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# **South Carolina Secretary of State Office says responsibility of verifying qualifications of candidates is the POLITICAL PARTY'S JOB**

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Section 7-11-20(2) of the South Carolina Code of Laws states in part that ... **"Political parties must verify the qualifications of candidates prior to certifying to the State Election Commission the names of candidates to be placed on primary ballots.** The written certification required by this section must contain a statement that each certified candidate meets, or will meet by the time of the general election, or as otherwise required by law, the qualifications in the United States Constitution, statutory law, and party rules to participate in the presidential preference primary for which he has filed. Political parties must not certify any candidate who does not or will not by the time of the general election meet the qualifications in the United States Constitution, statutory law, and party rules for the presidential preference primary for which the candidate desires to file, and such candidate's name must not be placed on a primary ballot."

**Neither the South Carolina Secretary of State nor the State Election Commission has the authority to examine or investigate the qualifications of Presidential candidates.**

**Again, the South Carolina Code of Laws states that political parties are responsible for verifying that their candidates meet the qualifications for the office in which they seek.**

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