

Who Can Serve?

Compare qualifications for offices at three levels of government.

SS.7.CG.2.7 "Identify the constitutional qualifications required to hold local, state, and national office."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every age, citizenship or elector, and residency qualification in the passage. Write N, S, or L in the margin beside each set of qualifications to show whether it applies to national, state, or local office.

Rules Before the Race

- ① Running for office means meeting rules before voters choose a winner. The U.S. Constitution sets qualifications for national offices. A representative must be at least 25, a U.S. citizen for seven years, and an inhabitant of the state when elected. A senator must be at least 30, a citizen for nine years, and an inhabitant of the state when elected. The president must be at least 35, a natural-born citizen, and a U.S. resident for 14 years.
- ② State offices follow the state constitution. In Florida, a candidate for governor must be at least 30, a qualified elector, and a Florida resident for the previous seven years. A candidate for the Florida Legislature must be at least 21, a qualified elector, and a resident of Florida for the previous two years. The candidate also must live in the district represented when elected. These rules differ from the national requirements and help voters compare offices.
- ③ Local offices can have different qualifications because counties, cities, and school districts use Florida law and local charters. Many local candidates must be qualified electors and live in the area they seek to serve. For example, a city charter may require a council candidate to live in a particular city district. To check a local race, read the local charter and election rules. Do not assume that the president's, governor's, or legislator's qualifications apply to a mayor or commissioner.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Jordan is 31, has been a U.S. citizen for eight years, and lives in the state Jordan wants to represent. Can Jordan run for the U.S. Senate? Explain.

2 A candidate is 36, is a natural-born citizen, has lived in the United States for 15 years, has been a citizen for 10 years, and lives in California. Which three national offices could this candidate seek?

3 Sam is 22, a qualified elector, and has lived in Florida for three years. Sam lives outside the legislative district Sam wants to represent. Can Sam run for that Florida Legislature seat? Explain.

4 Where should you look to check the qualifications for a city council race, and why?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write two sentences about an invented candidate who qualifies for the U.S. House but does not qualify for the Florida Legislature. Use at least two qualifications for each office in your comparison.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every age, citizenship or elector, and residency qualification in the passage. Write N, S, or L in the margin beside each set of qualifications to show whether it applies to national, state, or local office. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Jordan is 31, has been a U.S. citizen for eight years, and lives in the state Jordan wants to represent. Can Jordan run for the U.S. Senate? Explain.	No. A senator must have been a U.S. citizen for nine years, and Jordan has been a citizen for only eight years.
2	A candidate is 36, is a natural-born citizen, has lived in the United States for 15 years, has been a citizen for 10 years, and lives in California. Which three national offices could this candidate seek?	U.S. representative, U.S. senator, and president.
3	Sam is 22, a qualified elector, and has lived in Florida for three years. Sam lives outside the legislative district Sam wants to represent. Can Sam run for that Florida Legislature seat? Explain.	No. A Florida Legislature candidate must live in the district represented when elected.
4	Where should you look to check the qualifications for a city council race, and why?	Look at the local charter and election rules because local office qualifications can differ by city or area.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Ari is 26, has been a U.S. citizen for eight years, and is an inhabitant of Florida, so Ari qualifies for the U.S. House. Ari is a qualified elector who lives in District 4 but has lived in Florida only one year, so Ari does not qualify for the Florida Legislature.

Accept equivalent wording for the listed age, citizenship, elector, and residency requirements. For the open response, verify that the invented candidate meets all stated U.S. House requirements and fails at least one Florida Legislature requirement.