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## Candidate master file description

The candidate master file contains basic information for each candidate, including:

- Candidates who have filed a Statement of Candidacy (Form 2) for the upcoming election
- Candidates who have active campaign committees without regard to election year
- Candidates who are referenced as a part of a draft committee or a nonconnected committee that registers as supporting or opposing a particular candidate

The file shows the candidate's identification number, candidate's name, party affiliation, election year, office state, office sought, district, incumbent/challenger status, status as a candidate, name of the candidate's principal campaign committee, and address. The end-of-line (EOL) marker is line feed '\n' (LF, 0x0A, 10 in decimal).

### Candidate master file format

Column name	Field name	Position	Null	Data type	Description	Example data
CAND_ID	Candidate identification	1	N	VARCHAR2(9)	A 9-character alpha-numeric code assigned to a candidate by the Federal Election Commission. The candidate ID for a specific candidate remains the same across election cycles as long as the candidate is running for the same office.	H8VA01233
CAND_NAME	Candidate name	2	Y	VARCHAR2(200)		Martha Washington
CAND_PTY_AFFILIATION	Party affiliation	3	Y	VARCHAR2(3)	The political party affiliation reported by the candidate	NON
CAND_ELECTION_YR	Year of election	4	Y	Number(4)	Candidate's election year from a Statement of Candidacy or state ballot list	2018
CAND_OFFICE_ST	Candidate state	5	Y	VARCHAR2(2)	House = state of race President = US	VA

					Senate = state of race	
CAND_OFFICE	Candidate office	6	Y	VARCHAR2(1)	H = House P = President S = Senate	H
CAND_OFFICE_DISTRICT	Candidate district	7	Y	VARCHAR2(2)	Congressional district number Congressional at-large 00 Senate 00 Presidential 00	01
CAND_ICI	Incumbent challenger status	8	Y	VARCHAR2(1)	C = Challenger I = Incumbent O = Open Seat is used to indicate an open seat; Open seats are defined as seats where the incumbent never sought re-election.	I
CAND_STATUS	Candidate status	9	Y	VARCHAR2(1)	C = Statutory candidate F = Statutory candidate for future election N = Not yet a statutory candidate P = Statutory candidate in prior cycle	C
CAND_PCC	Principal campaign committee	10	Y	VARCHAR2(9)	The ID assigned by the Federal Election Commission to the candidate's principal campaign committee for a given election cycle.	C00100005
CAND_ST1	Mailing address - street	11	Y	VARCHAR2(34)	Mailing address - street	1001 George Washington Hwy
CAND_ST2	Mailing address - street2	12	Y	VARCHAR2(34)	Mailing address - street2	Suite 100
CAND_CITY	Mailing address - city	13	Y	VARCHAR2(30)	Mailing address - city	Alexandria
CAND_ST	Mailing address - state	14	Y	VARCHAR2(2)	Mailing address - state	VA
CAND_ZIP	Mailing address - ZIP code	15	Y	VARCHAR2(9)	Mailing address - ZIP code	22201

## NEED HELP?

[Get help from the FEC by phone or email](#)

This information is not intended to replace the law or to change its meaning, nor does this information create or confer any rights for or on any person or bind the Federal Election Commission or the public.

The reader is encouraged also to consult the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.), Commission regulations (Title 11 of the Code of Federal Regulations), Commission advisory opinions and applicable court decisions.