Regular Local Election, what do I need to do?

Answer:

1. Reside and be a registered voter within the Santa Fe City Limits.
2. For City Councilor, confirm your City Council District.
3. Fill out, sign, and return to the City Clerk, the Declaration of Candidacy Form.
4. If you are seeking to become a publicly financed candidate, fill out, sign and return to the City Clerk, the Declaration of Intent to Use Public Campaign Financing Form.
5. Familiarize yourself with the rules and regulations regarding the Regular Local Election. [NM Statutes Annotated](#), [Santa Fe Municipal Charter](#) and, [Santa Fe City Code](#).

Question: If I want to run a privately financed campaign, what do I need to do?

Answer:

1. Obtain the required number of signatures needed for the Nominating Petitions in accordance with Section [4.03](#) of the Santa Fe Municipal Charter.
2. Refer to the [Santa Fe County Clerk's website](#) for the Declaration Form and follow the process as required by SFCC Section [9-1.6\(C\)](#).

Question: Do I need to schedule a meeting with the City Clerk to be a candidate?

Answer: No, it is not necessary. You may retrieve all the information and forms from the City Clerk's Election page on our [website](#). Please submit all forms to Andréa Salazar, City Clerk/Director of Community Engagement at asalazar@santafenm.gov and Geralyn

Cardenas, Deputy City Clerk at gfcardenas@santafenm.gov. If you would like to schedule a meeting with the City Clerk, you may do so by calling our office at 505-955-6521.

Question: How does Rank Choice Voting affect my campaign?

Answer: If you are running in an uncontested race, Rank Choice Voting will not affect your campaign. If you are running in a contested race where there are 3 or more candidates, Rank Choice Voting does affect your campaign. Please refer to SFCC Section [9-1.7](#) for information on Ranked Choice Voting.

Question: What is Seed Money?

Answer: See Section [9-3.6](#) of the Santa Fe City Code.

Question: When can I start collecting \$5 contributions to qualify for Public Campaign Financing?

Answer: During the qualifying period under SFCC Section [9-2.3\(V\)](#), which is May 5, 2025, through July 21, 2025. See SFCC Section [9-3.7](#) for all information regarding Qualifying Contributions.

Question: What are Matching Funds for Publicly Financed Candidates?

Answer: Please refer to SFCC Section [9-3.13](#).

Question: How much money can I get as a Public Financed Candidate?

Answer: Please see SFCC Section [9-3.10](#)

- (1) Sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) for a candidate in a contested race for the office of mayor;
- (2) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) for a candidate in a contested race for the office of city councilor;
- (3) Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) for a candidate in a contested race for the office of municipal judge; or
- (4) For a candidate in an uncontested race, ten percent (10%) of the amount would be due to a candidate in a contested race for the same office.

Question: May a publicly financed candidate coordinate with a political committee (PAC)?

Answer: No. A publicly financed candidate must aver under oath that the candidate has accepted no contributions nor made any expenditures to the candidate's current campaign (other than qualifying and seed money contributions). See 9-3.8.B below. A contribution includes "a loan, loan guarantee, gift, advance, pledge, contract, agreement or promise of

money or anything of value or other obligation, whether or not these items are legally enforceable, made directly or indirectly, to a candidate or political committee” and a coordinated expenditure includes “an expenditure that is made: (1) By an individual or entity other than a candidate or the candidate’s political committee, and (2) In cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate his/her representatives or agents or the candidate’s political committee” See SFCC 9-2.3.L

9-3.8 - Application for certification as a publicly financed candidate.

A. A candidate who wishes to be certified as a publicly financed candidate shall, before the end of the qualifying period, file an application for such certification with the city clerk on a form prescribed by the city clerk.

B. The application shall identify the candidate and the office that the candidate is seeking and shall set forth the following:

(1) The candidate's averment under oath that the candidate satisfies the requisites for qualification and certification as a publicly financed candidate prescribed by subsection 9-3.5 SFCC 1987;

(2) **The candidate's averment under oath that the candidate has accepted no contributions to the candidate's current campaign other than qualifying contributions and seed money contributions solicited and accepted pursuant to subsections 9-3.6 SFCC 1987 and 9-3.7 SFCC 1987;**

(3) **The candidate's averment under oath that the candidate has made no expenditures for his or her current campaign from any source other than seed money contributions;** and

(4) The candidate's agreement that his or her current campaign will not solicit, direct, or accept any further contributions or make any further expenditures from any sources other than payments received from the fund pursuant to subsections 9-3.10 and 9-3.13 SFCC 1987 and qualified small contributions received pursuant to subsection 9-3.12 SFCC 1987.

Question: When does seed money need to be spent?

Answer: Under SFCC 9-2.14, “all seed money contributions that have not been spent or used for such purposes [to defray expenses incurred in obtaining qualifying contributions and in seeking certification as a publicly financed candidate] by the time the candidate applies for certification as a publicly financed candidate or by the end of the qualifying period, whichever is sooner, shall then be paid over to the City Clerk for deposit in the fund.” So a publicly financed candidate must spend all seed money the sooner of when the candidate is certified as a publicly financed candidate or by the end of the qualifying period.

Question: Can privately financed candidates be associated with a PAC?

Answer: Yes

Question: Can a candidate running in the Regular Local Election use the City of Santa Fe’s Official Seal for their campaign materials and media outlets.

Answer: No candidate may use the City of Santa Fe’s Official Seal for campaigning.

Nominating Petition deadline for candidates seeking Public Campaign Financing is July 21st, 2025, before 5:00 PM.

Nominating Petition deadline for candidates running a Privately Financed Campaign is August 26, 2025, and should be turned into the Santa Fe County Clerk.