



CONSTITUTIONUS.COM

# REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS TO BECOME THE US PRESIDENT

*Multiple Choice Quiz*

---

## ABOUT THIS QUIZ



### *Requirements and Qualifications To Become the US President*

This quiz is about the 'Requirements and Qualifications To Become the US President'.

All questions have 4 possible answers of which only 1 is correct.

You may read the article over the next few pages to freshen up before taking the quiz!

At the back of the book, will be an answer sheet.

For more information, go to:  
<https://constitutionus.com>



### **Qualifications To Become President**

There are zero academic qualifications to become the US President. You may have a Law degree from Harvard or not have finished school. Everyone has an equal right to run as President despite their qualifications.

This differs from the requirements to become president.

### **Requirements To Become President**

While you might expect a massive list of requirements to be president and make sure we get the best possible candidates, that isn't the case. A lack of amendments to the Constitution means that the only qualifications relate to residency, a minimum age, and previous terms in office. Also, you must be a United States Citizen. From there, pretty much anyone can put themselves forward.

There is nothing about upper age limits, health, or criminal convictions. You have to meet the minimum requirements, get on the ballot, and then you can hope for the nomination.

2020 was the perfect year for highlighting the lack of restrictions and the potential need for further amendments.

The final candidates for the Republicans and Democrats were reality TV star Donald Trump and 78-year-old Joe Biden.

Biden has previous political experience. Therefore, the race for the Presidency felt like a logical career move.

After one term in the Whitehouse, President Trump has the experience now, but nothing prior.

Meanwhile, Kanye West put himself in the running, showing that anyone that wants to run can at least try. The reason for this comes down to the wording of the US Constitution.

## How To Run for President

The original Constitution contains Article 2, which addresses the constitutional requirements for running for the US President and the US Vice President. It applied to the role at the time of the formation of the USA and remains in place today. The article states the following three clauses:

1. First, US President has to be a natural born US citizen.
2. US President has to have a minimum age of at least 35 years old
3. US President has to have been a resident of the United States for 14 years.

These three key points highlight potential issues with the process.

The third requirement caused a furor about Barack Obama's birth certificate during his race for the Whitehouse.

It is also why UK PM Boris Johnson could run if he moved to the US, reclaimed his dual-citizenship, and waited 14 years.

Furthermore, there are some interesting questions about the term "natural born citizen."

US territories don't have the same rights as states but allow US citizenship for children born there.

For example, those born in Puerto Rico after 1940 are natural born citizens and eligible to run for President.

However, military bases in foreign countries aren't considered US soil, so children born there aren't natural-born citizens. Instead, they gain citizenship from their parents. Subsequently, they cannot run for President due to their birthplace.

## Other Important Criteria Aren't Taken Into Consideration

There are factors that the American public would consider highly important when choosing a candidate, yet they aren't mentioned in the current regulations and guidelines.

This include:

- An upper age limit for candidates.
- The health of the candidate.
- The possession of a criminal record.

## Age of Presidential Candidate

There is no upper age limit for the president. Age has garnered criticism because of the negative implications of swearing in a senior citizen.

President Biden was 78, and there are questions over why the Democrats couldn't have found a younger, fitter, more relatable candidate.

The 25th Amendment and the Presidential Succession Act say that in the case that Biden would be unfit to be president, the vice president would step up to be the acting president.

## How Old Do You Have To Be To Run for President?

There is no upper age to run for President so that you could be the oldest person on earth.

There is a minimum age to run for president, which is 35.

## Medical Health Issues

A related concern is that presidential candidates don't have to publicize their medical history or information about current health issues. While there is an argument for allowing candidates their privacy, others argue that it helps know candidates are fit for office. That doubt increases when your candidates are 74 and 78. A medical exam requirement could put voters' minds at ease and lead to discrimination against specific disabilities and mental health conditions.

## A US President With a Criminal Record

Nothing prevents you from assuming the role if you have a criminal record. This is a surprise to some voters who expect their candidates to respect the law and model citizens.

While some voters could overlook some more minor state-level crimes that are inconsequential, more significant Federal crimes are another matter.

## The 22nd Amendment on the Maximum Number of Terms in Office

Initially, there was no limit to the number of terms that a president could stand for. However, as George Washington stood twice, there was an unwritten agreement that any President would stand down after two terms.

This changed with President Roosevelt, and the 22nd Amendment discusses the number of terms that a president can serve.

The 22nd Amendment came into effect via ratification on 27 February 1951. It states that a candidate may only be elected to the office of President for a total of two terms or eight years. These terms don't have to be successive, but you can't run for a third. The Amendment came about after the four-term Presidency of Franklin D Roosevelt.

It is unclear if Donald Trump will try to run again in 2024 or head back into other ventures. If he wanted to, the 22nd Amendment would allow him the right to put his name forward and try again. On the other hand, Barack Obama won two terms back-to-back, so he is ineligible to run again no matter how many votes he would receive.

## Qualified Candidates Then Face a Simple Process To Run for US President

If you meet all of the criteria, running for President is surprisingly streamlined. There is a 4-step process to run when you meet the requirements. First, fill out a statement of candidacy form – something not always necessary unless you've received more than \$5,000 for your bid.

Then, get on the ballot for your chosen party or as an independent.

Once you're on, you can participate in the debates to get the vote in the primaries. But, of course, you would usually also run the ticket with a vice president.

If you win the nomination, you can continue on the election trail and wait for the final vote from the electoral college.

## Minimal Requirements and Qualifications

In short, the presidential requirements and qualifications are short, sweet, and relatively unchanged from the days of the Constitution. So if you are a natural-born citizen with 14 years of residency, are over 35, haven't served two terms before, and are willing to go through the process, you have a chance (however slight) to get elected.

# Multiple Choice Quiz

**1. How long do you have to have been a resident of the United States if you want to run for President?**

- A. 7 years
- B. 14 years
- C. 21 years
- D. No rules on this point

**2. Is a person born in Puerto Rico eligible to run for the Presidency as a natural-born citizen?**

- A. Only if you were born after 1940
- B. Anyone can run regardless of birth date
- C. No one can from Puerto Rico run
- D. No defined rule

**3. Can you run for the Presidency if you have a criminal record?**

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not if you have committed any federal crimes
- D. Only if any crimes you committed were before you turned 18

**4. What is the minimum age you must be to run for President?**

- A. 25
- B. 30
- C. 35
- D. 40

**5. Anyone who wants to run for President must be under this age:**

- A. 65
- B. 70
- C. 75
- D. There is no age maximum

**6. Does a person who wants to run for President have to provide details on one's medical history or any ongoing health concerns?**

- A. Yes
- B. Only on one's prior medical history
- C. Only on mental conditions
- D. No

**7. If a person was born on a military base in a foreign country, would that someone be considered a natural-born citizen who could run for President?**

- A. Yes
- B. Only if the person was born there during wartime
- C. Only if both of the person's parents are natural-born citizens
- D. No

**8. The rules surrounding the requirements for running for the Presidency are in the Constitution under:**

- A. Article 1
- B. Article 2
- C. Article 3
- D. Article 4

**9. If you were to fill out a statement of candidacy form to plan a run for President, how much money should you have received for your bid before filling out that form?**

- A. \$1,000
- B. \$5,000
- C. \$10,000
- D. No financial minimums here

**10. When you get on the Presidential ballot, you can do so as one of these:**

- A. Democrat or Republican
- B. Third-party (Reform, Libertarian, Constitution, etc.)
- C. Independent
- D. All of the above

**11. How many terms could you serve as the President?**

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. Four
- D. Five

**12. The rule on how many terms you can serve as the President is listed through:**

- A. An unwritten agreement
- B. The 21st Amendment
- C. The 22nd Amendment
- D. Supreme Court ruling

# Multiple Choice Quiz Answers

1. B
2. A
3. A
4. C
5. D
6. D
7. D
8. B
9. B
10. D
11. A
12. C