

The Town of Eatonville

2026 Town Election Qualifications

TOWN CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF EATONVILLE
ARTICLE II., TOWN COUNCIL Sections 2.01; 2.02;
ARTICLE V., Sections Sec. 5.01, 5.02, 5.03, 5.04

TOWN OF EATONVILLE ELECTION DAY
SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026

Sec. 2.01. General powers and duties.

All powers of the Town shall be vested in the Town Council, except as otherwise provided by law or this Charter, and the Council shall provide for the exercise thereof and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed on the Town by law.

Sec. 2.02. Eligibility, terms, and composition

- (a) *Eligibility.* Only registered voters of Orange County who have resided within the Town of Eatonville Town limits for twelve consecutive months prior to the date of qualifying shall be eligible to hold the office of Mayor or Council Member.
- (b) *Qualifying.* Any person who is eligible as set forth in Section 2.02(a) may become a candidate for nomination to the office of Mayor or to a Council seat by either: a) filing with the Town Clerk a petition subscribed to by not less than ten percent (10%) of the qualified electors of the Town who signed said petition not more than fourteen (14) days before the first day of qualifying; or b) paying the Town's prescribed qualifying fee as set by resolution.

A candidate seeking to qualify by petition must also file the signed and subscribed candidate oath nonpartisan office form, Sec. 99.021 F.S. together with the petition with the Town Clerk at any time after

noon on the 14th day prior to the start of qualifying period but no later than noon the 10th day prior to the start of qualifying period. The Town Clerk shall promptly submit all timely filed candidate petitions to the Orange County Supervisor of Elections for certification as to elector status and residency. Each candidate for whom the Orange County Supervisor of Elections certifies residency, elector status, and the required number of petition signatures shall be eligible to qualify for election.

ATTENTION: Deadline to submit Petitions along with signed candidate oath nonpartisan office form is between January 2, 2026, at/after 12noon through January 6, 2026, at/before 12noon. Dates and times are strictly adhered to with no accommodations.

A candidate seeking to qualify by paying the Town's qualifying fee must pay same and file the signed and subscribed candidate oath nonpartisan office form, Sec. 99.021 F.S. with the Town Clerk **before the qualifying period expires.**

The first day of qualifying shall be any time after noon of the 50th day prior to the general Town election but not later than noon of the 46th day prior to the day of the general Town election.

ATTENTION: The 2026 Town of Eatonville Qualifying Period is January 16, at/after 12noon through – January 23, 2026, at/before 12noon. Dates and times are strictly adhered to with no accommodations.

However, in any year which is a multiple of four and during which the general Town election is held concurrent with the Florida Presidential Preference Primary, the first day of qualifying shall be noon

of the 80th day prior to the general Town election and the final day of qualifying shall be no later than noon of the 76th day prior to the election date. The Town Clerk shall post in Town hall notification of the date of the general Town election no later than ninety (90) days prior to the date of such general Town election.

- (c) *Terms.* The term of office of the Mayor and Council Members shall be four (4) years elected in accordance with Article V. The terms of all such persons shall commence at the first regularly scheduled Council meeting following the certification of election results by the Canvassing Board. All such elected officials shall hold office until their Successors have been elected and qualified or until their tenure of office has otherwise been terminated in accordance with law.
- (d) *Composition.* There shall be a Town Council composed of five (5) members, one of whom will qualify for and be designated as Mayor, elected by the voters of the Town, at large, in accordance with the provisions of Article V.

Sec. 5.01. Nonpartisan elections.

All qualifications and elections for the offices of Town Council and Mayor shall be conducted on a nonpartisan basis without regard for designation of political party affiliation of any candidate, nominee, or any nomination petition or ballot.

Sec. 5.02. Town council seats.

Town council seats are hereby designated as seats 1,2,3,4, and 5 for the purposes of identification. The Mayor shall hold seat 1. Each candidate for the office of council shall declare at the time of qualifications the seat to which such candidate seeks election. No person shall run for more than one council seat in an election. Candidates for Town Council seats shall be elected at large. If more than two candidates qualify for the same seat, the candidate receiving the most votes shall be deemed elected. In the event of a tie vote, such office shall be filled by the drawing of lots among the candidates receiving the same number of votes. Such determination by lot shall be made under the direction of the Town Council in existence prior to the election, no later than seven (7) days after the certification of the election. The candidates shall be notified of the time and place of the drawing of lots and have the right to be present.

Sec. 5.03. Elections.

Town elections shall be conducted in accordance with the general election laws of the State of Florida, Chapters 97—106 Florida Statutes, as amended. Regular town elections shall be held on the first Saturday in March of each election year. All elections will be held in even years except for the first election following the adoption of this revised Charter. In 2017, seats 4 and 5 will be elected for three (3) terms of office, but beginning with the 2020 election and every four (4) years after that, the terms of office for seats 4 and 5 will be four (4) years. Beginning in 2018, and every four (4) years after that, Council seats 1, 2, and 3 will run for election. If a regular election occurs in the same month a Presidential Preference Primary is conducted, the Town Council may choose to hold the Town election on the same date as the primary.

Sec. 5.04. Canvassing board.

A town canvassing board shall be established for the purposes of canvassing ballots and election results. The canvassing board shall be composed of the Town Clerk and two (2) citizens who shall be selected by majority vote of the Town Council at the time the election is called.

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2026

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