



La Plata County
Colorado

Candidate Qualifications

General Requirements for County Elected Offices and Access to the Ballot

The La Plata County Clerk and Recorder have prepared this summary to outline La Plata County candidate qualifications and access to the ballot. This document provides a general overview of candidate qualifications and should be used as a reference guide only. Always refer to the Colorado Constitution and Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) for applicable laws.

General Requirements

County Assessor

Term of Office [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 8; 1-4-206 C.R.S.; 30-10-801 C.R.S.]

4 years

Minimum Age Requirement [1-4-501(1) C.R.S.]

18 years of age

Residency Requirement [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 10]

Registered elector and resident of the county for at least 1 year prior to the election

Citizenship [1-2-101(a) C.R.S.]

U.S. Citizen

County Clerk and Recorder

Term of Office [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 8; 1-4-206 C.R.S.]

4 years

Minimum Age Requirement [1-4-501(1) C.R.S.]

18 years of age

Residency Requirement [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 10]

Registered elector and resident of the county for at least 1 year prior to the election

Citizenship [1-2-101(a) C.R.S.]

U.S. Citizen

County Commissioner

Number of County Commissioner Seats [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 6; 1-4-205(2) C.R.S.]

La Plata County has three (3) seats.

- One seat is elected at the General Election beginning in 1982 and every 4 years thereafter
- Two seats are elected at the General Election beginning in 1984 and every 4 years thereafter
- For the 2014 General Election, County Commissioner District #1 will be elected

Term of Office

[Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 6; 1-4-205(1)(a) C.R.S.]

4 years – 2 term limits

Minimum Age Requirement [1-4-501(1) C.R.S.]

18 years of age

Residency Requirement [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 10; 1-4-205(1)(b) C.R.S.]

Registered elector and resident of the district for at least 1 year prior to the election

Citizenship [1-2-101(a) C.R.S.]

U.S. Citizen

County Coroner

Term of Office [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 8; 1-4-206 C.R.S.; 30-10-601(b) C.R.S.]

4 years

Minimum Age Requirement [1-4-501(1) C.R.S.]

18 years of age

Residency Requirement [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 10]

Registered elector and resident of the county for at least 1 year prior to the election

Citizenship [1-2-101(a) C.R.S.]

U.S. Citizen

Education Requirement [30-10-601.5(b) C.R.S.]

Possess a high school diploma or its equivalent or a college degree

Other Requirements [30-10-601.5(2) and (3)(b) C.R.S.]

- Complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency and submit proof of such fingerprinting when filing a written acceptance
- A person who has been convicted of or pleaded guilty or entered a plea of nolo contendere to any felony charge under federal or state law is unqualified for the office of coroner unless pardoned.

County Sheriff

Term of Office [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 8; 1-4-206 C.R.S.; 30-10-501 C.R.S.]

4 years

Minimum Age Requirement [1-4-501(1) C.R.S.]

18 years of age

Residency Requirement [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 10; 30-10-501.5(a) C.R.S.]

Registered elector and resident of the county for at least 1 year prior to the election

Citizenship [1-2-101(a) C.R.S.]

U.S. Citizen

Education Requirement [30-10-501.5(b) C.R.S.]

Possess a high school diploma or its equivalent or a college degree

Other Requirements [30-10-501.5(c) C.R.S.]

- Complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency and submit a receipt evidencing such fingerprinting at the time of filing his or her written acceptance or candidate affidavit
- A person who has been convicted of or pleaded guilty or entered a plea of nolo contendere to any felony charge under federal or state law is unqualified for the office of sheriff unless pardoned.

County Surveyor

Term of Office [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 8; 1-4-206 C.R.S.; 30-10-901 C.R.S.]

4 years

Minimum Age Requirement [1-4-501(1) C.R.S.]

18 years of age

Residency Requirement [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 10]

Registered elector and resident of the county for at least 1 year prior to the election

Citizenship [1-2-101(a) C.R.S.]

U.S. Citizen

Education Requirement [30-10-901 C.R.S.]

Professional land surveyor

County Treasurer

Term of Office [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 8; 1-4-206 C.R.S.; 30-10-701 C.R.S.]

4 years

Minimum Age Requirement [1-4-501(1) C.R.S.]

18 years of age

Residency Requirement [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 10]

Registered elector and resident of the county for at least 1 year prior to the election

Citizenship [1-2-101(a) C.R.S.]

U.S. Citizen

Access to Ballot

All candidates for nominations to be made at any primary election shall be placed on the primary election ballot either by certificate of designation by party assembly or by petition. [1-4-102 C.R.S.]

Certificate of Designation by Party Assembly

- Assembly of major political parties shall be held no later than 73 days preceding the primary election. [1-4-601(1) C.R.S.]
- A candidate must receive 30% or more of the votes of the assembly. [1-4-103 C.R.S.]
- If no candidate receives 30% or more of the votes cast, a second ballot shall be cast on all the candidates for that office by the assembly. If on the 2nd ballot no candidate receives 30% or more of the votes cast, the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be certified as candidates for that office by the assembly. [1-4-601(2) C.R.S.]
- No person is eligible for designation by assembly as a candidate for nomination at any primary election unless the person has been affiliated with the political party holding the assembly, as shown on the registration books of the county clerk and recorder, no later than the first business day of the January immediately preceding the primary election, unless otherwise provided by party rules. [1-4-601(4)(a) C.R.S.]
- Certificate of designation by assembly must be filed no later than 4 days after the adjournment of the assembly [1-4-604(3) C.R.S.]
- A candidate designated by the assembly shall file a written acceptance with the county clerk and recorder no later than 4 days after the adjournment of the assembly. [1-4-601(3)(a) C.R.S.]

Political Party Petition

Petition Requirements [1-4-801(1) C.R.S.]

- Name of office for which the person is a candidate
- Candidate's name and address
- Political Party that the candidate represents

Signature Requirements

- Must be signed by eligible electors within the political subdivision for which the office is to be elected. [1-4-801(2)(a) C.R.S.]
- Signers equal in number to 20% of the votes cast in the political subdivision at the contested or uncontested primary election for the political party's candidate for the office for which the petition is being circulated or, if there was no primary election, at the last preceding general election for which there was a candidate for the office. [1-4-801(2)(a) C.R.S.]

Additional Information

- No person shall be placed in nomination by petition on behalf of any political party unless the person has been affiliated with the political party, as shown on the registration books of the county clerk and recorder, no later than the first business day of the January immediately preceding the election for which the person desires to be placed in nomination. [1-4-801(3) C.R.S.]
- No person who attempted and failed to receive at least 10% of the votes for the nomination of a political party assembly for a particular office shall be placed in nomination by petition on behalf of the political party for the same office. [1-4-801(4) C.R.S.]
- Party petitions shall not be circulated nor any signatures be obtained prior to the first Monday in February. Petitions shall be filed no later than 85 days before the primary election. [1-4-801(5) C.R.S.]
- Candidates by petition follow assembly candidates and are placed on the primary election ballot in an order established by lot. [1-4-103 C.R.S.]
- Petitions are filed with the county clerk and recorder

Petitions for Minor Party or Unaffiliated Candidates

Petition Requirements [1-4-802(1)(a) C.R.S.]

- Name and address of candidate
- Name of minor political party or designate in not more than 3 words the political or other name to identify an unaffiliated candidate

Signature Requirements

- Shall be signed by eligible electors residing within the district or political subdivision in which the office is to be elected.
- Number of required signatures: The lesser of 750 or 2% of the votes cast for all candidates for that office in the most recent general election for any county office [1-4-802(c) C.R.S.]

Additional Information

- No petition to nominate an unaffiliated candidate shall be circulated or any signatures obtained thereon earlier than 211 days before the general election. [1-4-802(1)(d)(I) C.R.S.]
- No petition to nominate a minor political party candidate shall be circulated nor any signatures obtained thereon earlier than the first Monday in February in the general election year [1-4-802(1)(d)(II) C.R.S.]
- Petitions (for unaffiliated candidates) shall be filed no later than 3:00 p.m. on the 155th day before the general election [1-4-802(1)(f)(I)]
- Petitions to nominate candidates of minor political parties shall be filed no later than 85 days before the primary election [1-4-802(1)(f)(II)]

- No person shall be placed in nomination by petition unless the person is an eligible elector of the political subdivision or district in which the officer is to be elected and was registered as affiliated with a minor political party or unaffiliated, as shown on the registration books of the county clerk and recorder, no later than the first business day of the January immediately preceding the general election for which the person desires to be placed in nomination. [1-4-802(1)(g)(II)]
- Petitions are filed with the county clerk and recorder

Write-In Candidates

- Affidavit of intent shall be filed stating candidate desires the office and is qualified to assume duties, if elected
- Affidavit of intent shall be filed with the county clerk and recorder if it is for a county office
- Affidavit of intent shall be filed by the close of business on the 67th day before the primary election and by the close of business on the 110th day before any other election. [1-4-1102 C.R.S.]

Refer to the Colorado Secretary of State's website for Campaign Finance information and the 2014 election calendar. www.sos.state.co.us

Please contact us at 970-382-6296 for any additional questions.