



To: Prospective Candidates

From: Rosemarie Call, MPA, MMC, City Clerk

Re: August 18, 2026 Clearwater General Election

Date: 2/4/26

Council Seats 4 and 5, currently held by David Allbritton and Lina Teixeira, respectively, are up for election in the City's August 18, 2026 General Election.

Commencing in 2026, for each seat in which no candidate receives a majority of votes cast for that seat in the regular city election, the two candidates for that seat who received the highest number of votes will run against each other in a run-off municipal election on November 3, 2026. All seats are elected at-large for four-year terms.

The following forms and information are provided:

- August 18, 2026 General Election Information
- Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository form (in duplicate)
- Duties of a Campaign Treasurer

The first step in the election process is to appoint a campaign treasurer and open a campaign account. The seat for which a candidate is running must be noted on this form when it is filed with this office.

When you file the Appointment of Treasurer form you will be provided the 350 petition cards referenced in the General Election information. You will also be provided with an electronic copy of the Florida Election Code, the Florida Candidate and Treasurer Handbook, and other information to help you during the election process.

If you have any questions, please call me at (727) 444-7151.

Enclosures

**CITY OF CLEARWATER, FLORIDA
2026 GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION**

WHAT IS A CANDIDATE?

A candidate is any person who:

1. Appoints a campaign treasurer and designates a primary depository.
2. Receives contributions or makes expenditures or gives consent for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures, with a view to bringing about his or her nomination or election, or retention in, public office.
3. Seeks to qualify for nomination or election by means of a petitioning process.
4. Files qualification papers and subscribes to a candidate's oath as required by law.

WHO CAN BE A CANDIDATE?

To become a candidate for the Clearwater City Council, you must:

1. Be at least 18 years of age.
2. Be a registered voter of the City of Clearwater.
3. Be a resident of the City of Clearwater for at least one continuous year prior to the first day of the qualifying period (May 4, 2025).

WHEN MAY I ANNOUNCE MY CANDIDACY?

1. You may **discuss** your candidacy at any time; however, you are considered an "announced" candidate when you file your Appointment of Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository (Form DS-DE 9). This form is available 180 days prior to the election date (February 19, 2026). You must file the completed Form DS-DE 9 with this office before you accept any campaign contributions or make any expenditures toward your campaign. This form shows:
 - (a) Your name, address, phone number, and voter's registration number.
 - (b) Name, address and phone number of your campaign treasurer.
 - (c) Signature of campaign treasurer, showing acceptance of appointment.
 - (d) Name and address of your depository (bank).
 - (e) Seat number sought.

2. Form DS-DE 9 is not effective until the campaign treasurer signs it and it is filed with this office.
3. F.S. 106.023 requires that, within 10 days of filing the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository, you must file a Statement of Candidate with the City Clerk, stating you have read and understand Chapter 106. (This form will be provided upon filing Form DS-DE 9.)

CAMPAIGN TREASURER

1. Your campaign treasurer may serve as treasurer for more than one candidate or political committee. You or your spouse may serve as your campaign treasurer. Your campaign depository may be any bank, savings and loan association or credit union authorized to transact business in the State of Florida.
2. All contributions and expenditures must be made through the campaign treasurer.
3. The campaign treasurer is responsible for keeping detailed accounts, current within not more than 2 days after the date of receiving a contribution or making an expenditure.
4. The campaign treasurer is responsible for filing the required treasurer's reports. Deadlines for filing the reports are contained in the Candidates' Calendar.

CANDIDATE QUALIFYING AND FILING FOR OFFICE

A. WHEN AND WHERE?

WHEN: Begins May 4, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. and ends May 15, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: City Hall Offices, 600 Cleveland Street, 6th Floor, Clearwater, FL 33755

B. WHAT MUST I DO WHEN I FILE FOR OFFICE?

1. Submit receipt of filing the State Financial Disclosure Form at <https://disclosure.floridaethics.gov/Account/Login>.
2. Submit at least 250 petition cards, each signed by a registered voter of the City of Clearwater. (350 cards will be provided upon filing DS-DE 9 with City Clerk.)
3. Sign Loyalty Oath.
4. Pay a qualifying fee of \$100 and an election assessment fee (\$474.16), which is 1% of the salary of the office being sought. These fees must be made by a check drawn on the campaign account.

C. Resign to Run Requirement.

1. Per F.S. 99.012(3)(c), No officer may qualify as a candidate for another public office (whether state, district, county or municipal) if the terms or any part thereof run concurrently with each other, without resigning from the office currently held. The resignation is irrevocable.
2. The written resignation must be submitted at least **ten days** prior to the first day of qualifying for the office. The resignation must be effective no later than the earlier of the following dates:
 - a. The date the officer would take office, if elected; or
 - b. The date the officer's successor is required to take office.

**APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER
AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN
DEPOSITORY FOR CANDIDATES**
(Section 106.021(1), F.S.)

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

**NOTE: This form must be on file with the filing officer before
opening the campaign account.**

OFFICE USE ONLY

1. CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

Initial Filing of Form Re-filing to Change: Treasurer/Deputy Depository Office Party

2. Name of Candidate (in this order: First, Middle, Last):
(Please Print or Type Name)

3. Address (include PO Box or Street, City, State, Zip Code):

4. Telephone:

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5. Candidate's Voter Registration #:

(not required for qualifying purposes)

6. Email Address:

7. Office Sought (include district, circuit, group, or seat #):

**8. If a candidate for a nonpartisan office, check the box
if applicable:**

I intend to run as a Write-In Candidate.

9. If a candidate for partisan office, check the box and fill in the name of the party as applicable: I intend to run as a

Write-In Candidate. No Party Affiliation Candidate. _____ Party candidate.

10. I have appointed the following person to act as my: Campaign Treasurer Deputy Treasurer

11. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer:

12. Telephone:

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13. Email Address:

14. Mailing Address:

15. City:

16. State:

17. Zip Code:

18. I have designated the following bank as my (check appropriate box): Primary Depository Secondary Depository

19. Name of Bank:

20. Address:

21. City:

22. County:

23. State:

24. Zip Code:

**UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, I DECLARE THAT I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING FORM FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE
CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF THE CAMPAIGN DEPOSITORY AND THAT THE FACTS STATED IN IT ARE TRUE.**

25. Date:

26. Signature of Candidate:

X

27. Treasurer's Acceptance of Appointment (fill in the blanks and check the appropriate box)

I, _____ do hereby accept the appointment designated above as:
(Please Print or Type Name)

Campaign Treasurer.

Deputy Treasurer.

28. Date:

29. Signature of Campaign Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

X

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AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN
DEPOSITORY FOR CANDIDATES**
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(Please Print or Type Name)

3. Address (include PO Box or Street, City, State, Zip Code):

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(not required for qualifying purposes)

6. Email Address:

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**8. If a candidate for a nonpartisan office, check the box
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**UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, I DECLARE THAT I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING FORM FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE
CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF THE CAMPAIGN DEPOSITORY AND THAT THE FACTS STATED IN IT ARE TRUE.**

25. Date:

26. Signature of Candidate:

X

27. Treasurer's Acceptance of Appointment (fill in the blanks and check the appropriate box)

I, _____ do hereby accept the appointment designated above as:
(Please Print or Type Name)

Campaign Treasurer.

Deputy Treasurer.

28. Date:

29. Signature of Campaign Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

X

CAMPAIGN TREASURER

CITY OF CLEARWATER GENERAL ELECTION
August 18, 2026



This is a general overview, please refer to the State and City Election Codes for complete details of requirements.

A. DUTIES OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER

1. Read and understand the requirements of F. S. Chapter 106.
2. Deposit all contributions into the campaign account by the end of the 5th business day after receipt (excludes Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays).
3. Pay all expenditures by check, except for petty cash expenditures pursuant to F.S. 106.12, drawn on the campaign account.
4. Keep detailed accounts, records, bills and receipts of all transactions; retain the records for the term of office of position sought.
5. Prepare campaign reports; have signatures of candidate and treasurer notarized.
6. File reports with the City Clerk through the electronic campaign finance reporting system no later than 11:59 p.m. on or before the due date to avoid a fine for late filing:
 - **April 10, 2026** (Report Type: **2026 Q1**)
Report covers period from when account opened through March 31, 2026
 - **June 10, 2026** (Report Type: **2026 Q2**)
Report covers period April 1, 2026 through May 31, 2026
 - **June 19, 2026** (60 days preceding the election - Report Type: **2026 G1**)
Report covers period June 1, 2026 through June 12, 2026
 - **July 3, 2026** (46 days preceding the election; Report Type: **2026 G2**)
Report covers period June 13, 2026 through June 26, 2026
 - **July 17, 2026** (32 days preceding the election; Report Type: **2026 G3**)
Report covers period June 27, 2026 through July 10, 2026
 - **July 24, 2026** (25 days preceding the election; Report Type: **2026 G4**)
Report covers period July 11, 2026 through July 17, 2026
 - **July 31, 2026** (18 days preceding the election; Report Type: **2026 G5**)
Report covers period July 18, 2026 through July 24, 2026
 - **August 7, 2026** (11 days preceding the election; Report Type: **2026 G6**)
 - **August 14, 2026** (4 days preceding the election; Report Type: **2026 G7**)
Report covers period August 1, 2026 through August 13, 2026
 - **November 16, 2026, final report due within 90 days after the election.**
Report Type: **2026 TRG (for candidates who did not achieve vote threshold for the runoff election)**

Report reflects any unreported contributions and expenditures and disposition of funds

For the two candidates running in each seat who received the highest number of votes, the following additional reporting dates are required for the November 3, 2026 runoff election.

- **August 28, 2026** (67 days preceding the election; Report Type: **2026 R1**)
Report covers period August 14, 2026 through August 21, 2026
- **September 11, 2026** (53 days preceding the election; Report Type: **2026 R2**)
Report covers period August 22, 2026 through September 4, 2026
- **September 25, 2026** (39 days preceding the election; Report Type: **2026 R3**)
Report covers period September 5, 2026 through September 18, 2026
- **October 9, 2026** (25 days preceding the election; Report Type: **2026 R4**)
Report covers period September 19, 2026 through October 2, 2026
- **October 23, 2026** (11 days preceding the election; Report Type: **2026 R5**)
Report covers period October 3, 2026 through October 16, 2026
- **October 30, 2026** (4 days preceding the election; Report Type: **2026 R6**)
- **February 1, 2027, final report due within 90 days after the election.**
Report Type: **2026 TRR**

B. CHANGING CAMPAIGN TREASURERS

1. You may remove your treasurer by written notice to the treasurer with a copy filed with the City Clerk. A treasurer is not deemed removed until the copy is received by the City Clerk.
2. Your treasurer may resign by submitting a written notice to you, with a copy filed with the City Clerk.
3. You must immediately appoint a successor, by filing the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository form with the City Clerk.

C. SUGGESTIONS FOR TREASURERS

1. Keep a schedule of the dates Campaign Treasurer's Reports are due; be sure what period each report covers.
2. Keep a copy of each report filed for your own records.
3. Log each contribution when received: date, name and address, occupation (if more than \$100) and the amount. Keep contributions separate by category: Monetary, in-kind and loans.
4. Log each expenditure as it occurs: date, name and address, purpose and the amount.

5. Keep a ledger of all petty cash expenditures. Individual listings are not reported on your treasurer's report, only the total amount.
 - (a) The petty cash fund shall be spent in amounts of less than \$100.00 and only for office supplies, transportation expenses and other necessities.
 - (b) Petty cash shall not be used for the purchase of time, space or services from communications media.
6. Monitor cash flow. Know how much money is available to avoid authorizing expenditures when money is not available.
7. Keep a list of all savings account and certificate of deposit funds.

D. CAMPAIGN REPORTS - FILING DEADLINE

1. Reports are to be filed no later than 11:59 p.m. of the day designated through the electronic campaign finance reporting system; reports filed no later than 11:59 p.m. shall be deemed to have been filed in a timely manner.

E. PENALTY FOR LATE FILING

1. Any candidate who does not file a report on the designated due date shall be subject to a fine. The candidate shall be notified by phone (if possible), email, and by registered mail.
2. The fine shall be \$50 per day for the first 3 days and, thereafter, \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report.

However, for the reports immediately preceding each general election, the fine shall be \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25 percent of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report.

3. Within 20 days after receipt of notice of payment due, you may:
 - (a) pay the fine from personal funds (not the campaign account) to the City Clerk, or
 - (b) appeal the fine to the Florida Elections Commission and notify the City Clerk in writing.

F. WAIVER OF REPORT

1. In any reporting period when there has been no activity in the account, you may file a Waiver of Report form instead of the regular Campaign Treasurer's Report.
2. The deadline for filing a waiver is the same as for filing a campaign report and is subject to the same penalty for late filing.

G. INCOMPLETE REPORTS

1. All reports are accepted on a conditional basis.

2. If a report is incomplete or incorrect, the treasurer will be notified by telephone (if possible), email and by registered mail, and will be given three days to file an addendum to complete the information.
3. Failure to file the required information after such notice shall constitute a violation of Chapter 106 and a complaint will be filed with the Florida Elections Commission.