



# Shirley Anderson

*Hernando County Supervisor of Elections*

20 N. Main St. • Rm 165  
Brooksville, FL 34601

Memo: To All Candidates  
Re: Petition Certification Procedure  
Date: January 15, 2021

Effective immediately the office policy regarding the candidate petition certification process:

- Candidates will have petitions counted prior to turning in and will inform clerk on the number of petitions they are submitting along with payment.
- Affidavit of Undue Burden will be filed prior to turning in petitions.
- Clerk will write a receipt for approximate number of petitions submitted.
- Petitions are then verified and totaled. Candidates may call for totals.
- When final totals are reached the clerk will notify the candidate and a certificate will be mailed to them

## Who is Responsible for the Verification Fee?

Section 99.097(4), Florida Statutes, provides that the supervisor shall be paid in advance **by the candidate**. Thus, there are **three ways to pay for the verification fees:**

- The verification fee is paid with a campaign check.
- The candidate pays the verification fee with personal funds and reports it as an in-kind contribution or is reimbursed by the campaign; or,
- Someone else pays for the verification fees and is reimbursed by the campaign.

**Because the statute specifically states that the candidate shall pay the verification fee, ultimately, the candidate is responsible for paying the fee. If someone else pays the verification fee, it is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that the person is reimbursed by the campaign.**

Please note the statute pertaining to payment due when petitions are turned in.  
Florida Statute 99.097 (4)

**(4)The supervisor shall be paid in advance the sum of 10 cents for each signature checked** or the actual cost of checking such signature, whichever is less, by the candidate or, in the case of a petition to have an issue placed on the ballot, by the person or organization submitting the petition. However, if a candidate, person, or organization seeking to have an issue placed upon the ballot cannot pay such charges without imposing an undue burden on personal resources or

upon the resources otherwise available to such candidate, person, or organization, such candidate, person, or organization shall, upon written certification of such inability given under oath to the supervisor, be entitled to have the signatures verified at no charge. In the event a candidate, person, or organization submitting a petition to have an issue placed upon the ballot is entitled to have the signatures verified at no charge, the supervisor of elections of each county in which the signatures are verified at no charge shall submit the total number of such signatures checked in the county to the Chief Financial Officer no later than December 1 of the general election year, and the Chief Financial Officer shall cause such supervisor of elections to be reimbursed from the General Revenue Fund in an amount equal to 10 cents for each name checked or the actual cost of checking such signatures, whichever is less. In no event shall such reimbursement of costs be deemed or applied as extra compensation for the supervisor. Petitions shall be retained by the supervisors for a period of 1 year following the election for which the petitions were circulated.

If you choose to qualify by the petition method for County Office, you must obtain signatures of 1% of the total number of registered voters at the last general election. For local candidates in Hernando County, the number of petitions needed is 1469 based on 146,893 registered voters in the 2020 General Election. A campaign check made payable to **Shirley Anderson, Supervisor of Elections** for \$146.89 must be written before petitions can be validated.

If you choose to qualify by paying a qualifying fee instead of by petition method, a campaign check must be written during the qualifying week for the total amount of the fee made payable to **Shirley Anderson, Supervisor of Elections**.