



No. 1  
10.04.21

# Do we have “Candidates” today? NO

1. Are the filers of Certificates of Candidacy (CoCs) from October 1-8, 2021 considered candidates?
2. If the aspirants “campaign” (i.e. ask voters to vote for them) after filing but before the campaign period, are they liable for premature campaigning?
3. Must the filers/ aspirants follow campaign regulations and account for contributions and expenditures from date of filing to the start of the campaign period?

“Any person who files his certificate of candidacy within this period shall **only** be considered as a **candidate** at the **start of the campaign period** for which he filed his certificate of candidacy: *Provided*, That, **unlawful acts or omissions** applicable to a candidate shall **effect only** upon that **start of the aforesaid campaign period: xxx” (RA 9369)**

Candidate:

1. Intend to seek public elective office
2. Filed CoC within period allowed
3. Valid CoC
4. Possesses all Qs and none of the DQs
5. Campaign period has started (Operative Fact)
  - February 8 for Nationally-Elected
  - March 25 for Locally-Elected