

Larimer County

2010 Candidate Qualifications

General Requirements for County Elected Offices and Access to the Ballot



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The Larimer County Clerk and Recorder has prepared this summary to outline Larimer 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 Commissioner

Number of County Commissioner Seats

[Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 6; 1-4-205(3) C.R.S.]

- Larimer 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 2010 General Election, County Commissioner District #1 will be elected

Term of Office

4 years

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

Minimum Age Requirement

18 years

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

Residency Requirement

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

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

Citizenship

U.S. Citizen

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

County Clerk and Recorder

Term of Office

4 years

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

Minimum Age Requirement

18 years

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

Residency Requirement

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

[Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 10]

Citizenship

U.S. Citizen

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

County Treasurer

Term of Office

4 years

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

Minimum Age Requirement

18 years

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

Residency Requirement

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

[Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 10]

Citizenship

U.S. Citizen

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

County Sheriff

Term of Office

4 years

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

Minimum Age Requirement

18 years

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

Residency Requirement

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

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

Citizenship

U.S. Citizen

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

Education Requirement

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

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

Other Requirements

- 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 [30-10-501.5(c) C.R.S.]
 - 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. [30-10-501.5(1)(c) C.R.S.]
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County Coroner

Term of Office

4 years

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

Minimum Age Requirement

18 years

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

Residency Requirement

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

[Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 10]

Citizenship

U.S. Citizen

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

Education Requirement

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

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

Other Requirements

- Complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency and submit proof of such fingerprinting when filing a written acceptance [30-10-601.5(2) C.R.S.]
 - 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. [30-10-601.5(3)(b) C.R.S.]
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County Assessor

Term of Office

4 years

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

Minimum Age Requirement

18 years

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

Residency Requirement

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

[Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 10]

Citizenship

U.S. Citizen

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

County Surveyor

Term of Office

4 years

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

Minimum Age Requirement

18 years

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

Residency Requirement

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

[Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 10]

Citizenship

U.S. Citizen

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

Education Requirement

Professional land surveyor

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

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 70 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 for a period of at least 12 months, immediately preceding the date of the assembly, unless otherwise provided by party rules.
[1-4-601(3)(b) 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.]
- Original acceptance must be filed no later than 4 days after the adjournment of the assembly at the County Clerk's Office [1-4-601(3)(a) C.R.S.]

Political Party Petition

Petition Requirements

- 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 county commissioner district or political subdivision for which the office is to be elected.
- 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 for at least 12 months prior to the date of filing the petition. [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 last Monday in March. Petitions shall be filed no later the 75 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

- 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.R.S.]

Additional Information

- No petition to nominate an unaffiliated candidate shall be circulated or any signatures obtained thereon earlier than 186 days before the general election
- No petition to nominate a minor political party candidate shall be circulated nor any signatures obtained thereon earlier than the last Monday in March in the general election year
- Petitions (for unaffiliated candidates) shall be filed no later the 3:00 p.m. on the 140 day before the general election
- Petitions to nominate candidates of minor political parties shall be filed no later the 75 days before the primary election
[1-4-101 C.R.S.]
- No person shall be placed in nomination of petition unless the person is an eligible elector of the political subdivision or district in which the office is to be elected and was registered as affiliated with a minor political party or unaffiliated for at least 12 months prior to the last date the petition may be filed (for partisan election)
[1-4-802 C.R.S.]
- 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 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 a primary election and by the close of business on the 70th days before any other election
[1-4-1101 C.R.S.]