CANDIDATE GUIDE

NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

1555 BERGER DRIVE, BLDG 2, 3RD FLOOOR
SAN JOSE, CA 95112
(408)299-VOTE (8683)

For more information, visit
www.vote.santaclaracounty.gov



NOTICE

All information in this guide is subject to change.

No duty is imposed upon the Office of the Registrar of Voters to determine whether a candidate meets the requirements for holding office. The Declaration of Candidacy, which each candidate must sign under penalty of perjury, states that the candidate meets the statutory and/or constitutional qualifications for office (including, but not limited to, citizenship, residency, etc.).

This guide is intended to provide general information concerning the nomination and election of candidates and does **not** have the force and effect of law, regulation, or rule. It is distributed with the understanding that neither the Secretary of State nor the Office of the Registrar of Voters is rendering legal advice, and that this information is not to be a substitute for legal counsel for the individual, organization, or candidate using it for any and all purposes. **The Office of the Registrar of Voters makes no representation about the accuracy or veracity of any information contained in this guide.**

This guide is intended for use by candidates on the ballot in Santa Clara County including state, judicial, county, school districts, and special districts.

Candidates running for contests in cities within Santa Clara County, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority must contact the city clerks and/or district clerks to be provided with information regarding contest and eligibility requirements. A list of city and district elections official contact information is provided on pages III and IV.

In case of conflict, or amendments to law, regulation, or rule that take effect after the publication of this document, the law, regulation, or rule will apply.

Unless otherwise indicated, all code section references are to the California Elections Code.

Contact Information for City Election Officials

The cities and towns listed below are their own elections official; therefore, any candidate wishing to run for office should reach out to the respective city or town clerk to obtain contest information.

CAMPBELL
Andrea Sanders, City Clerk
70 N. First St.
Campbell, CA 95008
(408) 866-2117

CUPERTINO
Lauren Sapudar, City Clerk
10300 Torre Ave.
Cupertino, CA 95014
(408) 777-1312

GILROY
Kim Mancera, City Clerk
7351 Rosanna St.
Gilroy, CA 95020
(408) 846-0204

LOS ALTOS
Melissa Thurman, City Clerk
1 N. San Antonio Rd.
Los Altos, CA 94022
(650) 947-2610

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
Arika Miller, City Clerk
26379 Fremont Rd.
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
(650) 947-2513

TOWN OF LOS GATOS
Wendy Wood, Town Clerk
110 E. Main St.
Los Gatos, CA 95030
(408) 354-6888

MILPITAS
Suzanne Guzzetta, City Clerk
455 E. Calaveras Blvd.
Milpitas, CA 95035
(408) 586-3001

MONTE SERENO
Gloisy Gonzalez-Langarica, City Clerk
18041 Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd.
Monte Sereno, CA 95030
(408) 354-7635

MORGAN HILL
Michelle Bigelow, City Clerk
17575 Peak Ave.
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
(408) 779-7259

MOUNTAIN VIEW
Heather Glaser, City Clerk
500 Castro St. 3rd Fl.
Mountain View, CA 94041
(650) 903-6399

PALO ALTO
Mahealani Ah Yun, City Clerk
250 Hamilton Ave. 7th Fl.
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(650) 329-2379

SAN JOSÉ
Toni Taber. City Clerk
200 E. Santa Clara St. 14th Fl.
San José, CA 95113
(408) 535-1260

SANTA CLARA
Bob O'Keefe, City Clerk
1500 Warburton Ave.
Santa Clara, CA 95050
(408) 615-2220

SARATOGA
Britt Avrit, City Clerk
13777 Fruitvale Ave.
Saratoga, CA 95070
(408) 868-1294

SUNNYVALE
David Carnahan, City Clerk
456 W. Olive Avenue, 4th Fl.
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
(408) 730-7483

Contact Information for Special District Election Officials

The **SPECIAL DISTRICTS** listed below are their own elections official; therefore, any candidate wishing to run for office should reach out to the respective district clerk for that special district to obtain contest information.

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
Maria Soria, District Clerk
5050 El Camino Real
Los Altos, CA 94022
(650) 625-6544

SANTA CLARA VALLEY OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY
Caroline Hernandez, District Clerk
33 Las Colinas Lane
San José, CA 95119
(408) 224-7476

County of Santa Clara
Registrar of Voters
1555 Berger Drive, Bldg. 2
San José, CA 95112
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 611360, San José, CA 95161-1360
(408) 299-VOTE (8683) 866-430-VOTE (8683) FAX: (408) 998-7314
www.sccvote.org

Dear Candidate:

Congratulations on your decision to seek office during the November 3, 2026 General Election. Public service is one of the pillars of our democracy. By running for public office, you give voters more choices, making it easier for them to support candidates who embody their values and priorities. The Office of the Registrar of Voters is committed to providing excellent candidate services to promote ballot access to all segments of our community.

There are many requirements associated with being a candidate. We have prepared this Candidate Guide to assist you in understanding these requirements. It contains valuable information regarding qualifications and terms of office, nomination procedures and forms, fees, and important dates and deadlines.

Please keep in mind that this Candidate Guide is intended to be a resource and is not comprehensive, nor does it constitute or substitute for legal advice. You are encouraged to seek legal counsel on questions of law.

We recommend that you file as early as possible to ensure that your documents are complete and accurate. Filing deadlines are absolute. Waiting until the end of the filing period could result in your name not being on the ballot if your documents are incomplete or in error.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Candidate Services Division at (408) 299-8639. For additional information and resources about candidate filing as well as the overall election process, visit our web site at **https://vote.santaclaracounty.gov/home.**

For in person assistance, the Office of the Registrar of Voters is open Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., not including holidays. We are located at 1555 Berger Dr., Bldg. 2, 3rd Floor, San José, CA 95112.

If you have any suggestions for improving this guide or our services, please let us know.
Best wishes to you for your campaign.

Sincerely,

Matt Moreles, Registrar of Voters
County of Santa Clara, Office of the Registrar of Voters

Board of Supervisors: Sylvia Arenas, Betty Duong, Otto Lee, Susan Ellenberg, Margaret Abe-Koga
County Executive: James R. Williams

Table of Contents

CHAPTER 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Voter's Choice Act – The Future of Voting 3

Choose When, Where, and How to Vote! 3

Available Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Options 3

Voting In-person Options 3

Voter's Choice Act (VCA) Implementation 3

In-person Voting Opportunities 3

Vote-by-Mail Ballot Drop-off Opportunities 4

Key Dates and Deadlines 5

November 3, 2026 General Election Calendar 5

List of Offices 11

Justices of the California Courts 11

June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election Runoffs 11

Voter-nominated Contests 11

School Districts 11

Elementary School Districts Contests 11

High School Districts Contests 12

Unified School Districts Contests 12

Community College Districts Contests 12

Board of Education Contests 12

Special Districts 13

Officeholder Titles 14

Candidate Qualifications and Information for Nonpartisan Offices 15

Qualifications to Run for Office 15

Prohibitions 16

Prohibition of Holding Two Offices 16

Eligibility 17

School District Governing Board Members 17

County Board of Education Members 17

Special District Board Members 17

Lion's Gate Community Services District 17

San Martin County Water District 17

Santa Clara Valley Water District 17

Silver Creek Valley Country Club Geologic Hazard Abatement District (GHAD) 18
South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District 18
Write-in Candidates 19
Statement of Write-in Candidacy 19
Nomination Papers 19
Voter-nominated Offices 20
Filing Fees 20
Unopposed Judicial Candidate Write-in Requirements 20
Roster of Qualified Write-in Candidates 21
When and How Votes are Tabulated and Reported 21
Confidential Voter Information 22
Eligibility to Register as a Confidential Voter 22
NEW Legislation: Assembly Bill 1392 – Confidential Voter Status 22
What does it mean for elected officials and candidates to be CONFIDENTIAL voters in Santa Clara County? 22
What does it mean for elected officials and candidates to be NON-CONFIDENTIAL voters in Santa Clara County? 23
Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters Guide to Translated Languages 24
Federally Mandated Languages 24
State Mandated Languages 25

CHAPTER 2: NOMINATION DOCUMENTS AND FILING PROCEDURES
Nomination Documents and Filing Procedures 29
Nomination Documents 29
Nomination Period 29
Circulation of Petition 29
Petition Signers 30
Verification of Signatures on Nomination Papers 30
Maximum Signers of Nomination Papers 30
Declaration of Candidacy 30
Name on Ballot 31
Ballot Designation 31
Ballot Designation Cheat Sheet 34
Extension of Filing Period if Incumbent Does not File 36
Withdrawal of Candidate 36
Petition on Ballot 36

Randomized Alphabet Drawing 36
Insufficient Number of Candidates 37
Additional Nomination Forms 37
Ballot Designation Worksheet 37
Preferred Transliteration Form for Character-based Names 37
Request for Vietnamese Name Accents Form 38
Candidate Statement of Qualifications 38
Code of Fair Campaign Practice 38
Department of Transportation Statement of Responsibility 38
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications Voter-nominated Offices' Guidelines and Costs 39
Candidate Information 39
Content 39
Format 40
Filing Information 40
Liability 41
Confidentiality 41
Challenge of Contents 41
Withdrawal 41
Translations of Statements 41
24-hour Sign-off Requirement 41
Costs 42
Proposition 34 Candidate Statement Provisions 42
Estimated Cost for Candidate Statements 42
Candidate Statement Fee Check 43
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications Nonpartisan Offices' Guidelines and Costs 44
Candidate Information 44
Content 44
Format 44
Restrictions 45
Liability 45
Confidentiality 45
Challenge of Contents 46
Withdrawal 46
Translations of Statements 46
Costs 46

Estimated Cost for Candidate Statements 47
Candidate Statement Fee Check 49
24-hour Sign-off Requirement 50
Number Runoff Candidates 51
Voluntary Expenditure Limit Ordinance 51
Rules for Counting Words 51

CHAPTER 3: CAMPAIGN LAWS AND REGULATIONS
Statement of Economic Interests 55
Code of Fair Campaign Practices 56
Background Information 56
Purpose 56
Voluntary Subscription 56
Provisions of the Fair Campaign Practices as Found in Chapter 5 of Div. 20 of the Elections Code . 56
Article 1. General Intent 56
Article 2. Definitions 56
Article 3. Code of Fair Campaign Practices 56
Code of Fair Campaign Practices 57
Laws Governing Campaign Practices 59
Political Advertising 59
Simulation of the Ballot 59
Campaign Literature Containing Polling Place of Voter 59
Mass Mailing/Campaign Literature 59
Mass Mailing Requirements 60
Mass Mailing Prohibitions 61
False or Misleading Information to Voters 61
Outdoor Political Advertising Guidelines 62
County Political Sign Regulations 62
§ 4.40.100 Political Signs 62
§ 5.80.040 Enforcement 62
State Political Sign Regulations 62
City Political Sign Regulations 63
FPPC Form 501 and Voluntary Expenditure Limit Frequently Asked Questions 64
FPPC Form 501 64
County Voluntary Expenditure Limits 66

Electioneering **67**
Campaign Finance Disclosure Information **70**
Candidates Who Anticipate Spending or Receiving Less than $2,000 70
Form 501 Candidate Intention Statement 70
Form 470 Officeholder and Candidate Campaign Statement (short form) 70
Form 470 Supplement 71
Candidates Who Anticipate Spending or Receiving More than $2,000 71
Form 501 Candidate Intention Statement 71
Form 410 Statement of Organization 71
Form 460 Recipient Committee Campaign Statement 72
Form 496 24-hour/10-day Independent Expenditure Report 72
Form 497 24-hour Contribution Report 72
Election Related Filings 73
Fair Political Practices Commission Electronic Filing of Campaign Disclosure Statements **74**
NetFile Campaign Filer Training for Candidates and Treasurers **75**
How do filers sign up? 75
What happens next? 75
What can the filer expect from the training? 75
FPPC Campaign Filing Schedules **76**
Candidates and their Controlled Committees for State Offices 76
Candidates and their Controlled Committees for Local Offices 78
Legal Examination of Candidate Statements, Local Measure Materials, and Writs of Mandates **80**
Examination Period for Candidate Statements and Local Measure Materials 80
County Elections 81
Special District Elections 82
School District Elections 82

CHAPTER 4: SERVICES AVAILABLE TO CANDIDATES
Voter Information, Election Data, and Maps **87**
Prohibited Uses 87
Public Viewing Terminals 87
Confidential Viewing Terminals 87
Election Data 87
Maps 88
Vote Centers and Ballot Drop Boxes 88

Important Vote by Mail Date 88
Election Day Information 90
Reporting of Results 90
Past Results 90
Official Canvass of the Returns 91
References 92
County of Santa Clara Office of the Registrar of Voters 92
State of California Secretary of State's Office 92
County of Santa Clara District Attorney's Office 92
Fair Political Practices Commission 92
Federal Election Commission 92
NetFile 92
California Legislative Information 92
League of Women Voter/Vote411.org 92
Population Statistics & Historical Data 92
Vote411.org Letter 93
Election Officers Needed! 94
Frequently Asked Questions 95
Registrar of Voters' Contact Information 98

CHAPTER 5: APPENDICES
Appendix A – Ballot Designation Regulations 101
Barclays Official California Code of Regulations 101
California Administrative Code, Title 2 Administration, Chapter 7. Ballot Designations 101
§ 20710. General Provisions. 101
§ 20711. Ballot Designation Worksheet 101
§ 20712. Proposed Ballot Designations Submitted Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, Subdivision (a)(1). 103
§ 20713. Proposed Ballot Designations Submitted Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, Subdivision (a)(2). 104
§ 20714. Proposed Ballot Designations Submitted Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, Subdivision (a)(3). 104
§ 20714.5. "Community Volunteer." 107
§ 20715. Proposed Ballot Designations Submitted Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, Subdivision (a)(4). 107
§ 20716. Unacceptable Ballot Designations. 108

§ 20717. Requests for Supporting Documentation. 110
§ 20718. Communication of Decisions Regarding Ballot Designations. 111
§ 20719. Service of Legal Process Regarding Ballot Designations 111

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CHAPTER 1

General Information

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 1)

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Voter's Choice Act – The Future of Voting

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 1)

Choose When, Where, and How to Vote

The County of Santa Clara ("County") Office of the Registrar of Voters has modernized voting and now provides voters with greater flexibility and convenience.

During an Election:

- Every registered voter will be mailed a Vote-by-Mail ballot starting 29 days before Election Day
- Voters can vote in person at any of the Vote Centers within the County
- Vote Centers will be open throughout the County starting 10 days before Election Day and on Election Day
- All Vote Centers offer more space, additional services, and enhanced voting equipment
- Choose When, Where, and How to Vote!

Available Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Options

- MAIL your VBM ballot in the provided free postage-paid return envelope
- PLACE your VBM ballot in any Official Ballot Drop Box located throughout the County
- RETURN your VBM ballot to any Vote Center in the County starting **October 24, 2026**

Voting In Person Options

- WHEN: Starting **October 5, 2026**, at the Registrar of Voters' main office, and from **October 24, 2026** to **November 3, 2026**, at any Vote Center
- WHERE: At the ROV office, or at any Vote Center location within the County
- HOW: Vote on a paper ballot or touchscreen voting machine

Voter's Choice Act Implementation

The Voter's Choice Act (VCA) is a new voting model passed by the California State Legislature in 2016. The VCA was successfully implemented in several counties including San Mateo, Sacramento, Napa, Nevada, and Madera during the 2018 elections. Two of the state's largest counties, Los Angeles and Orange, along with the County of Santa Clara, implemented the new voting model during the 2020 elections. There are now 30 counties in the State that have adopted the VCA model. For more information on the Voter's Choice Act, please call toll free (866) 430-VOTE (8683), email **voterschoice@rov.sccgov.org**, or visit our **Voters Choice Act** webpage for more information at **www.sccvote.org/voterschoice**.

In-person Voting Opportunities

County elections officials are encouraged to provide as many in-person voting locations in their jurisdiction. County elections officials are authorized to provide in-person voting locations as follows:

- Voter's Choice Act (VCA) counties holding the **November 3, 2026**, General Election shall provide at least one in-person voting location per 10,000 registered voters within the County on Election Day.

- The minimum operating hours are set forth **in Elections Code § 4005**: Please refer to **sccvote.org/votehere** for further information on vote center day(s) and hours of operations.

- The minimum number of in-person voting locations is based upon voters registered as of E-88, the 88th day before Election Day.

Vote-by-Mail Ballot Drop-off Opportunities

The County is required to provide:

- At least one ballot drop-off location for every 15,000 registered voters within
- their jurisdiction

Please visit **sccvote.org/votehere** for updated information.

Key Dates and Deadlines

November 3, 2026 General Election Calendar

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 1)

This calendar may not contain all candidate filing requirements. The Office of the Registrar of Voters is not open for filings on Saturday, Sunday, or holidays.

[1] Refer to **Elections Code §§ 9190** (county elections), **9295** (municipal elections), **9380** (district elections), **9509** (school district elections), and **13313** (other nonpartisan elected offices) for details of public examination periods and **13314** for writ of mandate procedures.
[2] The period covered by any submitted statement begins on the day after the last day of the reporting period covered by the last statement filed, OR January 1st, if no previous statement has been filed.
[3] Date falls on a weekend or public holiday; This date or deadline has been moved forward to the next business day.

# of Days Prior to/or Following Election Day	Key Dates and Deadlines	Activities / References / Resources
E-113	Monday, July 13, 2026	**NOMINATION PERIOD OPENS** First day candidates may pick up nomination documents at the office of the Registrar of Voters. **(Elections Code §§ 8020, 8302** (independent nominations), **§ 10220** (municipal)**, § 10510** (district); **Education Code § 5300** (school district))
E-98	Tuesday, July 28, 2026	**LAST DAY FOR RUNOFF CANDIDATES TO CHANGE BALLOT DESIGNATION** Last day for runoff candidates for a voter-nominated or nonpartisan office, to submit in writing a change to the ballot designation that will appear under your name. **(Elections Code § 13107(h))**
E-95	Friday, July 31, 2026	[2]**F.P.P.C. SEMI-ANNUAL STATEMENT DUE** Deadline for semi-annual financial disclosure report Form 460 covering the reporting period noted below or the day after the closing date of the last statement filed. **(Government Code §§ 84200** (deadline); **81005** (weekend deadline)) **Reporting Period:** January 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026

E-90 to 0	Wednesday, August 5, 2026 to Tuesday, November 3, 2026	**CONTRIBUTION / INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES STATEMENTS RULES BEGIN TO APPLY** Sums of $1,000 or more to/from a single source must be reported within 24-hours. The Independent Expenditure statement is required only for committees (not candidate controlled) that make independent expenditures totaling $1,000 or more to support or oppose a single ballot measure or a single candidate. **(Government Code §§ 85309** (24 hours); **85204** (defining "election cycle" as E-90 timeframe))
E-88	Friday, August 7, 2026	[1]**NOMINATION PERIOD CLOSES** Deadline to file for all offices, in the Office of the Registrar of Voters only, all required nomination documents. **(Elections Code §§ 8020, 8302** (independent nominations), **§ 10220** (municipal), **§ 10510** (district); **Education Code § 5300** (school district); **Elections Code § 13307** (candidates statements for all candidates) **LAST DAY FOR RUNOFF CANDIDATES TO SUBMIT A NEW CANDIDATE STATEMENT** Last day for runoff candidates for a voter-nominated or nonpartisan office, to submit a new candidate statement to appear in the November general election County Voter Information Guide (CVIG). **(Elections Code § 13307(a)(2))**
E-87 to 83	Saturday, August 8, 2026 to Wednesday, August 12, 2026	[1]**NOMINATION EXTENSION PERIOD** If the incumbent fails to file a Declaration of Candidacy by deadline for their office, there will be a 5-calendar-day extension during which any candidate, other than the incumbent, may file for said office. **(Elections Code §§ 8022, 8023** (independent nominations), **8024** (county), **8204** (judges), **10225** (municipal), **10407, 10516** (district), **10604** (school district); **Education Code § 5300** (school district))

E-87 to 78	Saturday, August 8, 2026 to Monday, August 17, 2026	[1]**CANDIDATE STATEMENT EXAMINATION PERIOD** The elections official shall make a copy of the material referred to in **Elections Code § 13307** available for public examination during business hours for a period of 10-calendar days immediately following the filing deadline for submission of those documents. **(Elections Code § 13313)**
E-83	Wednesday, August 12, 2026	**LAST DAY TO AMEND OR WITHDRAW A MEASURE** Deadline for jurisdictions to amend or withdraw a measure from the ballot. The measure must be amended or withdrawn by resolution. **(Elections Code § 9605)**
E-82	Thursday, August 13, 2026	**RANDOMIZED ALPHABET DRAWING** On this day the Secretary of State (SOS) and the Office of the Registrar of Voters will conduct a drawing of letters of the alphabet to determine the order in which candidates appear on the ballot. (**Elections Code §§ 13111, 13112, 13113**)
E-67	Friday, August 28, 2026	[1]**FINAL PRINTING DEADLINE** Any petition for writ of mandate, including any appeals, should be resolved by this date so the Registrar of Voters can meet necessary printing deadlines.
E-57 to 14	Monday, September 7, 2026 to Tuesday, October 20, 2026	**WRITE-IN CANDIDACY PERIOD** Between these dates is the period for candidates to obtain and file write-in nomination documents in the Office of the Registrar of Voters. **(Elections Code § 8601)**
E-45	Saturday, September 19, 2026	**LAST DAY TO MAIL BALLOTS TO MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTERS** **(52 U.S.C. § 20302** (federal elections); **Elections Code §§ 3102, 3105** (all elections))

E-40	Thursday, September 24, 2026	[2]**F.P.P.C. 1st PRE-ELECTION STATEMENT DUE** Deadline for financial disclosure report **Form 460** covering the reporting period noted below or the day after the closing date of the last statement filed. **(Government Code § 84200.8)** **Reporting Period:** July 1, 2026 to September 19, 2026
E-40 to 21	Thursday, September 24, 2026 to Tuesday, October 13, 2026	**ROV TO MAIL COUNTY VOTER INFORMATION GUIDES (CVIGs) TO ALL ACTIVE REGISTERED VOTERS** **(E-21 is the last day to mail CVIGs) (Elections Code § 13303)**
E-29	Monday, October 5, 2026	**MAILING OF VOTE-BY-MAIL PACKETS** Last day to begin mailing vote-by-mail ballots. **(Elections Code § 3001** (all elections), **§ 4005** (for all-mail elections))
E-29 to 1	Monday, October 5, 2026 to Monday, November 2, 2026	**EARLY VOTING PERIOD AT THE ROV OFFICE** Early voting is available at the Registrar of Voters office for individuals wishing to drop off ballots or vote in person during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., beginning 29 days prior the election. **(Elections Code §§ 3000.5(a), 3001)**
E-15	Monday, October 19, 2026	**LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION** Deadline to register to be eligible to vote in this election with a regular ballot. **(Elections Code § 2102)**

E-14 to 0	Tuesday, October 20, 2026 to Tuesday, November 3, 2026	**CONDITIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION** Conditional Voter Registration is open for a full 14 days prior to the election and must be done in person at the Registrar of Voters office or at any Vote Center. (**Elections Code § 2170**) Vote Centers are open 11 days prior to the election, and to all registered voters in Santa Clara County, and to all registered voters in jurisdictions holding special elections. (**Elections Code § 4005**) Any voter can go to any Vote Center location throughout the County. Hours may vary by location and locations may vary with each election – please see listing on our website at **https://vote.santaclaracounty.gov/home** or click link below. **Official Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center Sites Information** (The ROV website will be updated for each election.)
E-12	Thursday, October 22, 2026	[2]**F.P.P.C. 2nd PRE-ELECTION STATEMENT DUE** Deadline for financial disclosure report **Form 460** covering the reporting period noted below or the day after the closing date of the last statement filed. **(Government Code § 84200.8)** **Reporting Period:** September 20, 2026 to October 17, 2026
E-10 to 0	Saturday, October 24, 2026 to Tuesday, November 3, 2026	**VOTE CENTERS OPEN 10 DAYS BEFORE AND INCLUDING ELECTION DAY** Vote Centers are open 11 days prior to the election, and to all registered voters in Santa Clara County, and to all registered voters in jurisdictions holding special elections. Any voter can go to any Vote Center location throughout the County. Hours may vary by location and locations may vary with each election – please see listing on our website at **https://vote.santaclaracounty.gov/home**. **(Elections Code § 4005)** **Official Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center Sites Information** (The ROV website will be updated for each election.)

E-7	Tuesday, October 27, 2026	**LAST DAY TO REQUEST VOTE-BY-MAIL REPLACEMENT BALLOT TO BE MAILED** Deadline at 5:00 p.m. to submit a request for a Vote-by-Mail replacement ballot to be mailed to voter. **(Elections Code § 3015)**
0	Tuesday, November 3, 2026	**ELECTION DAY** All Vote Centers and ROV office are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for dropping off ballot or voting in person. (**Elections Code § 10541** (district), **§ 14212** (all polls)) Ballots must be postmarked by this date and received within 7 days following the Election. **(Elections Code § 3020)**
E+14	Tuesday, November 17, 2026	**ELECTIONS OFFICIAL DEADLINE TO NOTIFY VOTER OF UNMATCHED OR MISSING SIGNATURE** In the case of a voter whose signature does not match or is missing, the elections official is required to notify the voter 14 calendar days after the election of an opportunity to update the voter's signature. **(Elections Code § 3019(d))**
E+22	Wednesday, November 25, 2026	**SIGNATURE DEADLINE** Last day to turn in unsigned ballot or signature verification statements by 5:00 p.m. **(Elections Code § 3019(d))**
E+30	Thursday, December 3, 2026	**OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS** Registrar of Voters to certify election results. **(Elections Code §§ 15400, 15401, 15372)**
E+90	Monday, February 1, 2027	[2,3]**F.P.P.C. SEMI-ANNUAL STATEMENT DUE** Deadline for semi-annual financial disclosure report **Form 460** covering the reporting period noted below or the day after the closing date of the last statement filed. **(Government Code § 84200)** Date moved from E+89 to E+90 due to falling on a weekend. **Reporting Period:** June 30, 2026 to December 31, 2026

List of Offices

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 1)

Justices of California Courts

(Term of Office: 12 years)

Justices Contests	Number of Offices
Two (2) Supreme Court Associate Justices	Terms end January 4, 2027
Four (4) Appellate Court Associate Justices, 6th District	Terms end January 4, 2027

June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election Runoffs

(Term of Office: 2 years – US Representative in Congress)
(Term of Office: 4 years – all other voter-nominated contests listed below)
(Term of Office: 4 years nonpartisan contests listed below)

Voter-nominated Contests	Number of Offices
United States Representative in Congress, Districts 16, 17, 18, & 19	1 full-term each
State Senator, District 10	1 full-term
Member of the Assembly, Districts 23, 24, 25, 26, 28 & 29	1 full-term each
Governor	1 full-term
Lieutenant Governor	1 full-term
Secretary of State	1 full-term
Controller	1 full-term
Treasurer	1 full-term
Attorney General	1 full-term
Insurance Commissioner	1 full-term
State Superintendent of Public Instruction	1 full-term
Member, State Board of Equalization, District 2	1 full-term

School Districts

(**Terms of Office:** Full Term: 4 years; Partial/Unexpired: 2 years)
Candidates must reside in the district (at-large) or trustee areas,
and are voted on at-large or by trustee area voters.

TA = Trustee Area

Elementary School District Contests	Offices to be Filled
Alum Rock Union	3 full-terms
Berryessa Union	3 full-terms
Cambrian	3 full-terms
Campbell Union, TAs 1, 4 & 5	1 full-term each TA
Cupertino Union	3 full-terms
Evergreen	3 full-terms
Franklin-McKinley	3 full-terms
Lakeside Joint **(joint w/County of Santa Cruz)**	3 full-terms
Loma Prieta Joint Union **(joint w/County of Santa Cruz)**	3 full-terms
Los Altos	3 full-terms
Los Gatos Union	3 full-terms

Luther Burbank	2 full-terms **1 partial/unexpired term**
Moreland, TAs 1, 2, 3 & 4	**1 partial/unexpired term TA 1** 1 full-term each TA
Mountain View Whisman	2 full-terms
Mount Pleasant	3 full-terms
North County Joint Union **(joint w/County of San Benito)**	2 full-terms
Oak Grove, TAs 2, 3 & 5	1 full-term each TA
Orchard	3 full-terms
Saratoga Union	3 full-terms
Sunnyvale, TAs 1, 3 & 5	1 full-term each TA
Union	3 full-terms
High School District Contests	**Offices to be Filled**
Campbell Union, TAs 1, 2 & 3	1 full-term each TA
East Side Union, TAs 1, 2 & 4	**1 partial/unexpired term TA 1** 1 full-term TAs 2 & 4
Fremont Union, TAs 1, 3 & 4	1 full-term each TA
Los Gatos-Saratoga Union, TAs 2, 3 & 4 **(TAs 2 & 3 joint w/County of Santa Cruz)**	1 full-term each TA
Mountain View–Los Altos Union, TAs 1, 2 & 3	1 full-term each TA
Unified School District Contests	**Offices to be Filled**
Gilroy, TAs 1, 3, 4 & 7	1 full-term each TA
Milpitas	3 full-terms
Morgan Hill, TAs 1, 2, 3 & 4	1 full-term each TA
Palo Alto	2 full-terms
Patterson Joint, TA 2 **(TA 2 joint with Stanislaus)**	1 full-terms
San Jose, TAs 2 & 4	1 full-term each TA
Santa Clara, TAs 1, 3, 4 & 6	1 full-term each TA
Community College District Contests	**Offices to be Filled**
Foothill-De Anza, Trustee Areas 2 & 4	1 full-term each TA
Gavilan Joint, Trustee Areas 1 & 3	1 full-term each TA
San Jose-Evergreen, Trustee Areas 2, 4 & 6	1 full-term each TA
West Valley-Mission, Trustee Areas 3, 5, & 7 **(TA 5 and TA 7 joint w/County of Santa Cruz)**	1 full-term each TA
Yosemite, Trustee Area 4 **(joint w/Counties of San Joaquin, Merced & Stanislaus)**	1 full-term
Board of Education Contests	**Offices to be Filled**
Santa Clara County, Trustee Areas 2, 6 & 7 **(TA 2 joint with Santa Cruz)**	1 full-term each TA
Stanislaus County, Trustee 5 **(TA 5 joint with Stanislaus)**	1 full-term

Special Districts

(**Terms of Office:** Full Term: 4 years; Partial/Unexpired: 2 years)
Candidates must reside in the district (at-large) or district/ward areas,
and are voted on at-large or by district/ward area voters.

Special District Contests	Offices to be Filled
Aldercroft Heights County Water	2 full-terms
Burbank Sanitary	3 full-terms
Cupertino Sanitary	2 full-terms
El Camino Healthcare	2 full-terms
Lion's Gate Community Services	1 full-term **2 partial/unexpired terms**
Purissima Hills Water	2 full-terms
Rancho Rinconada Recreation & Park	2 full-terms
San Martin County Water	2 full-terms
Santa Clara Valley Water, Districts 1, 4, 6, & 7	1 full-term each district
Saratoga Fire Protection	1 full-term
Silver Creek Valley Country Club GHAD	**3 partial/unexpired terms**
South Santa Clara Valley Memorial	2 full-terms
West Bay Sanitary **(joint w/County of San Mateo)**	2 full-terms

Officeholder Titles

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 1)

Incumbent	➢ Elected by a vote of the people ➢ Fulfilled a 4-year term ➢ May use "Incumbent" as Ballot Designation ➢ Creates a full-term seat when re-running for same office
Appointed In-Lieu	➢ Qualified during nomination period with no challenger (or for Vote for X contest with X or fewer candidates), contest comes off-ballot and candidate gets appointed by Board of Supervisors for Special Districts and by School Board Members for School Districts to fill the seat prior to date of election ➢ Fulfilled a 4-year term in-lieu of an election ➢ May use "Incumbent" as Ballot Designation ➢ Creates a full-term seat when re-running for same office
Appointed Incumbent	➢ Not elected ➢ Appointed by either District Board, City Council or Board of Supervisors to fill a vacancy just until next general election ➢ May use "Appointed Incumbent" as Ballot Designation ➢ Creates a short-term seat if the appointed incumbent is filling a vacancy in the first half of a regular term ➢ Otherwise, creates a full-term seat
Vacancy	➢ An "incumbent," "appointed in-lieu," or "appointed incumbent" vacates seat (and the vacancy remains unfilled) **Scenario:** • Vacancy of a four-year term (2024-2028) • In first two years of term if vacancy occurs, this creates a short-term seat **Example:** • Created vacancy in 2024 or 2025 (or in 2026 prior to the nomination period) • Short-term seat at the next general election in 2026 for ***last two years of term from 2026-2028*** • Allows the rotation of officeholders to be staggered for election purposes **NOTE:** Vacancy in second half of term would not create a short-term election unless a special election is called pursuant to **Government Code § 1780**

Candidate Qualifications and Information for Nonpartisan Offices

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 1)

Qualifications to Run for Office

Unless otherwise specifically provided, no person is eligible to be elected or appointed to an elective office unless that person is a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person or at the time of the person's appointment. **(Elections Code § 201)**

A person is disqualified from holding any office upon conviction of designated crimes specified in the Constitution and laws of the State. **(Government Code § 1021)**

With some limited exceptions, a person is not eligible to run for an elected county or district office unless he or she is a registered voter of the county or district in which the duties of the office are to be exercised at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person or, if they are appointed to fill a vacancy in an elected office, at the time of the person's appointment. **(Government Code § 24001)**

No person may file nomination papers for more than one office at the same election. *However, if a person is a member of a county council/central committee they may file nomination papers for another public office at the same election*, as *election to a county council/central committee is not an "office" within the meaning of* ***elections code §*** *8003*. **(Elections Code § 8003)**

If a candidate is seeking a nonpartisan office, all reference to party affiliation shall be omitted on all required forms. **(Elections Code § 8002)**

Santa Clara County Ordinance Code **Section A11-8** requires the electronic filing of campaign disclosure statements with the Office of the Registrar of Voters by candidates running for County offices. Refer to **Ordinance No. NS-300.857.** An exception is that in any instance in which the original statement is required to be filed with the Secretary of State and a copy of that statement is required to be filed with the local government agency; the filer is exempt from filing the statement electronically and may submit a paper copy to the Registrar of Voters.

Santa Clara County Ordinance Code **Section A-35** relates to campaign and officeholder contribution limits associated with running and holding County offices. County offices include the Board of Supervisors, District Attorney, County Sheriff, and County Assessor. The ordinance requires candidates to file the *Voluntary Expenditure Ceiling Limit Agreement* **form** with the Office of the Registrar of Voters prior to accepting any campaign contributions. Candidates who declined to accept the voluntary expenditure ceiling in the primary election, but who nevertheless did not exceed the recommended spending limits in the primary election, may file a statement of acceptance of the spending limits for the general election within 14 days following the primary election and receive all the benefits accompanying such an agreement specified in this chapter by completing the *Voluntary Expenditure Ceiling Limit Agreement Update* **form**. Refer to **Ordinance No. NS-19.40.**

Prohibitions

Pursuant to the Outside Employment/Incompatibility Activity Policy and Forms for Employees, Election Workers/Volunteers, and Unpaid Interns/Volunteers, the Office of the Registrar of Voters' procedures prohibit a candidate, member of a candidate's household, or a close family member of a candidate from serving as a precinct official at a vote center.

Pursuant to **Elections Code § 12287**, a candidate's residence may not serve as a polling place for any election at which the candidate's name appears on the ballot.

Pursuant to **Elections Code § 15205**, a candidate may not count, tally, or certify ballots for any election at which the candidate's name appears on the ballot.

Prohibition of Holding Two Offices

The **Santa Clara County Ordinance** includes a provision relating to holding two offices that may be incompatible. Specifically, **§ A3-40** prohibits a member of the Board of Supervisors from holding another public office that is incompatible:

> *Sec. A3-40. - Incompatible office. (Restatement of existing state law)*
> *Under existing California common law, no Board member may hold another public office where the two offices are incompatible. Taking an incompatible second public office results in the automatic forfeiture of the first office. (66 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen 176 (1983))*

While there is no statute that defines what an "incompatible office" is, a common law doctrine precludes public officials from holding two different public offices simultaneously if the offices have overlapping and conflicting public duties. Courts have summarized the doctrine as follows:

> *"One individual may not simultaneously hold two public offices where the functions of the offices concerned are inherently inconsistent, as where there are conflicting interests, or where the nature of the duties of the two offices is such as to render it improper due to considerations of public policy for one person to retain both." (Eldridge v. Sierra View Loc. Hosp. Dist. (Ct. App. 1990), 224 Cal. App. 3d 311, 319, 273 Cal. Rptr. 654, 659 (citing Mott v. Horstmann (1950) 36 Cal.2d 388, 391-92))*

The Attorney General's Office has issued many opinions as to whether certain offices are incompatible or not. Here are five examples of offices that the Attorney General's Office has opined were incompatible:

1) The offices of city councilman and school district board member where the city and the school district have territory in common;
2) The positions of fire chief of a county fire protection district and member of the board of supervisors of the same county;
3) The offices of trustee of a high school district and trustee of an elementary school district which is wholly within the geographic boundaries of the high school district;
4) Water district director and a city council member; and,
5) A water district director and a school district trustee having territory in common.

Additional information on holding two offices can also be found on the FPPC's web **http://www.fppc.ca.gov** under the link, "Learn," and by viewing the "Public Officials and Employees Rules," page for the information on Conflicts of Interest and **Holding Two Positions**.

Eligibility

School District Governing Board Members: Any person, regardless of sex, who is 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the state, a resident of the school district, a registered voter, and who is not disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding a civil office, is eligible to be elected or appointed a member of a governing board of a school district without further qualifications. An employee of a school district may not be sworn into office as an elected or appointed member of that school district's governing board unless and until he or she resigns as an employee. If the employee does not resign, the employment will automatically terminate upon being sworn into office. **(Education Code § 35107)**

County Board of Education Members: Any registered voter is eligible to be a member of the county board of education except the county superintendent of schools, any member of his or her staff, or any employee of a school district. Each member of the board shall be an elector of the trustee area which he or she represents and shall be elected by the electors of the trustee area. **(Education Code §§ 1000, 1006(a))**

Special District Board Members: Candidates must be a resident and qualified elector of the district. Unless otherwise noted below, candidate signature requirements are subject to **Elections Code § 8062(3)**; candidates must also obtain and file all required nomination forms with the Office of the Registrar of Voters located at 1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, 3rd Floor, San José, CA 95112. Specific eligibility requirements for certain special districts are also listed below, in alphabetical order of special district.

Lion's Gate Community Services District

A candidate for Lion's Gate Community Services District must also be a property owner in the district. You must file a form stating that you are a property owner in the district. You may obtain an example form from the Office of the Registrar of Voters.

San Martin County Water District

A candidate for the San Martin County Water District must be a resident of the district or a property owner in the district. If you are filing as a landowner, you must file a form stating that you are a property owner in the district. You may obtain an example form from the Office of the Registrar of Voters.

Santa Clara Valley Water District

A candidate must be a resident of the district and sub-district, a registered voter, and otherwise qualified to vote for the office. Candidates are required to file a Nomination Petition with a minimum of 20 valid signatures of registered voters who live within the sub-district in which the candidate is to be voted on.

Silver Creek Valley Country Club Geologic Hazard Abatement District (GHAD)

A candidate for the Silver Creek Valley Country Club Geologic Hazard Abatement District must also be a landowner or an agent of a landowner to be eligible for office. An agent of a landowner must provide the ROV with written authorization from the landowner designating the agent. You may obtain an example form for either a landowner or an agent of a landowner from the Office of the Registrar of Voters.

The Silver Creek Valley Country Club Geologic Hazard Abatement District Bylaws, **§ 5**, states: "Each director, or the entity on behalf of which he or she acts, shall own land within the GHAD and shall possess such other qualifications as imposed or required under the GHAD Law, the Election Law, and other applicable law. Directors are not required, however, to be residents of the district."

South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District

A candidate for the South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District may be a veteran or non-veteran pursuant to **Military & Veterans Code § 1197**. The majority of the board members (i.e., a minimum of 3 members and up to all 5 members) must have veteran status, while up to 2 members may have non-veteran status. Candidates must be registered voters in the district and are voted on by District voters. Proof of veteran status can be satisfied by filing a copy of **Discharge Certificate Form DD214** or providing inactive Veteran ID to the ROV at the time of filing nomination documents.

Write-in Candidates

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 1)

FILING DATES: September 7, 2026, through October 20, 2026

Candidates who desire to be a write-in candidate and have their name written on the ballot of an election shall fulfill the requirements of **Part 3 of Division 8 of the Elections Code, commencing at § 8600**. Write-in candidates must meet all qualifications of the office to which they are seeking the nomination. The name of the qualified write-in candidate is **not** printed on the ballot. Prospective write-in candidates should note that write-in candidacy is possible only if the office appears on the ballot.

Statement of Write-in Candidacy

Anyone seeking to be a write-in candidate for any office appearing on the ballot must file a *Statement of Write-In Candidacy*. The elections official provides the form during the official write-in filing period. The *Statement of Write-In Candidacy* shall contain the following information:
(1) Candidate's name.
(2) Residence address.
(3) A declaration stating that he or she is a write-in candidate.
(4) The title of the office for which he or she is running.
(5) The party nomination which he or she seeks, if running in a partisan primary election.
(6) The date of the election.
(7) A certification of the candidate's complete voter registration and party affiliation/preference history for the preceding 10 years, or for as long as he or she has been eligible to vote in the state if less than 10 years, if running for a voter-nominated office.
(8) For any of the offices described in **§ 13.5**, a statement that the candidate meets the statutory and constitutional requirements for that office as described in that section. **(Elections Code § 8600)**

Nomination Papers

A candidate seeking elective office that requires nomination signers must circulate a petition to collect required signatures and file them for examination with the county elections official of the county in which the signers reside. The statement and nomination papers shall be available on the 57th day prior to the election for which the candidate is filing as a write-in candidate and shall be delivered to the elections official responsible for the conduct of the election no later than the 14th day prior to the election. **(Elections Code §§ 8600(b), 8601)**

*The nomination papers for the following respective offices shall be substantially in the same form as set forth in **Elections Code § 8041**.*

Candidates for Judge of the Superior Court and Santa Clara Valley Water District may submit no fewer than the number of signatures noted below and no more than the number of signatures denoted in "()". **(Elections Code § 8062(a))**

Local Office (Non-Partisan)	Nomination Signature Requirement
Judge of the Superior Court	20 (40)

Voter-nominated Offices

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person may not be a write-in candidate at the general election for a voter-nominated office. Voter-nominated offices include U.S. Representative in Congress, State Senate, State Assembly, Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Board of Equalization. **(Elections Code §§ 359.5, 8600, 8606)**

For a voter-nominated office, in order to have a write-in candidate's name on the ensuing general election ballot, the write-in candidate in the primary election must receive the highest number of votes cast for the office or the second highest number of votes cast for the office. If only one candidate receives the highest number of votes cast but, there is a tie among two or more candidates receiving the second highest number of votes cast, each of those second-place candidates shall be a candidate at the ensuing general election along with the candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast. **(Elections Code §§ 8142, 8605)**

Filing Fees

No fee or charge shall be required of a write-in candidate except in the case of a candidate for city office, as provided in **Elections Code § 10228. (Elections Code § 8604)**

Unopposed Judicial Write-in Candidate Requirements

There are specific conditions for placing unopposed judicial candidates on the ballot with a write-in campaign. Pursuant to **Elections Code § 8203**:

(a) In any county in which only the incumbent has filed nomination papers for the office of superior court judge, his or her name shall not appear on the ballot unless there is filed with the elections official, within 10 days after the final date for filing nomination papers for the office, a petition indicating that a write-in campaign will be conducted for the office and signed by at least 0.1 percent of the registered voters qualified to vote with respect to the office, provided that the petition shall contain at least 100 signatures but need not contain more than 600 signatures.

(b) If a petition indicating that a write-in campaign will be conducted for the office at the general election, signed by the number of registered voters qualified to vote with respect to the office specified in subdivision (a), is filed with the elections official not less than 83 days before the general election, the name of the incumbent shall be placed on the general election ballot if it has not appeared on the direct primary election ballot.

(c) If, in conformity with this section, the name of the incumbent does not appear either on the primary ballot or general election ballot, the elections official, on the day of the general election, shall declare the incumbent reelected. Certificates of election specified in **Elections Code § 15401 or § 15504** shall not be issued to a person reelected pursuant to this Section before the day of the general election.

Note: There are no district residency requirements for the office of Judge of the Superior Court.

Roster of Qualified Write-in Candidates

For each election, the Office of the Registrar of Voters will post a list of qualified write-in candidates for offices appearing on the ballot in the county. The City Clerk of each respective City will provide a certified list to the Office of the Registrar of Voters of their write-in candidates. The County will combine all write-in candidates onto one list. A link will be available on the current election resources webpage.

When and How Votes are Tabulated and Reported

Write-in votes are not tallied at the same time as votes for qualified candidates who have their names printed on the ballot. Instead, these votes must be individually reviewed to ensure the name of the person written in on the ballot is qualified to have votes counted, and that the name is written under the correct candidate contest. Write-in votes are reviewed during the Adjudication process and tallied under the provisions of **Article 7, of Chapter 1, of Division 7, in Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations §§ 20100 – 20105**.

When elections are consolidated, all results are reported at the same time. The canvass and certification of the vote can take up to 30 days to complete. The Registrar of Voters cannot accommodate requests to tabulate and release results for specified contests, nor can it segregate ballots by contest to report remaining ballots by jurisdiction. All votes, including valid write-in votes, are included as part of the Statement of Votes Cast reported to the Secretary of State's office, no later than the 30th day following the election.

No later than the 38th day after the election, the Secretary of State must determine the votes cast for candidates for state and federal office and for the statewide ballot measures, certify those results, and issue certificates of nomination/election to those candidates who were nominated/elected.

ATTENTION

Confidential Voter Information

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 1)

If you are registered as a Confidential Voter

AND

do not want to disclose your residential address on the nomination documents:

Check with us at (408) 299-VOTE (8683)

Eligibility to Register as a Confidential Voter (confidential form needs to be completed)

1. Candidates for office (state and local).
2. Elected Officials.
3. Superior court order.
4. Safe at Home Program.
5. Public Safety Officer.

NEW Legislation: Assembly Bill 1392 – Confidential Voter Status

Effective **January 1, 2026**, Assembly Bill (AB) 1392 added **Elections Code § 2166.9** to **Elections Code § 2227, § 8040**, and **§ 10226.3**'s lists of confidential voter sections and amended **Elections Code § 2194** and mostly conforming amendments to **§ 2227**, **§ 8040**, **§ 8600**, and **§ 10226.3**. The legislation allows elected officials and candidates (including write-in candidates) running for an elected office to opt in (elected officials) or have automatic status (candidates) of their voter registration records to become confidential during an election cycle or term of office. Confidential voter registration records include residence addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses. Confidential voter status may be changed at any time by contacting the ROV/Candidate Services Division to request a change.

What does it mean for elected officials and candidates to be *CONFIDENTIAL* voters in Santa Clara County?

1) Confidential names, residence addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses ***will not be*** listed on any list, roster or index for voting in any election conducted in Santa Clara County.
2) Voting is limited to Vote-by-Mail ballot only.
3) Voting in-person at a vote center is limited to provisional voting only.
4) Choosing to re-register or make updates at the DVM may terminate confidential voter status and require contact with the ROV/Candidate Services Division to ensure/maintain confidential voter status.
5) An elected official who vacates or is termed out of office will no longer have a confidential voter status.
6) An appointed official may contact the ROV/Candidate Services Division to opt in to confidential voter status during their term.
7) Vacating an elected office will automatically terminate confidential voter status.

8) Confidential voter status applies only to the elected official or candidate (including write-in candidates).
    a. **NOTE:** Other non-elected or non-candidate household voters are not eligible to be confidential voters under this provision. To apply for confidential voter status under **Elections Code § 2166**, **§ 2166.5**, or **§ 2166.7**, please reach out to our Vote by Mail Division at (408) 282-3018 or **votebymail@rov.sccgov.org**.
9) Confidential names, residence addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses may be shared under specific circumstances for journalist or governmental purposes.
10) Elected officials may choose to opt out of confidential voter status at any time by filing a new Confidential Voter Status Form with the ROV/Candidate Services Division.

What does it mean for elected officials and candidates to be *NON-CONFIDENTIAL* voters in Santa Clara County?

1) Voter registration ***will not*** be made confidential.
2) Options available to vote are as follows: a) in-person or b) by mail.
3) Names, residence addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses ***will be*** listed on any list, roster or index for voting in any election conducted in Santa Clara County.
4) Confidential voter registration status may be updated at any time.

County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters Guide to Translated Languages

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 1)

Federally Mandated Languages

- **ENGLISH**
- **CHINESE ***
- **SPANISH**
- **TAGALOG**
- **VIETNAMESE**

***** Chinese traditional characters for written materials; Mandarin for audio ballots; Mandarin, Cantonese, and Taiwanese verbal language assistance.

Translated Materials Include:

- **Official Ballots:** Paper Ballots, Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM), Touch Screen Marking Devices, Audio Ballot
- **County Voter Information Guides:** Paper Guides, Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM), & Electronic Accessible Guides
- **ALL** Related Election Material Including Website
- All Information that Goes Out to Voters
- All VCA documents including mailers
- Bilingual Staff assistance at ROV and Vote Centers
- ePoll book (Electronic roster index) at Vote Centers
- Translated language workshops

Official Ballots Translations:

- Headings
- Instructions
- Names of Jurisdictions
- Character-Based Language Transliterations
- Ballot Designations
- Measure Labels

Translated County Voter Information Guides (CVIGs):

- Sample of the Ballots
- Filler Pages
- Impartial Analyses
- Complete Texts (Print and No Print)
- Tax Rate Statements
- Arguments
- Rebuttals
- 508 Compliant Accessible Guides

State Mandated Languages Under Elections Code § 14201

- **KOREAN**
- **KHMER**
- **JAPANESE**
- **HINDI**

Translated Materials Include:

- **Official Ballots:** Paper Ballots, RAVBM, Audio, Touch Screen Marking Devices
- Voting Instructions
- VBM Applications
- **ALL** Ballot Related Election Material Including Website and voter forms
- All VCA documents including mailers
- Bilingual Staff assistance at ROV and Vote Centers per **Elections Code § 14201**
- ePoll book (Electronic roster index) at Vote Centers
- Language Workshops

Official Ballots Translations:

- Headings
- Instructions
- Names of Jurisdictions
- Character Based Language Transliterations
- Ballot Designations
- Measure Labels

Translated County Voter Information Guides (CVIGs): N/A

- **PUNJABI**
- **GUJARATI**
- **TAMIL**
- **TELUGU**
- **NEPALI**
- **MONGOLIAN ***
- **FARSI ***
- **INDONESIAN ***

***** Newly mandated languages as of 2026.

Translated Materials Include:

- Facsimile Ballots in Targeted Precincts per **Elections Code § 14201**
- Facsimile Ballot Application Available in all Languages Printed in CVIGs
- Facsimile Ballot Application Available on the County Website per **Elections Code § 14201**
- Vote Center Signage and Instructions
- VBM Application
- All VCA documents including mailers
- Voter Action Request Form (VARF)

- Bilingual Staff assistance at ROV and Vote Centers per **Elections Code § 14201**
- ePoll book (Electronic roster index) at Vote Centers
- Language Workshops

Facsimile Ballots Translations:

- Headings
- Instructions
- Names of Jurisdictions
- Character Based Language Transliterations
- Ballot Designations
- Measure Labels

Translated County Voter Information Guides (CVIGs): N/A

(Back to Table of Contents)

CHAPTER 2

Nomination Documents and Filing Procedures

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 2)

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Nomination Documents and Filing Procedures

Nomination Period: July 13, 2026 to August 7, 2026

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 2)

Nomination Documents

All forms required for nomination and election to all state, judicial, and county offices shall be **furnished by the county elections official.** At the time of issuing these forms, the county elections official shall:

1) Type on the forms the name of the candidate and the office for which they are a candidate; and
2) Imprint a stamp on the form which reads "Official Filing Form;" and
3) Affix their signature on the form.

The forms shall be distributed to all candidates free of charge but shall not be accepted unless payment of any applicable filing fee is paid at the time of obtaining the nomination forms. The county elections official shall not require a candidate to sign, file, or sign and file, a Declaration of Candidacy as a condition of receiving nomination papers. **(Elections Code §§ 8020, 8101, 8103, 8104, 8105, 10510)**

Candidates seeking elective city offices shall obtain and file all nomination forms with the respective city clerks.

The steps candidates must follow to issue **nomination documents electronically (excluding the Declaration of Candidacy form)** are as follows:

1) Complete and return pre-qualification documents to the County elections official:
    a. Candidate Information Request Form.
    b. Authorization Form to Obtain/File Nomination Documents, as needed.
2) The Office of the Registrar of Voters' (ROV) Candidate Services Division will issue nomination documents via a secured online portal. Pursuant to **Elections Code § 8028**, the Declaration of Candidacy will be issued in-person, in the ROV office during business hours. The candidate or any other person authorized by the candidate must file and take their oath of office in-person at the ROV or in front of a notary public outside the office; however, the candidate is required to file their Declaration of Candidacy in-person at the ROV during the nomination period with all other nomination documents.

Nomination Period

NOTE FOR CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR MULTI-COUNTY OFFICES: *When there is more than one county involved in a specific jurisdiction, candidates may obtain the nomination petition forms from any county in the jurisdiction. The County of Santa Clara will accept another county's nomination petition forms, but we recommend that the candidate contact the other counties involved to determine if they will accept this county's forms.*

Circulation of Petition

Circulators of nomination petitions shall be 18 years of age or older.

All signatures on a petition form must be obtained and witnessed by the same circulator. The circulator must complete, by hand, and sign the affidavit on petition form. **(Elections Code § 104)**

Petition Signers

Signers of nomination petitions for candidates shall be registered voters in the district or political subdivision in which the candidate is to be voted on. No signer shall, at the time of signing a certificate, have their name signed to any other nomination paper for any other candidate for the same office or, in case there are several places to be filled in the same office, signed to more nomination papers for candidates for that office than there are places to be filled. **(Elections Code §§ 8068, 8069)**

Verification of Signatures on Nomination Papers

The county elections official shall verify the signatures and the political preference, if required, of the signers on the nomination paper with the registration affidavits on file in the office of the county elections official. The county elections official shall mark "not sufficient" any signature that does not appear in the same handwriting as appears on the affidavit of registration in their office. The county elections official may cease to verify signatures once the minimum requisite number of signatures has been verified. **(Elections Code § 8081)**

No defect in any nomination document presented shall prevent the filing of another nomination document within the period allowed for presenting the nomination document. **(Elections Code § 8102)**

Maximum Signers of Nomination Papers

Please refer to the Candidate Qualifications and Information pages for the required number of nomination signatures. No more signers shall be secured for any candidate than the maximum number required. If, however, through miscalculation or otherwise, more signers are secured than the maximum number, the officer with whom the nomination papers are filed shall, with the written consent of the candidate, withdraw the excess number. **(Elections Code § 8067)**

Declaration of Candidacy

NOTE FOR CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR MULTI-COUNTY OFFICES: *When there is more than one county involved in a specific jurisdiction the candidate must file the Declaration of Candidacy in the county of residence.*

No candidate's name shall be printed on the ballot to be used in the election unless a Declaration of Candidacy and nomination papers are delivered for filing with the county elections official. The candidate is to execute the Declaration of Candidacy in the office of the county elections official unless the candidate has signed and dated a written statement authorizing a person to receive a Declaration of Candidacy form from the county elections official for the candidate. Such statement shall include language explaining that the candidate is aware that the Declaration of Candidacy must be properly executed and delivered to the county elections official of the county of the candidate's residence no later than the end of the nomination period by **5:00 p.m. on August 7, 2026**. Otherwise, upon request of a candidate, the County elections official shall provide the candidate with a Declaration of Candidacy and other nomination forms. **(Elections Code §§ 8020, 8028)**

Name on Ballot

The candidate's name as provided by the candidate on the Declaration of Candidacy is the way it will appear on the ballot. The Declaration of Candidacy cannot be changed after the nomination deadline. **(Elections Code §§ 8020, 8040)**

No title or degree shall appear on the same line on a ballot as a candidate's name, either before or after the candidate's name, in the case of any election to any office. **(Elections Code § 13106)**

If the candidate has changed their name within one year prior to the election, the new name will not appear on the ballot unless the change is made by marriage or by Decree of Court. **(Elections Code § 13104)**

Ballot Designation

The ballot designation is the word, or group of words that will appear on the ballot under the candidate's name, designating the current principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate.

The ballot designation that a candidate may use is governed by **Elections Code § 13107** which states the following:

> (a) With the exception of candidates for Justice of the State Supreme Court or court of appeal, immediately under the name of each candidate, and not separated from the name by any line, unless the designation made by the candidate pursuant to **§ 8002.5** must be listed immediately below the name of the candidate pursuant to **§ 13105**, and in that case immediately under the designation, may appear at the option of the candidate only one of the following designations:
>
> > (1) Words designating the elective city, county, district, state, or federal office which the candidate holds at the time of filing the nomination documents to which he or she was elected by vote of the people.
> >
> > (2) The word "incumbent" if the candidate is a candidate for the same office which he or she holds at the time of filing the nomination papers and was elected to that office by a vote of the people.
> >
> > (3) No more than three words designating either the current principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate, or the principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents.
> >
> > (4) The phrase "appointed incumbent" if the candidate holds an office by virtue of appointment, and the candidate is a candidate for election to the same office, or, if the candidate is a candidate for election to the same office or to some other office, the word "appointed" and the title of the office. In either instance, the candidate may not use the unmodified word "incumbent" or any words designating the office unmodified by the word "appointed." However, the phrase "appointed incumbent" shall not be required of a candidate who seeks reelection to an office which he or she holds and to which he or she was appointed, as a nominated candidate, in lieu of an election, pursuant to **§§**

5326 and 5328 of **the Education Code or §§ 7228**, **7423**, **7673**, **10229**, or **10515** of the **Elections Code**.

(b)

(1) Except as specified in paragraph (2), for candidates for judicial office, immediately under the name of each candidate, and not separated from the name by any line, only one of the following designations may appear at the option of the candidate:

(A) Words designating the city, county, district, state, or federal office held by the candidate at the time of filing the nomination documents.

(B) The word "incumbent" if the candidate is a candidate for the same office that he or she holds at the time of filing the nomination papers.

(C) No more than three words designating either the current principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate, or the principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents.

(2) For a candidate for judicial office who is an active member of the State Bar employed by a city, county, district, state, or by the United States, the designation shall appear as one of the following:

(A) Words designating the actual job title, as defined by statute, charter, or other governing instrument.

(B) One of the following ballot designations: "Attorney," "Attorney at Law," "Lawyer," or "Counselor at Law." The designations "Attorney" and "Lawyer" may be used in combination with one other current principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate, or the principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents.

(3) A designation made pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) or paragraph (2) shall also contain relevant qualifiers, as follows:

(A) If the candidate is an official or employee of a city, the name of the city shall appear preceded by the words "City of."

(B) If the candidate is an official or employee of a county, the name of the county shall appear preceded by the words "County of."

(C) If the candidate is an official or employee of a city and county, the name of the city and county shall appear preceded by the words "City and County."

(D) If the candidate performs quasi-judicial functions for a governmental agency, the full name of the agency shall be included.

(c) A candidate for superior court judge who is an active member of the State Bar and practices law as one of his or her principal professions shall use one of the following ballot designations as his or her ballot designation: "Attorney," "Attorney at Law," "Lawyer," or "Counselor at Law."

The designations "Attorney" and "Lawyer" may be used in combination with one other current principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate, or the principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents.

(d) For purposes of this section, all California geographical names shall be considered one word. Hyphenated words that appear in any generally available standard reference dictionary, published in the United States at any time within the 10 calendar years immediately preceding the election for which the words are counted, shall be considered as one word. Each part of all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word.

(e) The Secretary of State and any other elections official shall not accept a designation of which any of the following would be true:

(1) It would mislead the voter.

(2) It would suggest an evaluation of a candidate, such as *outstanding, leading, expert, virtuous, or eminent.*

(3) It abbreviates the word "*retired*" or places it following any word or words which it modifies.

(4) It uses a word or prefix, such as "*former*" or "*ex-*," which means a prior status. The only exception is the use of the word "*retired*."

(5) It uses the name of any *political party*, whether or not it has qualified for the ballot.

(6) It uses a word or words referring to a racial, religious, or ethnic group.

(7) It refers to any activity prohibited by law.

(f) If, upon checking the nomination documents and the ballot designation worksheet described in **§ 13107.3**, the elections official finds the designation to be in violation of any of the restrictions set forth in this section, the elections official shall notify the candidate by registered or certified mail return receipt requested, addressed to the mailing address provided on the candidate's ballot designation worksheet.

(1) The candidate shall, within three days, excluding Saturday, Sunday, and state holidays, from the date he or she receives notice by registered or certified mail, or from the date the candidate receives actual notice of the violation, whichever occurs first, appear before the elections official or, in the case of the Secretary of State, notify the Secretary of State by telephone, and provide a designation that complies with subdivision (a) or (b).

(2) If a candidate fails to provide a designation that complies with subdivision (a) or (b) within the three-day period specified in paragraph (1), a designation shall not appear after the candidate's name.

(g) A designation given by a candidate shall not be changed by the candidate after the final date for filing nomination documents, except as specifically requested by the elections official as specified in subdivision (f) or as provided in subdivision (h). The elections official shall maintain

a copy of the ballot designation worksheet for each candidate that appears on the ballot in the county for the same period as applied to nomination documents pursuant to **§ 17100**.

(h) The designation shall remain the same for all purposes of both primary and general elections, unless the candidate, at least 98 days before the general election, requests in writing a different designation which the candidate is entitled to use at the time of the request.

(i) In all cases, the words so used shall be printed in a manner consistent with the space requirements of **§§ 13207** and **13211**.

(j) If a foreign language translation of a candidate's designation is required under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (**52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq**.), as amended, to appear on the ballot in addition to the English language version, it shall be as short as possible, as consistent as is practicable with this section, and shall employ abbreviations and initials wherever possible in order to avoid undue length.

Ballot Designation Cheat Sheet

There are four categories of ballot designations. A candidate can choose from ONE of the designated categories listed below:

1. **Elections Code § 13107(a)(1): words designating the elective office which the candidate currently holds.** It can be the office title and/or the jurisdiction name. There are **no word limits** for this category.

   EXAMPLES: Governing Board Member, East Side Union High School District;
   Member, County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors;
   Director, Cupertino Sanitary District.

2. **Elections Code § 13107(a)(2):** The word "incumbent" if the candidate is a candidate for the same office which he or she holds at the time of filing the nomination papers and was elected to that office by a vote of the people.

3. **Elections Code § 13107(a)(3): No more than 3 words** designating either a candidate's current occupation(s) or profession(s), or the occupation(s) or profession(s) of the candidate during the last 12 months. Geographical names (only cities, counties, and states) are counted as one word. **(Elections Code § 13107(d)**. Other proper nouns are not counted as one word. May use short version of elective or appointed office subject to three-word limit.

4. **Elections Code § 13107(a)(4): The phrase "appointed incumbent"** if the candidate holds an office by virtue of appointment, and the candidate is a candidate for election to the same office, or, if the candidate is a candidate for election to the same office or to some other office, the word "appointed" and the title of the office. In either instance, the candidate may not use the unmodified word "incumbent" or any words designating the office unmodified by the word "appointed." However, the phrase "appointed incumbent" shall not be required of a candidate who seeks reelection to an office which he or she holds and to which he or she was appointed, as a nominated candidate, in lieu of an election, pursuant to **§§ 5326** and **5328** of the **Education Code or §§ 7228**, **7423**, **7673**, **10229**, or **10515** of the **Elections code.**

"Community Volunteer" may be used only if the candidate has no current occupation and is a volunteer. *The words "Community Volunteer" must stand alone.* **Elections Code § 13107.5.**

The following are examples of ballot designations identified as acceptable or not acceptable:

ACCEPTABLE	NOT ACCEPTABLE
Homemaker	Housewife, Husband or Wife
Mother or Father or Businessman/Father	Mom or Dad or Philanthropist
Minister or Priest	Charity Leader
School Board Member or Governing Board Member	School Board
Taxpayer Consultant	Taxpayer Advocate
Community Labor Organizer	Community Activist
Retired *(Must Precede any Profession)* Retired Sergeant	Retired Teacher, Retired Veteran
Incumbent *(Must Stand Alone)*	Incumbent/Business Owner
Appointed Incumbent *(Must Stand Alone)*	Appointed Incumbent/Parent
Community Volunteer *(Must Stand Alone and be Primary Occupation)*	Volunteer
Parent or Educator or Student	Honorary Professor

Elections Code § 13107(b) Different Rules for Candidate for Judicial Offices

(b) (1) Except as specified in paragraph (2), for candidates for judicial office, immediately under the name of each candidate, and not separated from the name by any line, only one of the following designations may appear at the option of the candidate:

(A) Words designating the city, county, district, state, or federal office held by the candidate at the time of filing the nomination documents.

(B) The word "incumbent" if the candidate is a candidate for the same office that he or she holds at the time of filing the nomination papers.

(C) No more than three words designating either the current principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate, or the principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents.

(2) For a candidate for judicial office who is an active member of the State Bar employed by a city, county, district, state, or by the United States, the designation shall appear as one of the following:

(A) Words designating the actual job title, as defined by statute, charter, or other governing instrument.

(B) One of the following ballot designations: "Attorney," "Attorney at Law," "Lawyer," or "Counselor at Law." The designations "Attorney" and "Lawyer" may be used in combination with one other current principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate, or the principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents.

(3) A designation made pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) or paragraph (2) shall also contain relevant qualifiers, as follows:

(A) If the candidate is an official or employee of a city, the name of the city shall appear preceded by the words "City of."

(B) If the candidate is an official or employee of a county, the name of the county shall appear preceded by the words "County of."

(C) If the candidate is an official or employee of a city and county, the name of the city and county shall appear preceded by the words "City and County."

(D) If the candidate performs quasi-judicial functions for a governmental agency, the full name of the agency shall be included.

(c) A candidate for superior court judge who is an active member of the State Bar and practices law as one of his or her principal professions shall use one of the following ballot designations as his or her ballot designation: "Attorney," "Attorney at Law," "Lawyer," or "Counselor at Law." The designations "Attorney" and "Lawyer" may be used in combination with one other current principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate, or the principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents.

Extension of Filing Period if Incumbent Does Not File

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, if nomination documents for an incumbent officer of a county, special district, school district, community college district, or county board of education are not delivered by **5 p.m. on the 88th day, August 7, 2026**, before the election, any person other than the person who was the incumbent on the 88th day shall have until **5 p.m. on the 83rd day, August 12, 2026**, before the election to file nomination documents for the elective office. This rule is not applicable where there is no incumbent eligible to be elected. **(Elections Code §§ 8024, 10516, 10604)**

Withdrawal of Candidate

No candidate shall withdraw their declaration of candidacy after **5 p.m. on the 88th day, August 7, 2026**, prior to the election. **(Elections Code §§ 10510(a), 10603(b))**

Where the extension period due to lack of an incumbent filing applies, a candidate whose declaration of candidacy has been filed for any special district, school district, or community college district governing board election or county board of education election may withdraw as a candidate until **5 p.m. on the 83rd day, August 12, 2026**, before the election. **(Elections Code §§ 10516(b), 10604(b))**

No candidate nominated at any primary election may withdraw as a candidate at the ensuing general election except those candidates permitted to withdraw by this part. **(Elections Code § 8801)**

A candidate who withdraws nomination documents pursuant to this section may, during the applicable filing period, file nomination documents for any other office at the same primary election for which the person is eligible to be a candidate, except the office for which the person withdrew their nomination documents. This subdivision shall not be construed to extend any deadline for filing nomination documents. **(Elections Code § 8020.5(c))**

No vacancy on the ballot for a nonpartisan office at a general election shall be filled except if the candidate dies and that fact has been ascertained by the officer charged with the duty of printing the ballots at least 68 days before the date of the next ensuing general election. **(Elections Code § 8803(a))**

Position on Ballot

Randomized Alphabet Drawing

On **August 13, 2026**, the 82nd day before the election, the Secretary of State (SOS) and the Office of the Registrar of Voters will conduct a drawing of letters of the alphabet to determine the order in which candidates appear on the ballot. Please refer to **Elections Code §§ 13111-13113**. For federal, state,

and local offices, candidates should refer to the SOS's drawing. If the office is that of State Senator or Member of the Assembly, candidates should refer to the SOS's drawing, unless the district encompasses more than one county. In this instance, the county elections official in each county shall conduct a drawing of the letters of the alphabet and the results shall be known as a county randomized ballot and be used only to arrange the names of the candidates for districts that include more than one county. **(Elections Code §§ 13111(i), 13112(b)(1)(B))**

Insufficient Number of Candidates

If, by 5 p.m. on the 83rd day before the election, the number of candidates in any district does not exceed the number of seats to be filled, and a petition signed by 10% of the voters of the district, or 50 voters, whichever is less, requesting that the election be held has not been presented to the Office of the Registrar of Voters, the election shall not be held and the candidates shall instead be appointed to office. **(Elections Code § 10515)**

Additional Nomination Forms

Ballot Designation Worksheet

A candidate who submits a ballot designation shall file a ballot designation worksheet that supports the use of that ballot designation by the candidate, in a format prescribed by the Secretary of State. The ballot designation worksheet shall be filed with the election official at the same time as the candidate files their declaration of candidacy. If a candidate fails to file a ballot designation worksheet, no designation shall appear under the candidate's name on the ballot. **(Elections Code § 13107.3(a)-(c))**

The designation shall remain the same for all purposes of both primary and general elections, unless the candidate, at least 98 days before the general election, **Tuesday, July 28, 2026**, requests in writing a different designation which the candidate is entitled to use at the time of the request. **(Elections Code § 13107(h))**

Preferred Transliteration Form for Character-based Names

The County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters is required to provide translated ballot materials pursuant to **§ 203** of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (**52 U.S.C. § 10503 et seq.**), any ballot that provides a translation of a candidate's name shall contain a phonetic transliteration of the candidate's name.

This section applies only to character-based languages including but not limited to, Mandarin, Chinese, Cantonese, Japanese, and Korean. **(Elections Code § 13211.7 (a)(1)(2))**

If a candidate's name is to appear on the ballot in more than one jurisdiction in an election, all of those jurisdictions required to provide translated ballot materials pursuant to **§ 203** of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (**52 U.S.C. § 10503**) shall use the same phonetic transliteration or character-based translation of the name. **(Elections Code § 13211.7 (a)(3))**

In a jurisdiction in which separate ballots containing translations of the candidates' names are printed in different languages, both the alphabet-based names and the translations of the candidates' names, for candidates that have translated names, shall appear on the translated ballot. **(Elections Code § 13211.7 (a)(4)(A))**

If a candidate has a character-based name by birth, that can be verified by birth certificate or other valid identification, the candidate may use that name on the ballot instead of a phonetic transliteration. **(Elections Code § 13211.7(b))**

If a candidate who does not have a character-based name by birth, but who identifies by a particular character-based name and can demonstrate to the local elections official that the candidate has been known and identified within the public sphere by that name over the past two years, may use that name instead of a phonetic transliteration. **(Elections Code § 13211.7(b))**

Request for Vietnamese Name Accents Form

If a candidate has a Vietnamese name and chooses to put a candidate statement in the county voter information guide and would like to put accents on their name in the Vietnamese version of the county voter information guide, they must file a Request for Vietnamese Name Accents Form with the Office of the Registrar of Voters at the time of filing nomination documents.

Candidate Statement of Qualifications

Candidates for non-partisan elective offices must file the Candidate Statement of Qualifications form to indicate whether the candidate wishes to include a statement in the county voter information guide. See the "Candidate Statement of Qualifications" section of this guide for further information.

Code of Fair Campaign Practices

At the time a candidate is issued their Declaration of Candidacy, nomination papers, or any other paper evidencing an intention to be a candidate for public office, the elections official shall give the candidate a blank form of the code. The elections official shall inform each candidate for public office that subscription to the code is voluntary. **(Elections Code §§ 20440, 20444)**

Department of Transportation Statement of Responsibility

The California Department of Transportation has specific guidelines and responsibilities pertaining to political signs placed within their areas of jurisdiction. Each candidate receives an informational form letter and a sample copy of the Department of Transportation's "Statement of Responsibility" form at the time nomination documents are issued.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to mail the original form to the State and provide the County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters office with a copy of that mailed form.

Candidate's Statement of Qualifications
Voter-Nominated Offices' Guidelines and Costs

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 2)

A candidate for U.S. Representative may elect to have a candidate statement printed in the County Voter Information Guide (CVIG) that does not exceed 250 words and follows the guidelines as set forth in the section. **(Elections Code § 13307.5)**

Following the passage of Proposition 34, candidates for state legislative elective offices (State Senate and Assembly) became eligible to submit a candidate statement for the CVIG. **Only candidates who have adopted the voluntary expenditure limits, as stipulated in the legislation, are eligible to submit a statement.** The Registrar of Voters shall determine, based on information provided by the Secretary of State's Office, whether the candidate has accepted (and has not exceeded) the expenditure limit.

A state legislative candidate must indicate whether they wish to accept the expenditure limit on their Candidate Statement of Intention (**Form 501**). This form must be filed prior to a candidate receiving contributions or making expenditures in connection with a campaign. The original **Form 501** is filed with the Secretary of State while a copy is filed with the local elections office. Candidate statements for legislative office are submitted and printed pursuant to **Government Code § 85601**. **(Government Code §§ 85400-85401)**

Candidates for Congressional and state legislative offices shall submit statements in accordance with the timeframes and procedures set forth in the elections code for the preparation of the CVIG. Statements may be filed with each county elections office in the jurisdiction that encompasses the office for which the candidate is pursuing. The statement that is filed in each county is not required to be the same version and the candidate is not obligated to file a statement with each county elections office.

Important notice to candidates in districts that encompass more than one county.
Procedures, requirements, fees, and formats for candidates' statements may vary between counties. It is the responsibility of the candidate to contact each county (in which they wish to have a statement printed) in which the district fails to obtain the appropriate information from each county. Failure to do so may jeopardize the printing of the candidate's statement.

Candidate Information

The text of the statement shall not exceed 250 words. For more information, refer to the "Rules for Counting Words" in this guide. All statements must be submitted with the form provided by the county elections official of the county in which the candidate wishes to have their statement printed. Statements must be formatted pursuant to the guidelines provided by each county.

Content

The statement may include the candidate's name, occupation of the candidate, age, and a brief description of no more than 250 words. Statements shall not, in any way, make reference to other candidates for office or to another candidate's qualifications, character, or activities. Moreover, no statement shall contain any demonstrably false, slanderous, or libelous statements, nor any obscene or profane language. **(Elections Code §§ 13307-13308, Government Code § 85601)**

The use of jargon, colloquialisms, slang, or other such expressions is strongly discouraged as they are difficult to translate appropriately into other languages, and the meanings are often misinterpreted or lost. For example, "monster home," a local term for a home that is much larger than the other homes in the neighborhood, may be incorrectly translated as a "home of monsters." Candidates are encouraged to keep the translation process in mind when developing their statements and to use unambiguous and straightforward vocabulary.

Format

Candidate statements are printed in the CVIG in block paragraph format. In order to ensure uniformity of candidate statements, the candidate must prepare the statement as follows:

- Type the statement in single-spaced **paragraph format** and upper- and lower-case letters. Statement must be typewritten, or computer printed.

- Typeface of statement must be of uniform size and darkness with no unusual spacing. The following **will not be permitted**: (•) bullets, (1., 2., 3.) numbered bullets, (#@&) special characters as bullets, all CAPITALS, underlining, **bold face** or *italics*.

- Check statement for errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Statements will appear in the CVIG **exactly as submitted by the candidate**. **NO** corrections or changes to content, format or spacing will be allowed after the statement has been filed unless ordered by a court.

- Statements **must be** confined to the maximum number of words, the maximum lines allowed and the maximum character positions in a line. Blank lines are included in the line maximum count and punctuation and spaces are included in the character position maximum count. A 250-word statement has a maximum of 44 lines with approximately 72-character positions per line. Using a computer to determine a statement's word count **is not recommended**. Please refer to "Rules for Counting Words" (refer to page 60) for guidelines on computing word counts.

ALL STATEMENTS MUST BE IN PARAGRAPH FORMAT

When candidate statements are translated into other languages the amount of text increases. Some of the translated candidate statements grow about 30% in size from the size of the original statement. The 44-line limit per 250-word candidate statement is an estimated number and may vary depending on the length of words and characters in a line. Therefore, it may be necessary for the Office of the Registrar of Voters to contact a candidate so that they reduce the number of lines in their candidate statement, which is usually complied with by combining paragraphs.

STATEMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS THEY MEET FORMAT GUIDELINES

Filing Information

Candidate statements shall be filed together with all other nomination documents in the office of the elections official of each county within the district for which the candidate wishes a statement to be printed, not later than **5:00 p.m. on the 88th day, August 7, 2026**, prior to the election or in the event that the nomination period has been extended, until **5:00 p.m. on the 83rd day, August 12, 2026**, prior to the election, whichever is applicable. **(Elections Code §§ 8024, 13307.5)**

It is strongly recommended that the statement be filed personally by the candidate. If the statement is filed by someone other than the candidate, that person should have the authority to make any needed corrections or deletions to the statement in the event that errors or an excess number of words are contained in the statement. Statements may not be changed after filing, except with a court order.

Liability

Elections Code § 13307(e) provides that such section "shall not be deemed to make any such statement or the authors of any statements, free or exempt from any civil or criminal action or penalty because of any false, slanderous or libelous statements offered for printing electronic distribution or contained in the county voter guide**."**

Confidentiality

The candidate statements shall remain confidential until the close of the nomination period for the office sought. You may view or purchase copies of any candidate statement beginning the day after the close of the nomination period. **(Elections Code §§ 13311, 13313)**

Challenge of Contents

There is a 10-calendar day public examination period immediately following the filing deadline of candidate statements when the statements may be reviewed. During this examination period, any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held, and/or any candidate, may take legal action to challenge the contents of the statement. **(Elections Code § 13313)**

Anyone wishing to pursue a legal challenge to amend or delete any portion of a candidate's statement should file a writ of mandate immediately. Refer to the "Legal Examination and Writs of Mandate" section in this guide for more information.

Withdrawal

The statement may be withdrawn, but **NOT** changed, until 5:00 p.m. on the next business day after the close of the nomination period for the office sought. If a candidate statement is withdrawn, a new statement cannot be filed. **(Elections Code § 13307(a)(3))**

Translations of Statements

Federal and state law require voting materials be translated and available for voters. Therefore, all candidate statements will be translated and printed in the following languages, in addition to English: Chinese (Traditional), Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. The Registrar of Voters prepares all County Voter Information Guides in these languages.

24-hour Sign-off Requirement

In 2018, the Registrar of Voters' Office began emailing copies of submitted candidate statements to each candidate as proof of how the statement will appear in the CVIG. Candidates are asked to confirm the accuracy of the statement within 24 hours of notification. Changes to the candidate statements, other than to conform to the filed version, are not allowed, however.

Costs

Pursuant to the census population results and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, our Office is mandated to print and distribute candidate statements in the CVIG in five (5) languages: Chinese (Traditional), English, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

Required costs of providing statements (including translated statements) to voters shall be borne by the candidates, and payment must be made at the time of filing. The county elections official shall estimate the cost of providing the statement, based on current estimates of actual costs of printing and distributing candidate statements (including printing, handling, translating, and mailing.) **No statement will be accepted that is not accompanied by payment of the estimated cost at the time of filing.**

If a candidate alleges to be indigent, the elections official will follow the procedures set forth in **Elections Code § 13309** to determine indigence. Even if a candidate is determined to be indigent, they are still required to pay the actual cost of providing the statement after the election. **(Elections Code § 13309)**

If the actual cost of printing the statement exceeds the deposited amount, the candidate will be invoiced for the remainder of the cost. If the actual cost of printing the statement is less than the deposited amount, the candidate will receive a refund of the overpayment. The actual cost will not be determined until after the election.

If district boundaries encompass multiple counties, and a candidate would like to have the candidate statement appear on all the CVIGs, they must go to each county and file a candidate statement and make any applicable payment.

Proposition 34 Candidate Statement Provisions

Proposition 34 established voluntary spending limits for candidates running for statewide office, the State Senate, and the State Assembly. Candidates who choose to accept the spending limits are able to purchase space for a 250-word candidate statement in either the state Voter Information Guide or in the county Voter Information Guide, depending on the office. For a list of candidates who filed a Candidate Intention Statement **(Form 501)** to run for statewide office, State Senate, and State Assembly, visit https://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Campaign/Candidates/.

To accept the spending limits, candidates running for statewide office or state Senate or state Assembly, must file a Candidate Intention Statement **(Form 501)** with the Secretary of State's Political Reform Division indicating whether they intend to abide by the spending limits prior to submitting a candidate statement. The following voluntary expenditure ceilings are effective for elections held between **January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2026**. **(California Code of Regulations Title 2, Division 6, § 18545)**

Estimated Cost for Candidate Statements

Cost estimates are subject to change upon final billing after the election.

State Voter Information Guide (SVIG) | Refer to **https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/candidate-statements** for **State candidate statement costs.

County Voter Information Guide (CVIG) | Refer below for County candidate statement cost estimates.

Office/District	250-word Candidate Statement Location	Statement Costs	Word Count
Governor	SVIG	**	250
Lieutenant Governor	SVIG	**	250
Secretary of State	SVIG	**	250
Controller	SVIG	**	250
Treasurer	SVIG	**	250
Attorney General	SVIG	**	250
Insurance Commissioner	SVIG	**	250
Member, State Board of Equalization, District 2	SVIG	**	250
Superintendent of Public Instruction (nonpartisan)	SVIG	**	250
Congressional, District 16	CVIG	$9,300	250
Congressional, District 17	CVIG	$8,450	250
Congressional, District 18	CVIG	$6,500	250
Congressional, District 19	CVIG	$6,350	250
State Senate, District 10	CVIG	$7,350	250
State Assembly, District 23	CVIG	$6,750	250
State Assembly, District 24	CVIG	$5,200	250
State Assembly, District 25	CVIG	$7,650	250
State Assembly, District 26	CVIG	$7,050	250
State Assembly, District 28	CVIG	$7,050	250
State Assembly, District 29	CVIG	$4,250	250

Candidate Statement Fee Check

The Office of Registrar of Voters will shred the candidate statement fee check for contests that do not appear on the ballot due to insufficient filings. Candidates who prefer to retrieve their check instead may do so by notifying staff of their preference.

Candidate's Statement of Qualifications
Nonpartisan Offices' Guidelines and Costs

(Elections Code §§ 13307, 13308, 13309, 13311, 18351)

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 2)

Candidate Information

Each candidate for a ***nonpartisan*** elective office may submit a candidate statement for the County Voter Information Guide (CVIG) at the time that they file nomination papers. The purpose of the voluntary candidate statement is to acquaint voters with the candidate's qualifications for the office they seek. The candidate statement is incorporated into the CVIG pamphlet and is mailed to all registered voters eligible to vote for the candidate.

Content

A candidate's statement may contain the candidate's name, occupation, age, and a brief description of their education and qualifications as expressed by the candidate. Statements shall not, in any way, refer to another candidate for office or to another candidate's qualifications, character, or activities. The candidate statement shall not include the party affiliation of the candidate, nor membership or activity in partisan political organizations.

The occupation listed on a candidate statement is not mandated to be the same occupation listed as your ballot designation on the Declaration of Candidacy. The occupation on the statement is not limited by the laws that apply to your ballot designation. In general, statements are limited in length to not more than 200 words, and in some cases 400 words. Please refer to the following pages for a list of word-count limits and fees.

The use of jargon, colloquialism, slang, or other such expressions is strongly discouraged. Common phrases can be difficult to translate appropriately into other languages resulting in misinterpretation. For example, "monster home," a term for a new house that is much larger than the other homes in the neighborhood, may be incorrectly translated as a "home of monsters." Candidates are encouraged to keep the translation process in mind when developing their statements and to use unambiguous and straightforward vocabulary.

Format

Candidate statements are printed in the CVIG in block paragraph format. To ensure uniformity of candidate statements, the candidate must prepare the statement as follows:

- Type the statement in single-spaced paragraph format with upper- and lower-case letters. Statement must be typewritten, or computer printed.
- Typeface of statement must be of uniform size and darkness with no unusual spacing. The following **will not be permitted:** (•) bullets, (1,2,3) numbered bullets, (#@&) special characters as bullets, all CAPITALS, underlining, **bold face** or *italics*.
- Check the statement for errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar. Statements will appear in the CVIG exactly as submitted by the candidate.
- **Corrections/changes to content, format or spacing will not be allowed** after the statement has been filed unless ordered by a court.

- Statements must be confined to the maximum number of words, lines and character positions allowed on a line. If blank lines between paragraphs are contained in the statement, the blank lines will not be included in the line maximum count. Punctuation and spaces are included in the character maximum count. A 200-word statement has a maximum of 22-lines with approximately 72-character positions per line. A 400-word statement has a maximum of 44- lines, with the same character limit. If the occupation you place on that line requires more than one line, each additional line will be counted towards the maximum line count for the statement. Using a computer to determine a statement's word count is not recommended. Please refer to "Rules for Counting Words" for guidelines on computing word counts.
- Photographs of candidates are not permitted in the local CVIG.

Statements Must Follow Format Guidelines to be included in the CVIG Pamphlet.

When candidate statements are translated into other languages, the amount of text increases. Translated candidate statements can grow up to 30 percent in size from the size of the original statement. The 22-lines limit per 200 words candidate statement is an estimated number and may vary depending on the length of words and characters in a line. Therefore, it may be necessary for the Office of the Registrar of Voters to contact a candidate so that they may reduce the number of lines in their candidate statement.

Statements Are Printed in Accordance with the Office of the Registrar of Voters' Standards.

Restrictions

The candidate statement shall not include the party affiliation of the candidate, nor membership or activity in partisan political organizations. Statements shall not, in any way, refer to another candidate for office or to another candidate's qualifications, character, or activities. **(Elections Code § 13307(a)(1))**

In addition to the restrictions set forth in **§ 13307**, any candidate's statement submitted pursuant to **§ 13307** shall be limited to a recitation of the candidate's own personal background and qualifications and shall not in any way make reference to other candidates for that office or to another candidate's qualifications, character, or activities. The elections official shall not cause to be printed, posted on an Internet Web site, or circulated any statement that the elections official determines is not so limited or that includes any reference prohibited by this section. **(Elections Code § 13308)**

Liability

Elections Code § 13307(e) provides that such section "shall not be deemed to make any statement, or the authors of any statement, free or exempt from any civil or criminal action or penalty because of any false, slanderous, or libelous statements offered for printing electronic distribution pursuant to this section or contained in the county voter information guide."

Confidentiality

Notwithstanding the California Public Records Act (**Government Code § 7920.000** et seq), the statements filed pursuant to **§ 13307** shall remain confidential until the expiration of the filing deadline. **(Elections Code § 13311)**

Challenge of Contents

There is a 10-calendar day public examination period immediately following the filing deadline of candidate statements when the statements may be reviewed. During this 10-calendar day examination period, any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held or any candidate may seek a writ of mandate or an injunction to challenge the contents of the statement. **(Elections Code § 13313)**

Anyone wishing to pursue a legal challenge to amend or delete any portion of a candidate's statement should file a writ of mandate immediately. Refer to the "Legal Examination and Writs of Mandate" section in this guide for more information.

Withdrawal

The statement may be withdrawn, but **not** changed, until 5:00 p.m. of the next business day after the close of the nomination period for the office sought. If a candidate statement is withdrawn, a new statement **cannot** be filed. **(Elections Code § 13307(a)(3))**

Translations of Statements

Federal and state law require voting materials to be translated and available for voters. Candidate statements are published in the County Voter Information Guides (CVIGs) both in printed and electronic versions. Therefore, all candidate statements will be translated and printed in the following languages: English, Chinese (Traditional), Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. The Registrar of Voters prepares all CVIGs in these languages.

Costs

The Office of the Registrar of Voters is mandated by federal law to print and distribute election materials, including candidate statements in the CVIG in five (5) languages: Chinese (Traditional), English, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

The county elections official shall estimate the cost of providing the statement, based on current estimates of actual costs of printing and distributing candidate statements (including printing, handling, translating, and mailing). **No statement will be accepted that is not accompanied by payment of the estimated cost(s) unless there is no deposit required, as determined by the jurisdiction.** The actual cost of the statement will be available after the election when expenses incurred are calculated. If actual costs are less than the pre-paid estimates, candidates will receive a refund. If the actual costs are more than the estimated costs, the candidate will be billed for the additional charges.

If a candidate alleges to be indigent, procedures established in the state elections code shall be used to determine indigence. Even if a candidate is determined to be indigent, they may still be required to pay the actual cost to translate, print and distribute the statement after the election. **(Elections Code § 13309)**

Candidate statements for the offices of the Board of Supervisors and other County Offices are paid for by the jurisdiction. No charge shall be imposed for a candidate statement of qualifications to be included in the voter's pamphlet. **(County Charter §§ 202, 501)**

Estimated Cost for Candidate Statements

Cost estimates are subject to change upon final billing after the election.
* Candidate Pays | ** District Pays | *** Split Payment

COUNTY OFFICES			
District		**Statement Cost**	**Word Count**
County of Santa Clara Superior Court Judge		$2,450	200
Member, Board of Supervisors, Districts 1 and 4		County Pays	200
County Assessor		County Pays	200
Sheriff		County Pays	200
District Attorney		County Pays	200
COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION			
District	**At-Large or Trustee Area**	**Statement Cost**	**Word Count**
Santa Clara*	Trustee Area 2	$5,450	200
	Trustee Area 6	$5,200	200
	Trustee Area 7	$5,750	200
Stanislaus*	Trustee Area 5	$3,150	200
COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHOOL DISTRICTS			
District	**At-Large or Trustee Area**	**Statement Cost**	**Word Count**
Foothill-De Anza*	Trustee Area 2	$3,750	200
	Trustee Area 4	$3,900	200
Gavilan Joint*	Trustee Area 1	$3,400	200
	Trustee Area 3	$3,450	200
San Jose-Evergreen*** *(75% District / 25% Candidate) - pending adoption of resolution*	Trustee Area 2	$4,000	200
	Trustee Area 4	$4,250	200
	Trustee Area 6	$4,350	200
West Valley-Mission*	Trustee Area 3	$3,650	200
	Trustee Area 5	$3,800	200
	Trustee Area 7	$3,750	200
Yosemite*	Trustee Area 4	$3,150	200
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICTS			
District	**At-Large or Trustee Area**	**Statement Cost**	**Word Count**
Gilroy*** *(50/50 split)- pending adoption of resolution*	Trustee Area 1	$3,200	200
	Trustee Area 3	$3,250	200
	Trustee Area 4	$3,200	200
	Trustee Area 7	$3,200	200
Milpitas*	At-Large	$3,700	200
Morgan Hill*	Trustee Area 1	$3,250	200
	Trustee Area 2	$3,250	200
	Trustee Area 3	$3,200	200
	Trustee Area 4	$3,250	200
Palo Alto*** *(50/50 split) – pending adoption of resolution*	At-Large	$5,500	400
Patterson Joint*	Trustee Area 2	$3,150	200
San Jose*	Trustee Area 2	$5,200	400

	Trustee Area 4	$5,250	400
Santa Clara*	Trustee Area 1	$3,250	200
	Trustee Area 3	$3,350	200
	Trustee Area 4	$3,300	200
	Trustee Area 6	$3,300	200
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS			
District	**At-Large or Trustee Area**	**Statement Cost**	**Word Count**
Campbell Union*	Trustee Area 1	$3,500	200
	Trustee Area 2	$3,500	200
	Trustee Area 3	$3,550	200
East Side Union*	Trustee Area 1	$3,900	200
	Trustee Area 2	$4,100	200
	Trustee Area 4	$4,000	200
Fremont Union*** *(50/50 split) – pending adoption of resolution*	Trustee Area 1	$3,500	200
	Trustee Area 3	$3,600	200
	Trustee Area 4	$3,450	200
Los Gatos-Saratoga Union*	Trustee Area 2	$3,250	200
	Trustee Area 3	$3,200	200
	Trustee Area 4	$3,250	200
Mountain View-Los Altos Union*** *(50/50 split) – pending adoption of resolution*	Trustee Area 1	$3,300	200
	Trustee Area 2	$3,300	200
	Trustee Area 3	$3,350	200
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICTS			
District	**At-Large or Trustee Area**	**Statement Costs**	**Word Count**
Alum Rock Union*	At-Large	$3,950	200
Berryessa Union*	At-Large	$3,850	200
Cambrian*** *(Candidate pays $500)- pending adoption of resolution*	At-Large	$3,400	200
Campbell Union*** *(Candidate pays $500) - pending adoption of resolution*	Trustee Area 1	$3,300	200
	Trustee Area 4	$3,300	200
	Trustee Area 5	$3,350	200
Cupertino Union*	At-Large	$4,350	200
Evergreen*	At-Large	$4,100	200
Franklin-McKinley*** *(District pays up to $1000) – pending adoption of resolution*	At-Large	$3,850	200
Lakeside Joint*	At-Large	$3,150	200
Loma Prieta Joint Union**	At-Large	$3,150	200
Los Altos*	At-Large	$3,600	200
Los Gatos Union*	At-Large	$3,450	200
Luther Burbank*	At-Large	$3,150	200
Moreland*	Trustee Area 2	$3,200	200
	Trustee Area 3	$3,250	200
	Trustee Area 4	$3,200	200
Mountain View Whisman*** *(Candidate pays $200) - pending adoption of resolution*	At-Large	$3,700	200
Mount Pleasant*	At-Large	$3,300	200

North County Joint Union*	At-Large	$3,150	200
Oak Grove*	Trustee Area 2	$3,300	200
	Trustee Area 3	$3,300	200
	Trustee Area 5	$3,350	200
Orchard*	At-Large	$3,250	200
Saratoga Union*** (50/50 split)	At-Large	$3,350	200
Sunnyvale*	Trustee Area 1	$3,300	200
	Trustee Area 3	$3,250	200
	Trustee Area 5	$3,250	200
Union*** (50/50 split)	At-Large	$3,550	200
SPECIAL DISTRICTS			
District	**At-Large or Trustee Area**	**Statement Costs**	**Word Count**
Aldercroft Heights County Water*	At-Large	$3,150	200
Burbank Sanitary*	At-Large	$3,150	200
Cupertino Sanitary*	At-Large	$3,650	200
El Camino Healthcare*	At-Large	$6,600	400
Lion's Gate Community Services*	At-Large	$3,150	200
Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space**	Ward 1	$4,250	200
	Ward 2	$4,100	200
	Ward 5	$3,700	200
Purissima Hills Water*** *(50/50 split) – pending adoption of resolution*	At-Large	$3,200	200
Rancho Rinconada Recreation & Park*	At-Large	$3,150	200
San Martin County Water*	At-Large	$3,150	200
Santa Clara Valley Water*** *(50/50 split) – pending adoption of resolution*	District 1	$5,800	200
	District 4	$5,550	200
	District 6	$5,100	200
	District 7	$5,700	200
Saratoga Fire Protection*	At-Large	$3,300	200
Silver Creek Valley Country Club GHAD**	At-Large	$3,200	200
South Santa Clara Valley Memorial*	At-Large	$3,750	200
West Bay Sanitary**	At-Large	$3,150	200

This list was created prior to the receipt of all official resolutions calling local elections; therefore, the information provided may not be fully inclusive of every available office.

Please contact Candidate Services Division by calling (408) 299-8639 or by emailing **candidateservices@rov.sccgov.org** with any questions.

PLEASE NOTE: Statement costs are estimates only. The Registrar of Voters office will determine if a candidate receives a refund or owes more than the estimated cost approximately 30-60 days following the election. Please inquire with a Candidate Services Division Election Specialist if you have questions.

Candidate Statement Fee Check

The Office of Registrar of Voters will shred the candidate statement fee check for contests that do not appear on the ballot due to insufficient filings. Candidates who prefer to retrieve their check instead may do so by notifying staff of their preference.

24-hour Sign-off Requirement

The Registrar of Voters' Office emails copies of submitted candidate statements to each candidate as proof of how the statement will appear in the CVIG. Candidates are asked to confirm the accuracy of the statement within 24 hours of notification. Changes to the candidate statements, other than to conform to the filed version, are not allowed, however.

November Runoff Candidates

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 2)

The Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act requires that all candidates for a voter-nominated office be listed on the same ballot. Voter-nominated offices include U.S. Representative, State Senate, State Assembly, and Statewide offices. In both primary and general elections, voters may vote for any candidate regardless of what party preference they indicated on their voter registration form. In the primary election, the two candidates receiving the most votes - regardless of party preference - move on to the general election.

Write-in candidates can only move on to the general election if the candidate is one of the top two vote-getters in the primary election. Additionally, there is no independent nomination process for a general election. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person may not be a write-in candidate at the general election for a voter-nominated office. **(Elections Code §§ 8600(c), 8605, 8606)**

The nomination period for the November 3, 2026, General Election opens **July 13, 2026** and closes on **August 7, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.** The last day to register to vote for this election is **October 19, 2026**.

Candidates listed on the ballot for the November 3, 2026 General Election may choose to change their ballot designation used during the primary election. To do so, candidates must submit a written request to the Registrar of Voters' Office no later than 98 days prior to the November election, **July 28, 2026**. If a candidate chooses to use a different ballot designation, they must first complete and file a new *Ballot Designation Worksheet* form no later than **5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2026**. Otherwise, the ballot designation used during the June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election will automatically be applied to the November 3, 2026 General Election.

Candidates may also choose to submit a statement to be printed in the county voter information guide for the November 3, 2026 General Election. The statement must be filed, and payment made to the Registrar of Voters Office no later than **5:00 p.m. on August 7, 2026**. **(Elections Code § 13307)**

Voluntary Expenditure Limit Ordinance

A candidate for the office of Board of Supervisors, District Attorney, County Sheriff, and County Assessor shall file with the county elections official a written statement of acceptance or rejection of the voluntary expenditure ceiling prior to accepting any contributions.

Any candidate that previously declined the voluntary expenditure ceiling but did not exceed the recommended spending limits during the primary election, may file a statement of acceptance of the spending limits for a general election within 14 days following the primary election and receive all the benefits specified in the spending limit agreement. **(Ordinance NS-19.40, County of Santa Clara)**

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact the Candidate Services Division by calling (408) 299-8639 or email at **candidateservices@rov.sccgov.org**.

Rules for Counting Words

The heading includes the candidate's name (required), age (optional), and occupation (optional). The words in the heading, however, do not count toward the number of words allowed for the statement.

All statements will begin with the words: **"Education and Qualifications:"** followed by the text filed by the candidate.

The **"Occupation"** field in the candidate's statement is NOT governed by the same laws pertaining to the ballot designation; therefore, it may be different. However, if its length exceeds one line, the additional words will be counted towards the final word limit.

Pursuant to **Elections Code § 9**, words are to be counted as follows:

(1) Punctuation is not counted.
(2) Each word shall be counted as one word except as specified in this section.
(3) All proper nouns, including geographical names, shall be considered as one word; for example, "City and County of San Francisco" shall be counted as one word.
(4) Each abbreviation for a word, phrase, or expression shall be counted as one word.
(5) Hyphenated words that appear in any generally available standard reference dictionary, published in the United States at any time within the 10 calendar years immediately preceding the election for which the words are counted, including a generally available standard reference dictionary published online, shall be considered as one word. Each part of all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word.
Examples: "mother-in-law", "first-rate", "one-time" will be counted as one word; "one-half," "local-area," and "home-page" will be counted as two words.
(6) Dates shall be counted as one word.
(7) Any number consisting of a digit or digits shall be considered as one word. Any number which is spelled, such as "one," shall be considered as a separate word or words. "One" shall be counted as one word whereas "one hundred" shall be counted as two words. "100" shall be counted as one word.
(8) Telephone numbers shall be counted as one word.
(9) Internet Web site addresses shall be counted as one word.

Additionally:

- Characters used in place of a word or number and that stand alone, such as "&", "$, "%", or "#" shall be counted as one word (see (4) above)
Examples: $ (for "dollar") = one word, # (for "number" or "pound") = one word
- Characters used in conjunction with a number and necessary to combine, such as "$100" or "100%" are not counted.
Examples: $100 = one word, #voteforme = three words (# not counted)

If the text exceeds the word or line limit, the author will be asked to rewrite the text in order to bring the total number of words within the required word or line limit.

(Back to Table of Contents)

CHAPTER 3

Campaigning: Laws and Regulations

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 3)

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Statement of Economic Interests

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 3)

All candidates for elective office are required to file electronically through the FPPC online portal a Statement of Economic Interests **Form 700** Candidate Statement to disclose their investments, their interests in real property, and any income received during the immediately preceding 12 months.

Form 700 provides transparency and ensures accountability in two ways:

1. It provides necessary information to the public about an official's personal financial interests to ensure that officials are making decisions in the best interest of the public and not enhancing their personal finances.
2. It serves as a reminder to the public official or potential conflicts of interest so that the official can abstain from making or participating in governmental decisions that are deemed conflicts of interests.

NOTE: This is a required document to be filed with all other nomination documents.

The Office of the Registrar of Voters is the filing officer for Statements of Economic Interests in conjunction with **candidacy for specified elective offices only**. Assuming Office statements, Annual statements, and Leaving Office statements are filed with the filing officer of the applicable jurisdiction. This document must be filed with all other nomination documents no later than the final filing date of the Declaration of Candidacy; therefore, you must complete your electronic filing of **Form 700** through the FPPC's online portal prior to returning to the Office of the Registrar of Voters to file with all other nomination forms.

If a candidate is uncertain of their filings they should contact their local filing officer or complete a new form marking the candidate statement box, which will satisfy the candidate's requirements for running for office.

Candidates with detailed questions regarding the Statement of Economic Interests **Form 700** should contact the Fair Political Practices Commission at (916) 322-5660 or (866) ASK-FPPC (275-3772).

Code of Fair Campaign Practices

(**Elections Code §§ 20400-20444**)

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 3)

Background Information

In 1982, legislation was passed establishing a "Code of Fair Campaign Practices" in California which could be voluntarily subscribed to by candidates for public office. Amendments in 1987 expanded the provisions of the code to apply to committees formed primarily to support/oppose a ballot measure and reaffirmed civil liability provisions pertaining to libel and slander in campaign advertising and communications.

The text of the provisions of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices is listed on the following pages of this document.

Purpose

The purpose in creating the Code of Fair Campaign Practices is to give voters guidelines in determining fair play and to encourage candidates to discuss issues instead of untruths or distortions.

Voluntary Subscription

Subscription to the Code is voluntary. Completed forms are to be filed with the Office of the Registrar of Voters and shall be retained for public inspection until 30 days after the election. If candidate so chooses not to file this form, it will be noted in the candidate's file.

Provisions of the Fair Campaign Practices as found in Chapter 5 of Division 20 of the Elections Code

Article 1. General Intent

The Legislature declares that the purpose of this chapter is to encourage every candidate for public office in this state to subscribe to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

It is the ultimate intent of the Legislature that every candidate for public office in this state who subscribes to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices will follow the basic principles of decency, honesty, and fair play in order that, after vigorously contested, but fairly conducted campaigns, the citizens of this state may exercise their constitutional right to vote, free from dishonest and unethical practices which tend to prevent the full and free expression of the will of the voters.

The purpose in creating the Code of Fair Campaign Practices is to give voters guidelines in determining fair play and to encourage candidates to discuss issues instead of untruths or distortions. *(Enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)* **(Elections Code § 20400)**

Article 2. Definitions

As used in this chapter, "Code" means the Code of Fair Campaign Practices. *(Enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)* **(Elections Code § 20420)**

Article 3. Code of Fair Campaign Practices

At the time an individual is issued his or her declaration of candidacy, nomination papers, or any other paper evidencing an intention to be a candidate for public office, the elections official shall give the individual a blank form of the code and a copy of this chapter. The elections official shall inform each candidate for public office that subscription to the code is voluntary. **(Elections Code § 20440)**

In the case of a committee making an independent expenditure, as defined in **§ 82031** of the Government Code, the Secretary of State shall provide a blank form and a copy of this chapter to the individual filing, in accordance with **Title 9 (commencing with § 81000**) of the Government Code, an initial campaign statement on behalf of the committee. **(Elections Code § 20440; Government Code § 81010)**

The Secretary of State shall print, or cause to be printed, blank forms of the code. The Secretary of State shall supply the forms to the elections officials in quantities and at times requested by the elections officials. **(Elections Code § 20441)**

The elections official shall accept, at all times, prior to the election, all completed forms that are properly subscribed to by a candidate for public office and shall retain them for public inspection until 30 days after the election. Every code subscribed to by a candidate for public office pursuant to this chapter is a public record open for public inspection. In no event shall a candidate for public office be required to subscribe to or endorse the code. **(Elections Code § 20442-20444)**

Code of Fair Campaign Practices (Elections Code § 20440)

There are basic principles of decency, honesty, and fair play which every candidate for public office in the State of California has a moral obligation to observe and uphold in order that, after vigorously contested but fairly conducted campaigns, our citizens may exercise their constitutional right to a free and untrammeled choice and the will of the people may be fully and clearly expressed on the issues.

THEREFORE:

(1) I SHALL CONDUCT my campaign openly and publicly, discussing the issues as I see them, presenting my record and policies with sincerity and frankness, and criticizing without fear or favor the record and policies of my opponents or political parties that merit this criticism.

(2) I SHALL NOT USE OR PERMIT the use of character defamation, whispering campaigns, libel, slander, or scurrilous attacks on any candidate or his or her personal or family life.

(3) I SHALL NOT USE OR PERMIT any appeal to negative prejudice based on a candidate's actual or perceived race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age, sexual orientation, sex, including gender identity, or any other characteristic set forth in **§ 12940 of the Government Code**, or association with another person who has any of the actual or perceived characteristics set forth in **§ 12940 of the Government Code**.

(4) I SHALL NOT USE OR PERMIT any dishonest or unethical practice that tends to corrupt or undermine our American system of free elections, or that hampers or prevents the full and free expression of the will of the voters including acts intended to hinder or prevent any eligible person from registering to vote, enrolling to vote, or voting.

(5) I SHALL NOT coerce election help or campaign contributions for myself or for any other candidate from my employees.

(6) I SHALL IMMEDIATELY AND PUBLICLY REPUDIATE support deriving from any individual or group that resorts, on behalf of my candidacy or in opposition to that of my opponent, to the methods and tactics that I condemn. I shall accept responsibility to take firm action against any subordinate who violates any provision of this code or the laws governing elections.

(7) I SHALL DEFEND AND UPHOLD the right of every qualified American voter to full and equal participation in the electoral process.

Laws Governing Campaign Practices

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 3)

Political Advertising

Any paid political advertisement that refers to an election or to any candidate for state or local elective office and that is contained in or distributed with a newspaper, shall bear on each surface or page thereof, in type or lettering at least half as large as the type or lettering of the advertisement or in 10-point roman type, whichever is larger, the words "Paid Political Advertisement." The words shall be set apart from any other printed matter. As used in **Elections Code § 20008**, "paid political advertisement" shall mean and shall be limited to, published statements paid for by advertisers for purposes of supporting or defeating any person who has filed for an elective state or local office.

Each local municipal jurisdiction has established ordinances regarding political signs and advertising. Refer to the "Outdoor Political Advertising Guidelines" section in this guide for contact information for each of the city clerks in Santa Clara County to obtain further information.

Simulation of the Ballot

Every simulated ballot or simulated County Voter Information Guide (CVIG) shall bear on each surface or page thereof, in type or lettering at least half as large as the type or lettering of the statement or words or in 10-point roman type, whichever is larger, in a printed or drawn box and set apart from any other printed matter, the following statement:

"NOTICE TO VOTERS
"(Required by Law)

> "This is not an official ballot or an official county information guide prepared by the county elections official or the Secretary of State.
>
> "This is an unofficial, marked ballot prepared by _____ (insert name and address of the person or organization responsible for preparation thereof)."

Violations will result in a court injunction. Our office is available to review proposed ballot simulations. **(Elections Code § 20009(a))**

Campaign Literature Containing Polling Place of Voter

A person is guilty of a misdemeanor who knowingly causes to be mailed or distributed or knowingly mails or distributes literature to a voter that includes a designation of the voter's precinct polling place other than a precinct polling place listed for that voter in an official precinct polling list that constituted the latest official precinct polling list at some time not more than 30 days prior to the mailing or distribution. **(Elections Code § 18302(a))**

Mass Mailing/Campaign Literature

"Mass Mailing" means over two hundred (200) substantially similar pieces of mail but does not include a form letter or other mail which is sent in response to an unsolicited request, letter, or other inquiry. **(Government Code § 82041.5)**

Mass Mailing Requirements

All campaign committees, including candidate, ballot measure, general purpose, major donor, and independent expenditure committees, must provide the words "**Paid for by**" when the committee sends a mass mailing. This identification must be presented in the same size and color as the committee's name – no less than 6-point roman type and in a color or print that contrasts with the background and is easily legible. The words "**Paid for by**" shall be immediately adjacent to and above or immediately adjacent to and in front of the committee's name and address. **(Government Code § 84305; 2 Cal. Code of Regs. § 18435)**

Example:
"Paid for by Committee to Elect Doe to City Council 2012, 1234 Main Street, Sacramento, CA 95555"

Government Code § 84305 of the Government Code provides as follows:

(a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a candidate, candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate, or political party committee shall not send a mass mailing unless the name, street address, and city of the candidate or committee are shown on the outside of each piece of mail in the mass mailing and on at least one of the inserts included within each piece of mail of the mailing in no less than 6-point type that is in a color or print that contrasts with the background so as to be easily legible. A post office box may be stated in lieu of a street address if the candidate's, candidate-controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate's, or political party committee's address is a matter of public record with the Secretary of State.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a committee, other than a candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate or a political party committee, shall not send a mass mailing that is not required to include a disclosure pursuant to § 84504.2 unless the name, street address, and city of the committee is shown on the outside of each piece of mail in the mass mailing and on at least one of the inserts included within each piece of mail of the mailing in no less than 6-point type that is in a color or print that contrasts with the background so as to be easily legible. A post office box may be stated in lieu of a street address if the committee's address is a matter of public record with the Secretary of State.

(b) If the sender of the mass mailing is a single candidate or committee, the name, street address, and city of the candidate or committee need only be shown on the outside of each piece of mail.

(c) (1) A candidate, candidate-controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate, or political party committee shall not send a mass electronic mailing unless the name of the candidate or committee is shown in the electronic mailing preceded by the words "Paid for by" in at least the same size font as a majority of the text in the electronic mailing.

(2) A committee, other than a candidate-controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate or a political party committee, shall not send a mass electronic mailing that is not required to include a disclosure pursuant to **§ 84502** or **§ 84504.3** unless the name of the committee is shown in the electronic mailing preceded by the words "Paid for by" in at least the same size font as a majority of the text in the electronic mailing.

(d) If the sender of a mass mailing is a controlled committee, the name of the person controlling the committee shall be included in addition to the information required by subdivision (a) or (c).

(e) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Mass electronic mailing" means sending more than 200 substantially similar pieces of electronic mail within a calendar month. "Mass electronic mailing" does not include a communication that was solicited by the recipient, including, but not limited to, acknowledgments for contributions or information that the recipient communicated to the organization.

(2) "Sender" means the candidate, candidate-controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate, or political party committee who pays for the largest portion of expenditures attributable to the designing, printing, and posting of the mailing which are reportable pursuant to **§§ 84200 to 84216.5**, inclusive.

(3) To "pay for" a share of the cost of a mass mailing means to make, to promise to make, or to incur an obligation to make, any payment: (A) to any person for the design, printing, postage, materials, or other costs of the mailing, including salaries, fees, or commissions, or (B) as a fee or other consideration for an endorsement or, in the case of a ballot measure, support or opposition, in the mailing.

(f) This section does not apply to mass mailing or mass electronic mailing that is paid for by an independent expenditure.

Mass Mailing Prohibitions

NO newsletter or other mass mailing shall be sent at public expense. **(Government Code § 89001)**

False or Misleading Information to Voters

No person shall submit any nomination paper or declaration of candidacy knowing that any part of it has been made falsely. Violations may result in criminal penalties. **(Elections Code § 18203)**

No person shall attempt to mislead the public by pretending or implying by his statements or conduct that he is an incumbent of a public office or that he has acted in the capacity of a public officer when this is not the case. Violations may result in civil penalties. **(Elections Code § 18350)**

No candidate shall assume a ballot designation which would mislead the voters. **(Elections Code § 13107(e)(1))**

Outdoor Political Advertising Guidelines

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 3)

County Political Sign Regulations

Within unincorporated areas of the county (areas not incorporated into one of the cities within the County of Santa Clara), the following sections of the County Zoning Ordinance will apply:

§ 4.40.100 Political Signs

A. *Intent.* It is the intent of this section to encourage participation by the electorate in political activity but to that political signs will be located, constructed, and removed in a manner to assure the public safety and general welfare.

B. *Permitted subject to regulation.* Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, political signs are permitted without an architecture and site approval in any zoning district, subject to all the following regulations:

1. No political sign shall be located in violation of **Division B17, Chapter II, commencing with § B17-18, of the County Ordinance Code**;

2. No political sign shall exceed 16 square feet in surface area in any R1, R1E, RHS, R1S or R2 zoning district unless it is located on a vacant lot, in which case it shall not exceed 32 square feet; and

3. Each political sign shall be removed within ten days following the final election to which such sign relates.

C. *Exception.* This section shall not apply to commercial outdoor advertising structures lawfully located in zoning districts under this ordinance and maintained by persons licensed under **California Business and Professions Code Division. 3, Chapter 2.**

§ 5.80.040 Enforcement

Pursuant to **§ 836.5 of the California Penal Code**, the County Zoning Enforcement officers are authorized to enforce the provisions of this ordinance and to issue citations for violation thereof. There shall be no civil liability on the part of, and no cause of action shall arise against, any zoning enforcement officer acting pursuant to this section and within the scope of his or her authority.

The Santa Clara County Department of Planning and Development provides enforcement of the County Political Sign Regulations. To file a complaint regarding political sign violations, contact the Department of Planning and Development Code Enforcement Division at **codeenforcement@pln.sccgov.org** or call (408) 299-5700.

State Political Sign Regulations

The California Department of Transportation has specific guidelines and responsibilities pertaining to political signs placed within their areas of jurisdiction. This information will be issued to candidates when they pick up nomination papers.

City Political Sign Regulations

Each city regulates the placements of signs within their city limits. **Listed on page IV are the contact information for each city/town clerk's office within Santa Clara County.** Please contact the appropriate city/towns office(s) if you have any questions.

FPPC Form 501 and Voluntary Expenditure Limit Frequently Asked Questions

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 3)

FPPC Form 501

Q: Which districts and offices are in the upcoming election?

A: The districts and offices that are in the upcoming election are as follows:

- Federal, State, judicial, and County offices (Runoff)
- City candidates
- This information can also be found in the Candidate Guide on the Registrar of Voters website. Under the Candidates and Measures tab, click on the November 3, 2026 General Election Candidate Resources. We also provide this information in the office and over the phone.

Q: When is the nomination period?

A: The nomination period for the November 3, 2026 General Election opens on **July 13, 2026 through August 7, 2026**. For a copy of the Abbreviated Election Calendar with all of the filing deadlines associated with the General Election, visit the Registrar of Voters website under the Candidates and Measures tab, click on the **November 3, 2026 General Election Resources** webpage. We also provide this information in the office and over the phone.

Q: Who has filed for a particular office?

A: For information regarding the filing status for all offices, a copy of the Unofficial Contest/Candidate list will be posted every day. This report is updated on a daily basis during the nomination period. Visit the Registrar's website under the Candidates and Measures tab, click on the **November 3, 2026 General Election Resources** webpage. We also provide this information in the office and over the phone.

Q: How can I find out who is currently in office?

A: For a list of Candidates currently in office, the Candidate Services department has a List of Officeholders with all the current officeholders. This is available on the Registrar of Voters website under the Candidates and Measures tab, click on the **List of Officeholders**. We also provide this information in the office and over the phone.

Q: Where can I find a candidate's contact information?

A: During the nomination period, candidate files containing contact information are available for viewing in the Registrar of Voters office during office hours.

After the close of the nomination period, the Qualified Candidate List with contact information is available online at the **November 3, 2026 General Election Resources** for public review or by hardcopy in the Registrar of Voters office during office hours. The Registrar of Voters office is located at 1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, 3rd Floor, San José, CA 95112. Our office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Q: How do I find out information on campaign committees?

A: To search for committee information and filing status, please follow the steps below:

From the Candidates & Measures pull down menu, click the Candidate and Campaign Services, scroll down, and under the Candidates Running for Office Resources select the **FPPC Campaign Finance Filings**. Then, click on the public access portal option to search and view filings. Type in the last name of the candidate in the "Search by Name" field to start the search. Next, select the name of filer from the results list. Contact the Candidate Services Division at (408) 299-8639 should you need further assistance.

Q: What is a FPPC Form 501?

A: The FPPC **Form 501** is the Candidate Intention Statement filed by a candidate to indicate their intention to run for office. This form must be filed before the candidate solicits or spends any campaign funds.

Q: How can I find out which candidates have filed or when they filed their Form 501?

A: Please refer to the **501 and Voluntary Expenditure Limit Logs | Registrar of Voters | County of Santa Clara**.

To search for candidate information and filing status, please follow the steps below:

From the Candidates & Measures pull down menu, click on the Candidate and Campaign Services link, scroll down, and under Candidates Running for Office Resources select **FPPC Campaign Finance Filings**. Then, click on the "**Get Started Now**" button to get access to the public portal to search and view filings.

Click on the Get Started Now link under the Public Access Portal section, Scroll down to the "Find Candidates & Measures by Election" section, select the date of the election you are researching, click the button by "Candidates" to show the list of contests, click the button by the contest to show name of candidates who have filed the **Form 501**. Contact the Candidate Services Division at (408) 299-8639 should you need further assistance.

To search for candidate information and filing status, please follow the steps below:

From the Candidates & Measures pull down menu, click on the Candidate and Campaign Services, scroll down, and under Candidates Running for Office, select **FPPC Campaign Finance** Filings. Then, click on the public access portal to search and view filings.

Put in the last name of the person in the "Search By Name" field to start the search. Then, select the name of the filer from the results list. The date the form was filed is listed under the "Filing Date" column at the filer page. Contact the Candidate Services Division at (408) 299-8639 should you need further assistance.

Q: How can I find out the date of the election related to the Form 501 filed?

A: This information is only available in the Registrar of Voters office. Please contact the Candidate Services Division at (408) 299-8639, or visit the Registrar of Voters office at 1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, 3rd Floor, San José, CA 95112 during our office hours of Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Q: What is the threshold that requires a candidate to file a FPPC Form 410?

A: When two thousand dollars ($2,000) or more of contributions have been received. **(Government Code §§ 82013, 84101)**

County Voluntary Expenditure Limits

Q: Does the County have an ordinance for contribution limits?

A: Yes. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors adopted **Ordinance No. NS-19.40** on August 27, 2013 which places limitations on the amount of contributions made to and received by a candidate for County office. The text of the ordinance is below:

Electioneering

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 3)

Elections Code § 319.5 states:

(a) "Electioneering" means the visible display or audible dissemination of information that advocates for or against any candidate or measure on the ballot within the 100-foot limit specified in subdivision (b). Prohibited electioneering information or activity includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

(1) A display of a candidate's name, likeness, or logo.

(2) A display of a ballot measure's number, title, subject, or logo.

(3) Buttons, hats, pencils, pens, shirts, signs, or stickers containing electioneering information.

(4) Dissemination of audible electioneering information.

(5) Obstructing access to, loitering near, or disseminating visible or audible electioneering information at vote by mail ballot drop boxes.

(b) The activities described in subdivision (a) are prohibited within 100 feet of either of the following:

(1) The entrance to a building that contains a polling place as defined by **§ 338.5**, an elections official's office, or a satellite location specified in **§ 319.5**

(2) An outdoor site, including a curbside voting area, at which a voter may cast or drop off a ballot.

Elections Code § 18370 states:

(a) A person shall not, on election day, or at any time that a voter may be casting a ballot, within the 100 foot limit specified in subdivision (b), do any of the following:

(1) Circulate an initiative, referendum, recall, or nomination petition or any other petition.

(2) Solicit a vote or speak to a voter on the subject of marking the voter's ballot.

(3) Place a sign relating to voters' qualifications or speak to a voter on the subject of the voter's qualifications except as provided in **§ 14240**.

(4) Do any electioneering as defined by **§ 319.5**.

(b) The activities described in subdivision (a) are prohibited within 100 feet of either of the following:

(1) The entrance to a building that contains a polling place as defined by **§ 338.5**, an elections official's office, or a satellite location specified in **§ 18370**.

(2) An outdoor site, including a curbside voting area, at which a voter may cast or drop off a ballot.

(c) A person shall not, on election day, or at any time that a voter may be casting a ballot, do any of the following within the immediate vicinity of a voter in line to cast a ballot or drop off a ballot:

(1) Solicit a vote.

(2) Speak to a voter about marking the voter's ballot.

(3) Disseminate visible or audible electioneering information.

(d) Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Elections Code § 18371(a) states:

(a) No candidate or representative of a candidate, and no proponent, opponent, or representative of a proponent or opponent, of an initiative, referendum, or recall measure, or of a charter amendment, shall solicit the vote of a vote by mail voter, or do any electioneering, while in the residence or in the immediate presence of the voter, and during the time he or she knows the vote by mail voter is voting.
(b) Any person who knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.
(c) This section shall not be construed to conflict with any provision of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, nor to preclude electioneering by mail or telephone or in public places, except as prohibited by **§ 18370**, or by any other provision of law.

Elections Code § 18403 states:

Any person other than an elections official or a member of the precinct board who receives a voted ballot from a voter or who examines or solicits the voter to show their voted ballot is punishable by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars ($10,000), by imprisonment pursuant to **subdivision (h) of § 1170 of the Penal Code** for 16 months or two or three years, or in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment. This section does not apply to persons returning a vote by mail ballot pursuant to **§ 3017** or persons assisting a voter pursuant to **§ 14282**.

Elections Code § 18540 states:

(a) Every person who makes use of or threatens to make use of any force, violence, or tactic of coercion or intimidation, to induce or compel any other person to vote or refrain from voting at any election or to vote or refrain from voting for any particular person or measure at any election, or because any person voted or refrained from voting at any election or voted or refrained from voting for any particular person or measure at any election is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment pursuant to **subdivision (h) of § 1170 of the Penal Code** for 16 months or two or three years.
(b) Every person who hires or arranges for any other person to make use of or threaten to make use of any force, violence, or tactic of coercion or intimidation, to induce or compel any other person to vote or refrain from voting at any election or to vote or refrain from voting for any particular person or measure at any election, or because any person voted or refrained from voting at any election or voted or refrained from voting for any particular person or measure at any election is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment pursuant to **subdivision (h) of § 1170 of the Penal Code** for 16 months or two or three years.
(c) For purposes of this section, "voting at any election" includes, but is not limited to, voting in person at a polling place or at the office of the elections official, including satellite locations pursuant to **§ 18540**, and voting by mail and returning a voted ballot pursuant to subdivision (a) of **§ 3017**.

Elections Code § 18541 states:

(a) A person shall not, with the intent of dissuading another person from voting, within the 100-foot limit specified in subdivision (b), do any of the following:
(1) Solicit a vote or speak to a voter on the subject of marking the voter's ballot.
(2) Place a sign relating to voters' qualifications or speak to a voter on the subject of the voter's qualifications except as provided in **§ 14240**.
(3) Photograph, video record, or otherwise record a voter entering or exiting a polling place.
(4) Obstruct ingress, egress, or parking.

(b) The activities described in subdivision (a) are prohibited within 100 feet of either of the following:

(1) The entrance to a building that contains a polling place as defined by **§ 338.5**, an elections official's office, or a satellite location specified in **§ 18541**.

(2) An outdoor site, including a curbside voting area, at which a voter may cast or drop off a ballot.

(c) A person shall not, with the intent of dissuading another person from voting, do any of the following within the immediate vicinity of a voter in line to cast a ballot or drop off a ballot:

(1) Solicit a vote.

(2) Speak to a voter about marking the voter's ballot.

(3) Disseminate visible or audible electioneering information.

(d) A violation of this section is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than 12 months, or in state prison. Any person who conspires to violate this section is guilty of a felony.

Elections Code § 18544 states:

a) Any person in possession of a firearm or any uniformed peace officer, private guard, or security personnel or any person who is wearing a uniform of a peace officer, guard, or security personnel, who is stationed in the immediate vicinity of, or posted at, a polling place without written authorization of the appropriate city or county elections official is punishable by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars ($10,000), by imprisonment pursuant to **subdivision (h) of § 1170 of the Penal Code** for 16 months or two or three years, or in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(b) This section shall not apply to any of the following:

(1) An unarmed uniformed guard or security personnel who is at the polling place to cast his or her vote.

(2) A peace officer who is conducting official business in the course of his or her public employment or who is at the polling place to cast his or her vote.

(3) A private guard or security personnel hired or arranged for by a city or county elections official.

(4) A private guard or security personnel hired or arranged for by the owner or manager of the facility or property in which the polling place is located if the guard or security personnel is not hired or arranged solely for the day on which an election is held.

Campaign Finance Disclosure Information

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 3)

The Political Reform Act of 1974 requires candidates to file campaign statements disclosing contributions received and expenditures made. The statutory requirements of the Political Reform Act are contained in **Government Code §§ 81000 through 91014**. Manuals and forms relating to campaign reporting obligations under the Act may be obtained by visiting the Fair Political Practices Commission's (FPPC) website at **www.fppc.ca.gov** or from your local elections official.

IMPORTANT: It is the responsibility of the candidate to review, understand, and comply with all campaign disclosure laws, and candidates should consult the manuals produced by the FPPC. While your local filing officer has an obligation to collect, review, and request amendments to your campaign reports, any assistance and information on completing campaign statements should be obtained from the Technical Assistance Division of FPPC by calling (916) 322-5660, (866) 275-3772 or visiting their website at **www.fppc.ca.gov**.

This section is for general information only and does not have the effect of law, regulation, or rule. This section is not comprehensive and does not detail all filing requirements and obligations. For current comprehensive information, consult a Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) manual or contact the FPPC directly. Local candidates should also review information contained in this guide relating to the county's ordinance requiring electronic filing of disclosure statements.

Candidates who Anticipate Spending or Receiving Less than $2,000

Form 501 Candidate Intention Statement

This form announces the candidate's intention to run for office and the desire to collect or spend campaign funds. Pursuant to **Government Code § 85200, ALL** candidates must file this form prior to solicitation or receipt of any contribution, or expenditure of any personal funds used for the election. This form is considered filed the date it is post-marked, or hand-delivered to the filing officer **(for county, school and special district offices, this is the Office of the Registrar of Voters; for candidates for city office, your filing official is the city clerk)**. A local candidate will complete sections 1 and 3 and state legislative candidates will complete sections 1, 2 and 3. An unsigned statement is not considered filed. You must file a separate **Form 501** for each election. A list of **Form 501** statements filed in association with local contests can be found by visiting **www.sccvote.org**, and under the Candidate and Measures drop-down menu, choose the Candidate and Campaign Services, and under Candidates Running for Office Resources click on the **501 and Voluntary Expenditure Limit Logs** page.

Form 470 Officeholder and Candidate Campaign Statement (Short Form)

Candidates who do not anticipate spending or receiving $2,000 or more during the calendar year, and **do not** have a controlled committee, are **required** to file this form.

Form 470 Supplement

A candidate who has filed a **Form 470** and then subsequently receives contributions (monetary or non-monetary contributions, loans, and personal funds), or makes expenditures, totaling $2,000 or more, is **required** to file the **Form 470 Supplement**, **within 48 hours**, with the Office of the Registrar of Voters (or city clerk, in the case of candidates for city offices) and the Office of the Secretary of State. Candidates must also send this **470 Supplement** to **each candidate** seeking the same office. Regular mail **may not** be used. Send by fax, guaranteed overnight delivery or personal delivery. The candidate must also file a **Form 410** Statement of Organization **within 10 days** of receiving $2,000 in contributions.

Candidates who Anticipate Spending or Receiving More than $2,000

Form 501 Candidate Intention Statement – Please see previous page.

Form 410 Statement of Organization

This form **must** be filed with the Secretary of State's Political Reform Division (original) and with the Office of the Registrar of Voters (copy), within 10 days of receiving $2,000 or more in contributions or making $2,000 or more in expenditures. The term "contribution" includes monetary payments, loans and non-monetary goods or services.

Important: You will need to establish a campaign contribution account at any financial institution located in California before you can complete **Form 410**.

Government Code § 85201 provides:

> (a) Upon the filing of the statement of intention pursuant to **§ 85200**, the individual shall establish one campaign contribution account at an office of a financial institution located in the state.
>
> (b) As required by **subdivision (f) of § 84102**, a candidate who raises contributions of two thousand dollars ($2,000) or more in a calendar year shall set forth the name and address of the financial institution where the candidate has established a campaign contribution account and the account number on the committee statement of organization filed pursuant to **§§ 84101** and **84103**.
>
> (c) All contributions or loans made to the candidate, to a person on behalf of the candidate, or to the candidate's controlled committee shall be deposited in the account.
>
> (d) Any personal funds which will be utilized to promote the election of the candidate shall be deposited in the account prior to expenditure.
>
> (e) All campaign expenditures shall be made from the account.
>
> (f) Subdivisions (d) and (e) do not apply to a candidate's payment for a filing fee and statement of qualifications from the candidate's personal funds.
>
> (g) This section does not apply to a candidate who will not receive contributions and who makes expenditures from personal funds of less than two thousand dollars ($2,000) in a calendar year to support the candidate's candidacy. For purposes of this section, a candidate's

payment for a filing fee and statement of qualifications shall not be included in calculating the total expenditures made.
(h) An individual who raises contributions from others for that individual's campaign, but who raises or spends less than two thousand dollars **($2,000)** in a calendar year, and does not qualify as a committee under **§ 82013**, shall establish a campaign contribution account pursuant to subdivision (a), but is not required to file a committee statement of organization pursuant to **§ 84101** or other statement of bank account information.

***Exception:** This **does not** apply to a candidate's payment of a filing fee and/or statement of qualifications if paid from his/her personal funds.

The Secretary of State issues committee ID numbers to all committees who file this form. The committee ID number must be included in all subsequent disclosure filings. A **Form 410** may be filed **prior** to the receipt of $2,000 to obtain an ID number and/or to submit bank account information. If you do so, you must file a **Form 410 Amendment** within ten days of receiving or spending $2,000 or more. When you file this amendment, you must indicate the date you "qualified" as a committee, which is the date you received $2,000 or more. Each time you change any information listed on a previously filed **Form 410**, such as addresses or treasurer, you must file a **Form 410 Amendment**. All amended forms must be filed with both the Secretary of State/Political Reform Division and the Office of the Registrar of Voters (or local filing officer).

The **Form 410** is also used to **terminate** your committee upon fulfilling all applicable requirements. **Important:** Campaign filing obligations continue until the committee is terminated.

Form 460 Recipient Committee Campaign Statement

For use by a candidate or officeholder not eligible to file the short form (**Form 470**) or who is filing jointly with one or more controlled committees. A controlled committee is one that is controlled directly or indirectly by a candidate or which acts jointly with a candidate or controlled committee in connection with the making of expenditures.

All qualified committees must file **Form 460** according to the filing calendar set by the FPPC. Your ID number must appear on every form you file during your campaign. All candidate-controlled committees **must file Form 460** by the appropriate deadlines for each filing period. **If you do not file your campaign statement by the deadline, you may be subject to a fine.** With exception to City or Town candidates, all local candidates file their **Form 460** reports only with the Office of the Registrar of Voters. City or Town candidates file their **Form 460** reports with their respective City or Town Clerk.

Form 496 24-hour/10-day Independent Expenditure Report

This form is used to report, within 24 hours, an independent expenditure each time $1,000 or more is spent to support or oppose a single candidate or ballot measure during the 90-day period up to the day of the election in which the candidate or ballot measure is being voted on. For local campaign committees, this form is filed electronically. (**Government Code § 85501** prohibits a candidate-controlled committee from making an independent expenditure to support or oppose another candidate.)

Form 497 24-hour Contribution Report

This form **may** be used to report late contributions made or received that total **$1,000 or more from a single source**, during the 90-day period up to the day of the election in which the candidate or

measure is to be voted on. Late contributions that must be reported within 24 hours include receiving a monetary or nonmonetary contribution, including a loan, or receiving a combination of monetary and nonmonetary contributions and loans. For local campaign committees whose filing officer is the Office of the Registrar of Voters, this report must be filed electronically. All candidates with City or Town campaign committees must file with their respective City or Town Clerk and adhere to the rules of that jurisdiction.

Election Related Filings

All committees must file disclosure statements by the filing deadline for the specific period established by the FPPC. These dates are set by law and cannot be changed. Statements must be amended if statements are deemed to lack required information or do not use the proper reporting period. Copies of the FPPC filing calendars are included in this guide for reference as is information pertaining to the Santa Clara County ordinance mandating the electronic filing of campaign statements **(See Ordinance No. NS-19.40)**.

Fair Political Practices Commission Electronic Filing of Campaign Disclosure Statements

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 3)

County Ordinance No. NS-300.857 amended existing provisions regarding the electronic filing of campaign statements with the Office of the Registrar of Voters to include specified persons and committees for which the Office of the Registrar of Voters is the Filing Officer. Those disclosure statements to be filed electronically using the **NetFile platform (www.netfile.com/Filer)** include:

- Semi-annual Campaign Statements **(Form 460 and Form 470)**;
- Pre-election Campaign Statements **(Form 460 and Form 470)**;
- Amendments to Previously Filed Campaign Statements;
- Supplemental Pre-election Campaign Statement **(Supplemental Form 460)**;
- Contributions Received by or Made to Candidates or Local Ballot Measure Committees of $1,000 or More, from a Single Source, in the 90 Days Before or on the Date of an Election **(Form 497)**; and,
- Late Independent Expenditures Made in Support of or Against Candidates or Local Ballot Measure Committees of $1,000 or More, from a Single Source, in the 90 Days Before or on the Date of an Election **(Form 496)**.

Filings of paper copies are not required for statements that are filed electronically with the Office of the Registrar of Voters pursuant to this ordinance.

The law requires certain statements and reports be filed with original signatures. Contact the Candidate Services Division at (408) 299-8639 for more information regarding electronic filing requirements and assistance with establishing a committee's profile using the NetFile platform. Additional information is available online at **www.netfile.com/Filer/**.

You may also contact NetFile directly. NetFile offers free filer training in how to use their system. Any filer can request telephone training by going to the below webpage:

https://netfile.com/Content/CampaignTraining

The above is found on the filer login page at **www.netfile.com/Filer** in the "Campaign Committee Filer" area at the bottom right of the screen. The training is with NetFile support staff to help the filer learn how to user the e-filing system and is free to the filer.

Campaign Filer Training for Candidates & Treasurers

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 3)

Did you know that NetFile offers free online training for campaign committee filers? Well, NetFile does! NetFile offers an online training session with one of our Customer Support staff during our normal business hours (M-F, 9am to 5pm). NetFile handles everything once a filer signs up to request a training session.

How do filers sign up?

It is easy to sign up. All a filer needs to do is open a web browser and go to:

https://netfile.com/Content/CampaignTraining. Once the page loads, the filer just needs to provide us with a few pieces of information:

- First Name
- Last Name
- E-Mail Address
- Primary Phone
- Alternate Phone (Not required)
- Best Time to Call
- Committee Name
- Your Position (with the committee)
- Filing Agency

What happens next?

When the filer submits the information on the web form, NetFile receives the request via e-mail and the filer receives a copy of the e-mail as well. One of our Customer Support staff then contacts the filer to coordinate the training.

What can the filer expect from the training?

The training session consists of the following topics:

- How to set up a NetFile User
- How to link to their committee's account to their NetFile User
- How to set up their committee's account
- How to search for and add entities
- How to add common transactions
- How to request further assistance

FPPC Campaign Filing Schedules

Fair Political Practices Commission
Email Advice: **advice@fppc.ca.gov**
Phone Advice: 1-866-ASK-FPPC
(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 3)

Candidates and their Controlled Committees for State Offices

Deadline	Period	Form	Notes
Within 10 Business Days *$5,000 Report*	**Ongoing (file anytime other than the 90-day election cycle)**	**Form 497**	**Only E-filers file this report:** • File if a contribution of $5,000 or more is received from a single source. • No paper copy is required. • File within ten business days of receipt of contribution.
Within 24 Hours *Election Cycle Reports*	**8/5/26 – 11/3/26**	**Form 497**	• File if a contribution of $1,000 or more in the aggregate is received from a single source. • File if a contribution of $1,000 or more in the aggregate is made to or in connection with *another* candidate or measure listed on the November 3, 2026, ballot. • The recipient of a non-monetary contribution of $1,000 or more in the aggregate must file a Form 497 within 48 hours of receiving the contribution. • E-file only. No paper copy is required.
July 31, 2026 *Semi-Annual*	*** – 6/30/26**	**Form 460**	• All committees must file Form 460 unless the committee filed termination Forms 410 and 460 before June.
September 24, 2026 *1st Pre-Election*	**7/1/26 – 9/19/26**	**Form 460** or **Form 470**	• Each candidate listed on the ballot must file Form 460 or Form 470 (see below).
October 22, 2026 *2nd Pre-Election*	**9/20/26 – 10/17/26**	**Form 460**	• All committees must file this statement. • Paper copies must be filed by personal delivery, guaranteed overnight service, or by email with a verified digital signature.
February 1, 2027 *Semi-Annual*	**10/18/26 – 12/31/26**	**Form 460**	• All committees must file Form 460 unless the committee filed termination Forms 410 and 460 before December 31, 2026. • The January 31 deadline falls on a Sunday, so the deadline is extended to the next business day.

Additional Notes:

- ***Period Covered:** The period covered by any statement begins on the day after the closing date of the last statement filed, or January 1, if no previous statement has been filed.
- ****Paper Filings:** Unless otherwise noted, all paper filings may be filed by email with a verified digital signature**.** Persons required to file a report or statement by paper with the Secretary of

State's Office *may* instead file by email **(digitalfiling@sos.ca.gov)** with a verified digital signature or other secure digital means as prescribed by the Secretary of State's Office. Please visit the **Secretary of State's website** for more information on how to file with a digital signature.

- **Deadline Extensions:** Deadlines are extended when they fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or an official state holiday. This extension does not apply to a 24hour/10-day Contribution Report **(Form 497)** that is due the weekend before the election, and this extension never applies to any 24-hour/10-day Independent Expenditure Report **(Form 496)**. Such reports must be filed within 24 hours, regardless of the day of the week.
- **Where to File:** State committees file statements with the Secretary of State. Candidate-controlled committees that are not e-filers file paper copies with the elections official in the candidate's county of domicile.
- **Form 501:** All candidates must file **Form 501** (Candidate Intention Statement) before soliciting/receiving contributions.
- **E-Filer:** A state committee that has received contributions or made expenditures totaling $25,000 or more.
- **Form 460:** All state committees, including e-filers, must also file paper copies.**
- **Form 470 (2026):** Candidates who do not raise or spend $2,000 or more (or anticipate raising or spending $2,000 or more) in 2026 and do not have an open committee may file **Form 470** on or before **September 24, 2026**. If the candidate raises or spends $2,000 or more later during the calendar year, a **Form 470 Supplement** and a **Form 410** must be filed.
- **Forms 496 and Form 497:** All reports filed online only.
- **Independent Expenditures:** Committees making independent expenditures totaling $1,000 or more to support or oppose other candidates or ballot measures also file:
    - **Form 496:** This form is due within 24 hours if made in the 90-day, 24-hour reporting period of the candidate's or measure's election. Refer to the applicable filing schedule. **Form 496** is filed with the filing officer in the jurisdiction of the affected candidate or measure.
    - **Form 462:** This verification form must be e-mailed to the FPPC within 10 days.
- **Multiple Committees:** All committees controlled by a state candidate listed on the November ballot must file statements on the pre-election filing deadlines and the committee formed for this election. For example, a candidate for Senate listed on the November 3, 2026, ballot maintains an Assembly officeholder
- committee must file pre-election statements for both committees even if the Assembly committee has not received or made payments.
- **State Contribution Limits:** Refer to the **contribution limits chart** on the FPPC website.
- **Penalties:** Late statements and reports are subject to a fine of $10 per day on both paper and the e-filed version **(i.e., $20 per day for a late Form 460)**. Failure
- to file a statement or report could result in an enforcement penalty of $5,000 per violation.
- **After the Election:** Reporting requirements will depend on whether the candidate is successful and whether a campaign committee is open. See **Campaign Disclosure Manual 1** for additional information.
- **Public Documents:** All statements and reports are public documents.
- **Resources:** Campaign manuals and other instructional materials are available on the **Campaign Rules** page. You can also visit **www.fppc.ca.gov** > Learn >.
- Campaign Rules.

Candidates and their Controlled Committees for Local Offices

Deadline	Period	Form	Notes
July 31, 2026 *Semi-Annual*	*** – 6/30/26**	**Form 460**	All committees must file this statement.
Within 24 Hours *Election Cycle Reports*	**8/5/26 – 11/3/26**	**Form 497**	File if a contribution of $1,000 or more in the aggregate is received from a single source. File if a contribution of $1,000 or more in the aggregate is made to or in connection with *another* candidate or measure listed on the November 3, 2026, ballot. The recipient of a non-monetary contribution of $1,000 or more in the aggregate must file a Form 497 within 48 hours of receiving the contribution. File by personal delivery, e-mail, guaranteed overnight service, or fax. The committee may also file online if available.
September 24, 2026 *1st Pre-Election*	**7/1/26 – 9/19/26**	**Form 460** or **Form 470**	Each candidate listed on the ballot must file Form 460 or Form 470 (see below).
October 22, 2026 *2nd Pre-Election*	**9/20/26 – 10/17/26**	**Form 460**	All committees must file this statement. File by personal delivery or guaranteed overnight service. The committee may also file online if available.
February 1, 2027 *Semi-Annual*	**10/18/26 – 12/31/26**	**Form 460**	All committees must file Form 460 unless the committee filed termination Forms 410 and 460 before December 31, 2026. The January 31 deadline falls on a Sunday, so the deadline is extended to the next business day.

Additional Notes:

- ***Period Covered:** The period covered by any statement begins on the day after the closing date of the last statement filed, or January 1, if no previous statement has been filed.
- **Local Ordinance:** Always check whether additional local rules apply.
- **Deadline Extensions:** Deadlines are extended when they fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or an official state holiday. This extension does not apply to a 24-hour/10-day Contribution Report **(Form 497)** that is due the weekend before the election, and this extension never applies to any 24-hour/10-day Independent Expenditure Report **(Form 496)**. Such reports must be filed within 24 hours, regardless of the day of the week.
- **Method of Delivery:** Unless otherwise noted, all paper filings may be filed by first-class mail. A paper copy of a statement may not be required if a local agency requires online filing pursuant to a local ordinance.
- **Form 501:** All candidates must file **Form 501** (Candidate Intention Statement) before soliciting/receiving contributions.
- **Form 460:** Candidates who have raised/spent $2,000 or more file **Form 460**. The **Form 410**

(Statement of Organization) must also be filed once $2,000 or more has been raised/spent.

- **Form 470:** Candidates who do not raise or spend $2,000 or more (or anticipate raising or spending $2,000 or more) in 2026 and do not have an open committee may file **Form 470** on or before **September 24, 2026**. If the candidate raises or spends $2,000 or more, later during the calendar year, a **Form 470 Supplement** and a **Form 410** must be filed.
- **Independent Expenditures:** Committees making independent expenditures totaling $1,000 or more to support or oppose other candidates or ballot measures also file:
    - **Form 496:** This form is due within 24 hours if made in the 90-day, 24-hour reporting period of the candidate's or measure's election. Refer to the applicable filing schedule. **Form 496** is filed with the filing officer in the jurisdiction of the affected candidate or measure.
    - **Form 462:** This verification form must be e-mailed to the FPPC within 10 days.
- **After the Election:** Reporting requirements will depend on whether the candidate is successful and whether a campaign committee is open. See **Campaign Disclosure Manual 2** for additional information.
- **Public Documents:** All statements and reports are public documents.
- **Resources:** Campaign manuals and other instructional materials are available on the **Campaign Rules** page. Or visit **www.fppc.ca.gov** > Learn > Campaign Rules. Refer to the FPPC video tutorial for candidates and treasurers for basic information for candidates and committees.

Legal Examination of Candidate Statements, Local Measure Materials, and Writs of Mandate

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 3)

Examination Period for Candidate Statements and Local Measure Materials

Once the candidate filing period has closed, candidate statements may be reviewed by the public for 10 calendar days. During this 10-calendar day examination period, any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is held may take legal action by filing a writ of mandate or seeking an injunction to challenge the contents of the statement in court. Based on a filing deadline of **August 7, 2026**, the 10-calendar day period will close **August 17, 2026**. For offices with an extended filing period ending on **August 12, 2026,** the 10-calendar day deadline will be **August 22, 2026.**

The deadline to submit a resolution calling for a measure election and tax rate statements is **August 7, 2026**. Public examination for all primary arguments is available **August 12, 2026 to August 21, 2026**. Public examination for all rebuttals and impartial analyses is available **August 19, 2026 to August 28, 2026**. To meet necessary printing deadlines, any petition for writ of mandate, including any appeals, should be resolved by **August 28, 2026**.

It is recommended that anyone wishing to pursue a legal challenge file a petition for a writ of mandate (along with an ex parte application) as early as possible in the 10-calendar day period. Courts are not open on weekends, and with a small window to seek a challenge, waiting until the end of the examination period leads to the risk that any changes will interfere with the legal timeframe for printing and distribution of the voter information guide to voters in the County.

Elections Code § 13313 states:

(a) The elections official shall make a copy of the material referred to in **§ 13307** available for public examination in the elections official's office for a period of 10-calendar days immediately following the filing deadline for submission of those documents. Any person may obtain a copy of the candidate's statements from the elections official for use outside of the elections official's office. The elections official may charge a fee to any person obtaining a copy of the material, and the fee may not exceed the actual cost incurred by the elections official in providing the copy.

(b) (1) During the 10-calendar day public examination period provided by this section, any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held, or the elections official, himself or herself, may seek a writ of mandate or an injunction requiring any or all of the material in the candidates statements to be amended or deleted. The writ of mandate or injunction request shall be filed no later than the end of the 10-calendar day public examination period.

(2) A peremptory writ of mandate or an injunction shall issue only upon clear and convincing proof that the material in question is false, misleading, or inconsistent with the requirements of this chapter, and that issuance of the writ or injunction will not substantially interfere with the printing or distribution of official election materials as provided by law.

(3) The elections official shall be named as respondent and the candidate who authored the material in question shall be named as the real party in interest. In the case of the elections official bringing the mandamus or injunctive action pursuant to this subdivision, the board of supervisors

of the county shall be named as the respondent and the candidate who authored the material in question shall be named as the real party in interest.

Elections Code § 13314 states:

(a) (1) An elector may seek a writ of mandate alleging that an error or omission has occurred, or is about to occur, in the placing of a name on, or in the printing of, a ballot, county voter information guide, state voter information guide, or other official matter, or that any neglect of duty has occurred, or is about to occur.

(2) A peremptory writ of mandate shall issue only upon proof of both of the following:

(A) That the error, omission, or neglect is in violation of this code or the Constitution.

(B) That issuance of the writ will not substantially interfere with the conduct of the election.

(3) The action or appeal shall have priority over all other civil matters.

(4) The Secretary of State shall be named as a respondent or a real party in interest in any proceeding under this section concerning a measure or a candidate described in **§ 15375**, except for a candidate for judge of the superior court.

(b) Venue for a proceeding under this section shall be exclusively in Sacramento County in any of the following cases:

(1) The Secretary of State is named as a real party in interest or as a respondent.

(2) A candidate for statewide elective office is named as a party.

(3) A statewide measure that is to be placed on the ballot is the subject of the proceeding.

County Elections

Elections Code § 9190 states:

(a) The county elections official shall make a copy of the materials referred to in **§§ 9119**, **9120**, **9160**, **9162**, and **9167** available for public examination in the county elections official's office for a period of 10 calendar days immediately following the deadline for submission of those materials. Any person may obtain a copy of the materials from the county elections official for use outside of the county elections official's office. The county elections official may charge a fee to any person obtaining a copy of the material. The fee may not exceed the actual cost incurred by the county elections official in providing the copy.

(b) (1) During the 10-calendar-day public examination period provided by this section, any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held, or the county elections official, himself or herself, may seek a writ of mandate or an injunction requiring any or all of the materials to be amended or deleted. The writ of mandate or injunction request shall be filed no later than the end of the 10-calendar-day public examination period.

(2) A peremptory writ of mandate or an injunction shall be issued only upon clear and convincing proof that the material in question is false, misleading, or inconsistent with this chapter, and that

issuance of the writ or injunction will not substantially interfere with the printing or distribution of official election materials as provided by law.

(3) The county elections official shall be named as respondent and the person or official who authored the material in question shall be named as real parties in interest. In the case of the county elections official bringing the mandamus or injunctive action, the board of supervisors of the county shall be named as the respondent and the person or official who authored the material in question shall be named as the real party in interest.

Special District Elections

Elections Code § 9380 states:

(a) The elections official shall make a copy of the materials referred to in **§§ 9312**, **9315**, and **9317** available for public examination in his or her office for a period of 10 calendar days immediately following the filing deadline for submission of those documents. Any person may obtain a copy of the materials from the elections official for use outside of the elections official's office. The elections official may charge a fee to any person obtaining a copy of the material. The fee may not exceed the actual cost incurred by the elections official in providing the copy.

(b) (1) During the 10-calendar-day public examination period provided by this section, any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held, or the elections official, himself or herself, may seek a writ of mandate or an injunction requiring any material to be amended or deleted. The writ of mandate or injunction request shall be filed no later than the end of the 10-calendar-day public examination period.

(2) A peremptory writ of mandate or an injunction shall be issued only upon clear and convincing proof that the material in question is false, misleading, or inconsistent with this chapter, and that issuance of the writ or injunction will not substantially interfere with the printing or distribution of official election materials as provided by law.

(3) The elections official shall be named as respondent and the person or official who authored the material in question shall be named as real parties in interest. In the case of the elections official bringing the mandamus or injunctive action, the board of supervisors of the county shall be named as the respondent and the person or official who authored the material in question shall be named as the real party in interest.

School District Elections

Elections Code § 9509 states:

(a) The elections official shall make a copy of the materials referred to in **§§ 9500**, **9501**, and **9504** available for public examination in his or her office for a period of 10 calendar days immediately following the filing deadline for submission of those documents. Any person may obtain a copy of the materials from the elections official for use outside of the elections official's office. The elections official may charge a fee to any person obtaining a copy of the material. The fee may not exceed the actual cost incurred by the elections official in providing the copy.

(b) (1) During the 10-calendar-day public examination period provided by this section, any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held, or the elections official, himself or herself, may seek a

writ of mandate or an injunction requiring any or all of the materials to be amended or deleted. The writ of mandate or injunction request shall be filed no later than the end of the 10-calendar-day public examination period.

(2) A peremptory writ of mandate or an injunction shall be issued only upon clear and convincing proof that the material in question is false, misleading, or inconsistent with this chapter, and that issuance of the writ or injunction will not substantially interfere with the printing or distribution of official election materials as provided by law.

(3) The elections official shall be named as respondent and the person or official who authored the material in question shall be named as real parties in interest. In the case of the elections official bringing the mandamus or injunctive action, the board of supervisors of the county shall be named as the respondent and the person or official who authored the material in question shall be named as the real party in interest.

(Back to Table of Contents)

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CHAPTER 4

Services Available to Candidates

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 4)

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Voter Information, Election Data, and Maps

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 4)

Per **Elections Code § 2194**, voter registration information is confidential; however, there are specific permissible exceptions to the law. **California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 7, Chapter 1, Article 1, § 19003**, specifies permissible uses for any data obtained from voter registration files. On such permissible use it is for direct election campaigning, surveys in conjunction with an election campaign, and distribution of information of a political nature.

Prohibited Uses

Data obtained from voter registration or election files may not be sold, leased, loaned, reproduced, or possession thereof relinquished without receiving written authorization to do so from the Secretary of State or the Office of the Registrar of Voters. In addition, prohibited usage includes commercial purposes and solicitations of contributions or services for any purpose other than on behalf of a candidate or political party, or in support of or opposition to a ballot measure.

Public Viewing Terminals

The voter registration database may be viewed from a public terminal located in the lobby of the Office of the Registrar of Voters. The public viewing terminal is available during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The public terminal screen does not reveal confidential voter registration information.

Confidential Viewing Terminals

Viewing of the confidential voter registration database is only available in the Office of the Registrar of Voters, Candidate Services Division. Confidential information includes such items as: residential street address, telephone number, precinct number, date of birth, occupation, driver's license number and the last four digits of a social security number. To view the confidential voter registration database, a person will be required to provide identification and complete an Application for Voter Registration File Request. The confidential viewing terminal is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Election Data

Election data containing voter registration information is available for purchase from the Office of the Registrar of Voters. An Application for Voter Registration File Request must be completed that includes a detailed explanation of how the data will be used, which will undergo a review and approval process. All applications must be received with an original wet signature, a clear copy of applicant's current valid driver's license or state identification card, any accompanying documentation, and payment before the application will be reviewed. Election data requests are processed in the order they are received and take 2-3 business days for completion. Pricing for election data is included in the fee schedule listed on www.sccvote.org.

Vote by Mail voter information is also available for purchase and may take up to 48-72 hours to process to ensure the most updated voter information is available; subsequent updates will be available on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday after 10:00 a.m. For more information on how to purchase Vote by Mail election data, please contact the Vote by Mail Division at (408) 299-8640.

Maps

Maps of districts with contests on the ballot are available for purchase from the Office of the Registrar of Voters. Please contact the Mapping Division at (408) 918-9171 or send an email **to rov-gis@rov.sccgov.org** for more information.

Vote Centers and Ballot Drop Boxes

Any voter can use the online look up tool on **www.sccvote.org/votehere** to find a list of the closest Vote Centers, list of Ballot Drop-Box locations and hours including a Google Maps link for directions on the election specific page.

Important Vote by Mail Dates

The Registrar of Voters (ROV) office will mail Vote-by-Mail ballots to all active registered voters in advance of election day and provide in-person voting opportunities to ensure that every registered voter has an opportunity to cast a ballot. A list of all Vote Center locations can be found on the Office of the Registrar of Voter's website at: **www.sccvote.org/votehere**

Mailing of Vote-by-Mail Packets	
September 19, 2026	Last day to mail ballots to military and overseas voters.
October 5, 2026	Last day to begin mailing ballots to local voters.
October 27, 2026	Last day to request vote-by-mail replacement ballot by mail.
Early Voting Period at the ROV	
October 5 to November 2, 2026	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
October 24 to October 25, 2026	Saturday to Sunday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (weekend voting)
October 31 to November 1, 2026	Saturday to Sunday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (weekend voting)
November 3, 2026	Tuesday 7:00 am – 8:00 pm (Election Day)
Vote Centers Open 10 Days Before and Including Election Day	
October 24 to November 3, 2026	The minimum operating hours set forth in **Elections Code § 4005**. Please refer to sccvote.org/votehere for further information on vote center day(s) and hours of operations.
November 3, 2026	Tuesday, 7:00 am – 8:00 pm (Election Day)

Voters have several options to return their voted ballots to their election official. A voter may:

1) Return it by mail or in person.
2) Return it to a vote center within the county.
3) Return the ballot to a vote by mail ballot drop-box location within the County that is provided by law.

A voter who is unable to return their ballot may designate any person to return the ballot for them. The ballot must be received at any official voting location before the close of the polls on election day.

Notification to the Voter of Unmatched or Missing Signature and Cured Signature Deadlines	
November 17, 2026	In the case of a voter whose signature does not match or whose signature is missing on the envelope containing their ballot, the elections official is required to notify the voter at least 14 days before the certification of the election of the opportunity to update and/or obtain the voter's signature. **(Elections Code § 3019(d))**
November 25, 2026	Last day to turn in unsigned ballot or signature verification statements. **(Elections Code § 3019(d))**

Election Day Information

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 4)

Reporting of Results

Beginning at approximately 8:05 p.m. on election night, results are available on our website at www.sccvote.org, or by calling (408) 299-VOTE (8683). The first results reported are Vote by Mail ballots received by our office in advance of election day. Updates will occur approximately every hour. The Office of the Registrar of Voter's website banner will be updated with information as to our current situation and predicted update time.

Past Results

For information about viewing past election results, visit our **Past Election Results** webpage at **www.sccvote.org/pastelectionresults**.

Official Canvass of the Returns

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 4)

In general, the Official Canvass of the Vote and certification of the election must be completed within 30 days of the election. The Official Canvass includes many steps, including a tabulation of all valid ballots cast and a verification and audit of the voting materials and official results. **Elections Code § 15302** stipulates that the official canvass shall include, but is not limited to, the following tasks:

> (a) An inspection of all materials and supplies returned by election workers.
>
> (b) A reconciliation of the number of signatures on the roster with the number of ballots recorded on the ballot statement.
>
> (c) In the event of a discrepancy in the reconciliation required by subdivision (b), the number of ballots received from each Vote Center shall be reconciled with the number of ballots cast, as indicated on the ballot statement.
>
> (d) A reconciliation of the number of ballots counted, spoiled, canceled, or invalidated due to identifying marks, overvotes, or as otherwise provided by statute, with the number of votes recorded, including vote by mail and provisional ballots, by the vote counting system.
>
> (e) Processing and counting any valid vote by mail and provisional ballots not included in the semifinal official canvass.
>
> (f) Counting any valid write-in votes.
>
> (g) Reproducing any damaged ballots, if necessary.
>
> (h) Reporting final results to the governing board and the Secretary of State, as required.

When elections are consolidated, all results are reported at the same time. The canvass and certification of the vote can take up to 30 days to complete. The Registrar of Voters cannot accommodate requests to tabulate and release results for specified contests, nor can it segregate ballots by contest to report remaining ballots by jurisdiction. All votes, including valid write-in votes, are included as part of the Statement of Votes Cast reported to the Secretary of State's office, no later than the 30th day following the election.

No later than the 38th day after the election, the Secretary of State must determine the votes cast for candidates for state and federal office and for the statewide ballot measures, certify those results, and issue certificates of nomination/election to those candidates who were nominated/elected.

References

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 4)

Below is a list of contact information to assist you with questions you may have during your campaign.

1. **County of Santa Clara Office of the Registrar of Voters (www.sccvote.org)**
   - Toll free main line: (866) 430-VOTE (8683)
   - Vote by Mail Division: (408) 299-8640
   - Candidate Services Division: (408) 299-8639
   - Voter Registration Services Division: (408) 299-8683
   - Election Officers & Vote Centers: (408) 299-POLL (7655)
   - Mapping Division: (408) 918-9171
   - Outreach Division: (408) 282-3048

2. **State of California Secretary of State's Office (www.sos.ca.gov)**
   - Elections Division: (916) 657-2166
   - Political Reform Division: (916) 653-6224
   - Investigation & Election Fraud Hot-Line: (800) 345-VOTE

3. **County of Santa Clara District Attorney's Office (https://countyda.sccgov.org/home)**
   - Main line: (408) 299-7500
   - Email: **publicinformation@dao.sccgov.org**

4. **Fair Political Practices Commission (www.fppc.ca.gov)**
   - General Contact Line: (916) 322-5660
   - Advice Line: 1-866-ASK-FPPC (866) 275-3772

5. **Federal Election Commission (www.fec.gov)**
   - (800) 424-9530

6. **NetFile (www.netfile.com/filer)**
   - **filerhelp@netfile.com**

7. **California Legislative Information (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov)**

8. **League of Women Voters/Vote411.org (www.vote411.org)**

9. **Population Statistics & Historical Data**
   - State of California Department of Finance **(https://dof.ca.gov)**
   - Association of Bay Area Governments **(https://abag.ca.gov)**

County of Santa Clara
Registrar of Voters
1555 Berger Drive, Bldg. 2
San José, CA 95112
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 611360, San José, CA 95161-1360
(408) 299-VOTE (8683) 866-430-VOTE (8683) FAX: (408) 998-7314
www.sccvote.org

Dear Candidate:

Now that you have filed as a candidate, I want to encourage you to participate in Vote411.org, a non-partisan online voter guide by the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund. Vote411.org provides a free platform for candidates who will appear in the ballot.

Vote411.org provides a valuable opportunity for you to let voters know who you are and where you stand on the issues. This non-partisan tool was developed by the League to utilize Internet technology to inform voters about candidates and issues, and to provide an easy personal ballot lookup. Voters can then see information about your contest using their personal computers, smartphones, or any other source of access to the Internet.

Participation is free and open to all candidates. Sometime after the close of the nomination filing period, you will receive an email message or letter from your local League of Women Voters providing information and instructions on how to get started. If you do not receive an invitation from your local League within three weeks after the close of filing, feel free to send an inquiry to **voterinformation@lwv.org** or visit **www.vote411.org**.

Informed citizens are more likely to vote. Trusted, non-partisan sources of election information like Vote411.org are where voters are encouraged to go to learn more about the candidates and issues on their ballots. Vote411.org offers another opportunity to get your message out to your voting audience, in addition to placing your candidate statement in the official County Voter Information Guide. I encourage you to participate in Vote411.org.

Sincerely,

Matt Moreles, Registrar of Voters
County of Santa Clara, Office of the Registrar of Voters

Board of Supervisors: Sylvia Arenas, Betty Duong, Otto Lee, Susan Ellenberg, Margaret Abe-Koga
County Executive: James R. Williams

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 4)

Election Officers Needed!

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 4)

The County of Santa Clara Office of the Registrar of Voters is continuously recruiting election workers. Help is specifically needed for countywide elections. This is a great way to be a part of the democratic process, serve your community, and make money for yourself or your favorite organization. No experience necessary! Paid training is provided.

Sign up to become an Election Officer in future elections! We are currently recruiting for various positions throughout our organization and are looking for English and bilingual officers in Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin, Taiwanese), Farsi, Gujarati, Indonesian, Japanese, Khmer, Mongolian, Nepali, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Syriac, Tamil, Tagalog, Telugu, and Vietnamese. Election Officers receive hourly pay and bilingual Election Officers receive additional compensation. Volunteers receive a stipend. Apply online at **https://sccvote.sccgov.org/extra-help-opportunities**, by writing the County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters Office, PO Box 612350, San José, CA, 95161-2350, or by emailing **pollworker@rov.sccgov.org**.

Volunteers must be:

- 18 years or older AND either:
  - A U.S. citizen and a registered voter of the State of California OR
  - A legal permanent resident

High School Students must be:

- A high school student;
- 16 years or older, on or before Election Day, with at least a 2.5 GPA;
- Have approval from your parents and your school administration; AND either
  - A U.S. citizen OR
  - A legal permanent resident.

English, Farsi, Gujarati, Indonesian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Mongolian, Nepali, Persian, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Syriac, Tamil, & Telugu	(408) 299-POLL (7655)
Chinese: Mandarin, Cantonese & Taiwanese	(408) 282-3086
Spanish	(408) 282-3095
Tagalog	(408) 282-3089
Vietnamese	(408) 282-3097
Hindi	(408) 282-3199

Visit our website for more information at: **www.sccvote.org/now_hiring**

Frequently Asked Questions

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 4)

Q: Can anyone circulate nomination papers?
A: Circulators of nomination petitions must be 18 years of age or older.

Q: What happens if some of the signatures I obtain on my nomination papers are not registered voters or do not live within the jurisdiction I seek to represent?
A: The Office of the Registrar of Voters must certify that the signatures on nomination papers are of registered voters residing within the jurisdiction. Any signatures where the address, name, and signature do not match a registered voter within the jurisdiction will be marked invalid and will not count towards your signature requirements. We recommend filing your completed nominations packet with nomination papers early in case additional signatures are required following the initial certification. If you wait until the last day to file and your number of valid signatures does not meet the requirement for the office you seek, you will not qualify to be a candidate. If you file early, there will be time to check the signatures and notify you of any insufficiencies. You may then have an opportunity to submit supplemental signatures.

Q: Is there a way to check the validity of signatures I collect on my petitions?
A: Yes, candidates can view confidential voter registration information at the Office of the Registrar of Voters. You can view the voter database and verify if a signer on your petition is registered to vote and at what address. The confidential terminal is available for usage during business hours between 8:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. There is one terminal available for use on a first-come, first-served basis. The applicant must complete a voter registration file request form and provide a clear copy of their current driver's license or state identification card.

Q: When and where can I pick up and file my nomination documents?
A: The candidate filing period is **July 13, 2026 through August 7, 2026**. Nomination documents may be picked up at the Office of the Registrar of Voters located at 1555 Berger Drive, Bldg. 2, 3rd Floor, Candidate Services Division, San José, CA 95112. The Office of the Registrar of Voters does not accept nomination papers printed from other websites such as the Secretary of State. Following review and acceptance of state office nomination forms for filing, the ROV will forward appropriate documents to the SOS for final review and processing when applicable.

Nomination documents **MAY BE FILED ONLY** with the Office of the Registrar of Voters with exception of candidates running for a city contest, or special district contest in either the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District or Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority. Candidates must file with their respective elections official city clerk or district clerk. Please refer to contact information on **page IV for City Clerks** and **page V for District Clerks** for cities and special districts respectively.

Q: May I change or correct the wording or spelling on my candidate statement after submission?
A: No. Statements cannot be changed for any reason after they have been filed unless by court order.

Q: If I pay for and submit a candidate statement of qualifications and then I change my mind, may I withdraw the statement and receive a refund?
A: Yes, the candidate statement may be withdrawn during the nomination period and until 5:00 p.m. of the next working day after the close of the nomination period. If you withdraw your

statement by this deadline, you will receive a refund. After this deadline, your statement cannot be withdrawn, nor a refund given.

Q: May my spouse, relative, friend, or campaign manager pick up and/or file nomination documents for me or can I mail them to you?

A: Yes, but only if the candidate prepares and signs a Letter of Authorization. In general, all forms must be picked up and filed by the candidate. However, state law allows someone other than the candidate to obtain and/or file nomination papers if they have specific written authorization to do so. We recommend candidates pick up and file nomination documents themselves for the following two reasons:

1. The oath of office on the Declaration of Candidacy must be administered by a member of the Office of the Registrar of Voters staff, an authorized public official, or a notary public. It is much easier for a candidate to file the nomination papers in person and have the oath administered at the time they file; and

2. The signature of the candidate, as well as other data, is required on many documents involved in the nomination process. Incomplete or missing documents can be completed more easily in person.

If the candidate wishes to mail the nomination papers, they must be sent by certified mail and arrive in our office by the close of the nomination period, regardless of the postmark.

Q: Am I required to file financial documents related to my campaign?

A: Yes, every candidate must file some type of financial documents at specified deadlines. Refer to the "Campaign Finance Disclosure Information" section of this guide for more information.

Q: I am unable to complete and file any of my FPPC campaign disclosure statements by the filing deadline. May I obtain an extension, and will I be fined?

A: No. There is no provision in the Political Reform Act that permits any filing officer to extend a filing deadline. Statements that are filed late are subject to a fine of $10.00 per day until the statement is filed including additional penalties or remedies imposed by the act. You may be fined for filing your statements late.

Q: Can I place campaign signs anywhere I want?

A: No. There are city, county, and state regulations concerning placement of campaign signs. Please refer to the "Outdoor Political Advertising Guidelines" section of this guide.

Q: How does the Office of the Registrar of Voters release a list of candidates and how soon will an official list of qualified candidates be available after the close of nominations?

A: The Office of the Registrar of Voters publishes an updated list of candidates who have obtained and filed papers directly with the County of Santa Clara each day which is posted on our website. There will be a date listed next to the candidate's name indicating the date they filed all required paperwork and qualified for office. At a later date our office will provide an updated list of candidates released by the Secretary of State following the end of the nomination period.

The nomination period ends at **5:00 p.m. on August 7, 2026**.

For each state election, the Secretary of State qualifies all state candidates and prepares the official certified list. This certified list of state candidates is not available to each county until **December**

3, 2026, at the earliest. The Secretary of State's Office also posts this certified list on their website. A final official certified list that includes all state candidates will be released by the Office of the Registrar of Voters by the following week. You may come into the office and view the candidate list at no charge or purchase a copy of it at 10 cents per page.

Q: Can I come into the Office of the Registrar of Voters on Election Night and observe the tabulation of the votes?

A: Yes. You can come into our office on Election Night and observe the entire process of the vote tabulation. All Election Night visitors must be escorted into our office so please call ahead of time to inform us that you will be coming to our office. Calling ahead helps us plan our staffing needs.

Q: Can I obtain Election Night results on the Internet?

A: Yes. You may obtain the most up-to-date Election Night results on our website at **www.sccvote.org** or call (408) 299-8639.

Q: Why is there so much paperwork involved in being a candidate?

A: State election laws stipulate those documents required to be completed by candidates, as well as its format, filing deadline, etc. These filing requirements are not discretionary.

Registrar of Voters' Contact Information

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 4)

Candidate Services Division
General: (408) 299-8639
Fax: (408) 998-7356
Email: candidateservices@rov.sccgov.org
1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, 3rd Floor, San José, CA 95112

Matt Moreles
Registrar of Voters
Executive Division
Phone: (408) 282-3003
Email: matt.moreles@rov.sccgov.org

Virginia Bloom
Assistant Registrar of Voters
Executive Division
Phone: (408) 282-3135
Email: virginia.bloom@rov.sccgov.org

Ravi Udeshi
Assistant Registrar of Voters
Executive Division
Phone: (408) 282-3003
Email: ravi.udeshi@rov.sccgov.org

Bren Lehr
Election Division Coordinator
Candidate Services Division
Phone: (408) 282-3041
Email: bren.lehr@rov.sccgov.org

Louella Sevegan
Election Specialist
Candidate Services Division
Phone: (408) 282-3152
Email: louella.sevegan@rov.sccgov.org

Cassandra Hevia
Election Specialist
Candidate Services Division
Phone: (408) 282-3042
Email: cassandra.hevia@rov.sccgov.org

Marianna Khienkina
Election Specialist
Candidate Services Division
Phone: (408) 282-3140
Email: marianna.khienkina@rov.sccgov.org

Nigel Kinney
Election Specialist - EH
Candidate Services Division
Phone: (408) 282-3204
Email: nigel.kinney@rov.sccgov.org

Carla Carrasco
Election Specialist - EH
Candidate Services Division
Phone: (408) 282-3044
Email: carla.carrasco@rov.sccgov.org

Christine Santos
Election Specialist - EH
Candidate Services Division
Phone: (408) 282-3043
Email: christine.santos@rov.sccgov.org

ATTENTION: Information provided by the Office of the Registrar of Voters in response to inquiries made by candidates is general in nature and is informational only. It is not to be used as a substitute for legal advice. Candidates are responsible for consulting their own legal counsel and verifying all information as it relates to their individual situation.

CHAPTER 5

Appendices

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 5)

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APPENDIX A

Barclays Official California Code of Regulations

(Back to Table of Contents – Chapter 5)

California Administrative Code,
Title 2 Administration, Chapter 7. Ballot Designations

§ 20710. General Provisions.

(a) The regulatory purpose of this Chapter is to ensure the accurate designation of the candidate upon the ballot in order that an informed electorate may intelligently elect one of the candidates.

(b) The Secretary of State shall, at all times, apply and interpret the provisions of **Elections Code § 13107** and the regulations included in this Chapter in a manner consistent with the regulatory purpose of this Chapter.

(c) Candidates are not required to use a ballot designation pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107**, subdivision (a), and may opt to leave the space for such a designation on the ballot blank. In order to notify the elections official as to whether he or she will use a ballot designation or will opt to leave the ballot designation space blank, the candidate must initial the appropriate box on the Declaration of Candidacy or otherwise indicate on the Declaration of Candidacy.

(d) Pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107**, subdivision (a), a candidate may submit a proposed ballot designation pursuant to any one of the four provisions specified in **Elections Code § 13107**, subdivision (a), subparts (1) through (4), applicable to that candidate. The candidate shall be free to select from which of the applicable four subparts he or she is submitting his or her proposed ballot designation.

(e) The regulations set forth in this Chapter shall apply only to elections held for offices for which elections returns are certified by the Secretary of State of the State of California.

(f) Whenever, the word "should" is used in this Chapter, it is recommended, not mandatory.

Note: Authority cited: **§ 12172.5, Government Code. Reference: § 13107, Elections Code**.

§ 20711. Ballot Designation Worksheet.

(a) In order to facilitate review of a candidate's proposed ballot designation by the Secretary of State pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107**, the candidate shall submit, at the time of filing his or her proposed ballot designation on the Declaration of Candidacy, a completed Ballot Designation Worksheet on a form provided by the Secretary of State.

(b) All Ballot Designation Worksheets filed with the Office of the Secretary of State or the county elections officials pursuant to this section shall be public records and shall be available for inspection and copying at the public counter of the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State, Fifth Floor, 1500 11th Street, Sacramento, California 95814, or at the office of the applicable county elections official.

(c) The Secretary of State shall provide a master copy or copies of the Ballot Designation Worksheet to all elections officials responsible for providing and accepting the nomination documents for candidates in elections for offices certified by the Secretary of State. The Ballot Designation Worksheet shall request that the candidate proposing the ballot designation provide the following information:

(1) The candidate's name, home, business and mailing addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail address, if available, and fax number;

(2) A designation of the office for which the candidate is seeking election;

(3) The name, home, business and mailing addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail address, if available, and fax number of the attorney representing the candidate or for any other person to be contacted in the event the Secretary of State requires further information regarding the proposed ballot designation;

(4) The proposed ballot designation submitted by the candidate;

(5) The candidate may submit one or more proposed alternate ballot designations ranked in order of the candidate's preference;

(6) A brief statement identifying the factual basis upon which the candidate claims the proposed ballot designation and each proposed alternate ballot designation, including the following:

(A) If the candidate holds elected office and is submitting his or her proposed ballot designation pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107**, **subdivisions (a)(1) or (a)(2),** the candidate shall indicate the elective office he or she currently occupies and may attach a copy of his or her Certificate of Election;

(B) If the candidate is a judicial officer and is submitting his or her proposed ballot designation pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107**, **subdivisions (a)(1) or (a)(2**), the candidate shall indicate the elective office he or she currently holds and may attach either (A) a copy of his or her Certificate of Election or (B) a copy of his or her commission or certificate of appointment, issued at the time the candidate was appointed to the judicial office which he or she currently occupies;

(C) If the candidate submits a ballot designation pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3)**, the candidate shall indicate:

(i) The title of the position or positions which he or she claims supports the proposed ballot designation;

(ii) The dates during which the candidate held such position;

(iii) A description of the work he or she performs in the position;

(iv) The name of the candidate's business or employer;

(v) The name and telephone number of a person or persons who could verify such information; and

(vi) A statement that the professions, vocations or occupations relied upon to support the proposed ballot designation constitute the primary, main or leading professions, vocations or occupations of the candidate, in accordance with the definition of the term "principal" as set forth at **§ 20714, subdivision (b)**.

(D) If the candidate submits a ballot designation pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(4)**, the candidate shall indicate the date on which he or she was appointed to the office for which he or she is an appointed incumbent.

(d) The candidate may attach or append any supporting documents or other exhibits to his or her Ballot Designation Worksheet which he or she believes support his or her proposed ballot designation. Such attached documents or other exhibits shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference as part of the candidate's Ballot Designation Worksheet and shall be considered as such by the Secretary of State.

(e) If a candidate requests a change of his or her ballot designation pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107(e)**, that request shall be accompanied by a Ballot Designation Worksheet.

Note: Authority cited: **§ 12172.5, Government Code. Reference: §§ 13107** and **13107.3, Elections Code**.

§ 20712. Proposed Ballot Designations Submitted Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, Subdivision (a)(1)

Proposed ballot designations submitted pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(1)**, shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) In the case of candidates holding elective city, county, district, state, or federal office, the candidate's ballot designation shall be the elective office which the candidate holds at the time of filing the nomination documents.

(b) In the case of judicial officers, the candidate's ballot designation shall be the elective office which the candidate holds at the time of filing the nomination documents.

(c) There shall be no word count limitation applicable to ballot designations submitted pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(1)**.

(d) Proposed ballot designations indicating a position of legislative leadership or leadership in another elected body, such as "Majority Leader of the California Senate," "Minority Leader of the California State Assembly," "Speaker of the California State Assembly," "President Pro Tempore of the California State Senate," "City of Orange Mayor Pro Tem," and the like, are not elective offices described in **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(1)**. Such ballot designations are improper, pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(1)**. They

may, however, subject to the three-word limit, be considered under the provisions of **§ 13107(a)(3)**. Examples of acceptable ballot designations under this section include, but are not limited to, "Assembly Minority Leader," "California Assembly Speaker," and "Mayor Pro Tem."

(e) Proposed ballot designations indicating that the candidate is a member of the state or county central committee of a political party, or an officer of a state or county central committee of a political party, are improper, as such positions do not constitute elective county or state offices as specified in **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(1)**.

Note: Authority cited: **§ 12172.5, Government Code**. Reference: **§ 13107, Elections Code**.

§ 20713. Proposed Ballot Designations Submitted Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, Subdivision (a)(2).

Proposed ballot designations submitted pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(2)**, shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) A proposed ballot designation submitted pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(2)**, is limited "incumbent," as that term is defined in **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(2)**.

(b) The term "incumbent" must be used as a noun. It shall not be used in conjunction with any other words, including any accompanying adjectives or modifiers, and must stand alone. A candidate qualified to use this designation pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(2)**, shall be entitled to use the ballot designation "Incumbent."

(c) The word "incumbent" is strictly limited for use in ballot designations submitted pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(2)**, and may not be used as an adjective in any other ballot designation.

Note: Authority cited: **§ 12172.5, Government Code**. Reference: **§ 13107, Elections Code**.

§ 20714. Proposed Ballot Designations Submitted Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, Subdivision (a)(3)

Proposed ballot designations submitted pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3)**, shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The terms "profession," "vocation," or "occupation," as those terms are used in **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3)**, are defined as follows:

(1) "Profession" means a field of employment requiring special education or skill and requiring knowledge of a particular discipline. The labor and skill involved in a profession is predominantly mental or intellectual, rather than physical or manual. Recognized professions generally include, but are not limited to, law, medicine, education, engineering, accountancy, and journalism. Examples of an acceptable designation of a "profession," as defined in **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3)**, include, but are not limited to, "attorney," "physician," "accountant," "architect," and "teacher."

(2) "Vocation" means a trade, a religious calling, or the work upon which a person, in most but not all cases, relies for his or her livelihood and spends a major portion of his or her time. As defined, vocations may include, but are not limited to, religious ministry, child rearing, homemaking, elderly and dependent care, and engaging in trades such as carpentry, cabinetmaking, plumbing, and the like. Examples of an acceptable designation of a "vocation," as defined in **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3)**, include, but are not limited to, "minister," "priest," "mother," "father," "homemaker," "dependent care provider," "carpenter," "plumber," "electrician," and "cabinetmaker."

(3) "Occupation" means the employment in which one regularly engages or follows as the means of making a livelihood. Examples of an acceptable designation of an "occupation," as defined in **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3)**, include, but are not limited to, "rancher," "restaurateur," "retail salesperson," "manual laborer," "construction worker," "computer manufacturing executive," "military pilot," "secretary," and "police officer."

(b) "Principal," as that term is used in **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3)**, means a substantial involvement of time and effort such that the activity is one of the primary, main or leading professional, vocational or occupational endeavors of the candidate. The term "principal" precludes any activity which does not entail a significant involvement on the part of the candidate. Involvement, which is only nominal, pro forma, or titular in character does not meet the requirements of the statute.

(1) If a candidate is licensed by the State of California to engage in a profession, vocation or occupation, the candidate is entitled to consider it one of his or her "principal" professions, vocations or occupations if (i) the candidate has maintained his or her license current as of the date he or she filed his or nomination documents by complying with all applicable requirements of the respective licensure, including the payment of all applicable license fees and (ii) the status of the candidate's license is active at the time he or she filed his or her nomination documents.

(2) A candidate who holds a professional, vocational or occupational license issued by the State of California may not claim such profession, vocation or occupation as one of his or her "principal" professions, vocations or occupations if (i) the candidate's licensure status is "inactive" at the time the candidate files his or her nomination document, or (ii) the candidate's license has been suspended or revoked by the agency issuing the license at the time the candidate files his or her nomination documents.

(c) In order for a ballot designation submitted pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3)**, to be deemed acceptable by the Secretary of State, it must accurately state the candidate's principal professions, vocations or occupations, as those terms are defined in subdivisions (a) and (b) herein. Each proposed principal profession, vocation or occupation submitted by the candidate must be factually accurate, descriptive of the candidate's principal profession, vocation or occupation, must be neither confusing nor misleading, and must be in full and complete compliance with **Elections Code § 13107** and the regulations in this Chapter.

(d) If the candidate is engaged in a profession, vocation or occupation at the time he or she files his or her nomination documents, the candidate's proposed ballot designation is entitled to

consist of the candidate's current principal professions, vocations and occupations. In the event the candidate does not have a current principal profession, vocation or occupation at the time he or she files his or her nomination documents, the candidate may use a ballot designation consisting of his or her principal professions, vocations or occupations, which the candidate was principally engaged in during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of the candidate's nomination papers.

(e) A candidate may engage in multiple principal professions, vocations or occupations. Accordingly, the candidate may designate multiple principal professions, vocations or occupations. If a candidate proposes a ballot designation including multiple principal professions, vocations or occupations, the proposed ballot designation must comply with the following provisions:

(1) The proposed ballot designation must comply with the three-word limitation specified in **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3)**, and as implemented pursuant to subdivision (f) herein.

(2) Each such proposed profession, vocation or occupation shall be separately considered by the Secretary of State and must independently qualify as a "principal" profession, vocation or occupation, as that term is defined pursuant to subdivision (b) herein.

(3) When multiple professions, vocations or occupations are proposed as a ballot designation, they shall be separated by a slash ("/"). An example of an acceptable designation would be "Legislator/Rancher/Physician."

(f) Pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3)**, the candidate's ballot designation shall be limited to not more than three (3) words. The following rules shall govern the application of the three-word limitation:

(1) The proposed ballot designation shall be grammatically correct, generic, and all words must be spelled correctly.

(2) Punctuation shall be limited to the use of a comma (e.g., District Attorney, Los Angeles County) and a slash (e.g., Legislator/Rancher/Physician), pursuant to subdivision (e) of this section. A hyphen may be used if, and only if, the use of a hyphen is called for in the spelling of a word as it appears in a standard reference dictionary of the English language, which was published in the United States at any time within the 10 calendar years immediately preceding the election for which the words are counted.

(3) All California geographical names shall be considered to be one word and shall be limited to the names of cities, counties and states. The names of special districts and political subdivisions are not "geographical names," as that term is used in **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3).** If the candidate desires, the geographical name may be used in the form of "City of . . . ," "County of . . . ," or "City and County of . . ." Examples of geographical names considered to be one word include Tehama County, Los Angeles County and County of Sacramento. Examples of designations containing a special district or political subdivision that are not geographical names include "Butte County Rural Fire District Captain," "Huntington Beach Unified School District President," and "South Bay Irrigation District Director."

(4) An acronym shall be counted as one word.

(g) A candidate who chooses to include the name of his or her elective office with another profession, vocation, or occupation may do so pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107(a)(3)**, but that ballot designation shall be limited to no more than three words. Examples of acceptable designations under this section include "State Senator/Rancher," "California Assemblywoman/Attorney," "County Supervisor/Teacher," and "State Controller/Businessman." Examples of unacceptable designations under this section include "Assemblyman, 57th District/Educator," "California State Senator/Architect," "Placer County Supervisor/Business Owner," and "Member, Board of Equalization/Banker."

Note: Authority cited: **§ 12172.5, Government Code**. Reference: **§§ 9 and 13107, Elections Code**.

§ 20714.5. "Community Volunteer."

(a) "Community Volunteer" means a person who engages in an activity or performs a service for or on behalf of, without profiting monetarily, one or more of the following:

(1) A charitable, educational, or religious organization as defined by the **United States Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3)**;

(2) A governmental agency; or

(3) An educational institution.

(b) The activity or service must constitute substantial involvement of the candidate's time and effort such that the activity or service is the sole, primary, main or leading professional, vocational or occupational endeavor of the candidate within the meaning of **subdivisions (a) and (b) of § 20714 of this Chapter**.

Note: Authority cited: **§ 12172.5, Government Code**; and **§ 13107.5(b), Elections Code**. Reference: **§§ 13107 and 13107.5, Elections Code; and § 501(c)(3), United State Internal Revenue Code**.

§ 20715. Proposed Ballot Designations Submitted Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, Subdivision (a)(4).

(a) Pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(4)**, a candidate may propose a ballot designation consisting of the phrase "appointed incumbent" if the candidate holds an office, other than a judicial office, by virtue of appointment, and the candidate is a candidate for election to the same office. The candidate may not use the unmodified word "incumbent" or any words designating the office unmodified by the word "appointed."

(b) Pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(4)**, a candidate may propose a ballot designation consisting of the word "appointed" in conjunction with the elective office, if the candidate is a candidate for election to the same office or to some other office. The candidate may not use any words designating the office unmodified by the word "appointed."

(c) There shall be no word count limitation applicable to ballot designations submitted pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(4)**.

Note: Authority cited: **§ 12172.5, Government Code**. Reference: **§ 13107, Elections Code**.

§ 20716. Unacceptable Ballot Designations.

(a) The Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which fails to comply with **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)**; is prohibited pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b)**; is misleading; or is otherwise improper pursuant to the regulations set forth in this Chapter.

(b) The following types of activities are distinguished from professions, vocations and occupations and are not acceptable as ballot designations pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3)**:

(1) *Avocations:* An avocation is a casual or occasional activity, diversion or hobby pursued principally for enjoyment and in addition to the candidate's principal profession, vocation or occupation. Avocations may include, but are not limited to, hobbies, social activities, volunteer work (except as set forth in **§ 20714.5** of this Chapter), and matters pursued as an amateur.

(2) *Pro Forma Professions, Vocations and Occupations:* Pro forma professions, vocations or occupations are positions held by the candidate which consume little or none of the candidate's time and which, by their nature, are voluntary or for which the candidate is not compensated, except as set forth in **§ 20714.5** of this Chapter. Pro forma professions, vocations and occupations may include, but are not limited to, such pursuits as honorary peace officer, honorary chairperson, honorary professor, goodwill ambassador, official host or hostess and the like.

(3) *Statuses:* A status is a state, condition, social position or legal relation of the candidate to another person, persons or the community as a whole. A status is generic in nature and generally fails to identify with any particular specificity the manner by which the candidate earns his or her livelihood or spends the substantial majority of his or her time. Examples of a status include, but are not limited to, veteran, proponent, reformer, scholar, founder, philosopher, philanthropist, activist, patriot, taxpayer, concerned citizen, husband, wife, and the like.

(c) Pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b)(1)**, the Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which would mislead voters. In making this determination, the Secretary of State shall determine whether there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonably prudent voter would be misled as to the candidate's principal profession, vocation or occupation by the candidate's proposed ballot designation. The determination shall take into account the plain meaning of the words constituting the proposed ballot designation and the factual accuracy of the proposed ballot designation based upon supporting documents or other evidence submitted by the candidate in support of the proposed ballot designation, pursuant to **§§ 20711** and **20717** of this Chapter.

(d) A ballot designation may not comprise or include commercial identification information, such as a trademark, service mark, tradename, or the specific name of a business, partnership, corporation, company, foundation, or organization. Examples of an improper use of commercial

identification information include, but are not limited to, "Acme Company President," "Universal Widget Inventor," "Director, Smith Foundation," "UCLA Professor," and the like.

(e) Pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b)(2)**, the Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which would suggest an evaluation of the candidate's qualifications, honesty, integrity, leadership abilities or character. Any laudatory or derogatory adjectives which would suggest an evaluation of the candidate's qualifications shall not be permitted. Such impermissible adjectives include, but are not limited to, "senior," "emeritus," "specialist," "magnate," "outstanding," "leading," "expert," "virtuous," "eminent," "best," "exalted," "prominent," "famous," "respected," "honored," "honest," "dishonest," "corrupt," "lazy," and the like.

(f) Pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107**, **subdivision (b)(3)**, the Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which abbreviates the word "retired" or places it following any word or words which it modifies. Examples of impermissible designations include "Ret. Army General," "Major USAF, Retired" and "City Attorney, Retired."

(g) Pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b)(4)**, the Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which uses a word or prefix to indicate a prior profession, vocation, occupation or elected, appointed or judicial office previously held by the candidate. Such impermissible words or prefixes include, but are not limited to, "Ex-," "former," "past," and "erstwhile." Examples of impermissible designations include "Former Congressman," "Ex-Senator," and "Former Educator."

(h)(1) Subject to the provisions of **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b)(4)**, use of the word "retired" in a ballot designation is generally limited for use by individuals who have permanently given up their chosen principal profession, vocation or occupation.

> (2) In evaluating a proposed ballot designation including the word "retired," the Secretary of State will consider the following factors in making a determination as to the propriety of the use of the term "retired":
>
> (A) Prior to retiring from his or her principal profession, vocation or occupation, the candidate worked in such profession, vocation or occupation for more than 5 years;
>
> (B) The candidate is collecting, or eligible to collect, retirement benefits or other type of vested pension;
>
> (C) The candidate has reached at least the age of 55 years;
>
> (D) The candidate voluntarily left his or her last professional, vocational or occupational position; and,
>
> (E) The candidate's retirement benefits are providing him or her with a principal source of income.
>
> (3) If a candidate is requesting a ballot designation that he or she is a retired public official, the candidate must have previously voluntarily retired from public office, not have been involuntarily removed from office, not have been recalled by voters, and not have surrendered the office to seek another office or failed to win reelection to the

office. If such a candidate did not voluntarily retire from public office, he or she may not use the word "retired" in his or her ballot designation.

(4) A candidate may not use the word "retired" in his or her ballot designation if that candidate possesses another more recent, intervening principal profession, vocation, or occupation.

(i) Pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b)(5),** the Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which uses the name of any political party, whether or not it has qualified for recognized ballot status.

(j) Pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b)(6)**, the Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which uses a word or words referring to a racial, religious, or ethnic group.

(1) The Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any ballot designation which expressly contains or implies any ethnic or racial slurs or ethnically or racially derogatory language.

(2) If the candidate is a member of the clergy, the candidate may not make reference to his or her specific denomination. However, the candidate may use his or her clerical title as a ballot designation (e.g., "Rabbi," "Pastor," "Minister," "Priest," "Bishop," "Deacon," "Monk," "Nun," "Imam," etc.)

(k) Pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b)(7)**, the Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which refers to any activity prohibited by law. Unlawful activity includes any activities, conduct, professions, vocations, or occupations prohibited by state or federal law.

Note: Authority cited: **§ 12172.5**, **Government Code. Reference: § 13107, Elections Code**.

§ 20717. Requests for Supporting Documentation.

In addition to the Ballot Designation Worksheet required to be filed with the Secretary of State pursuant to **Elections Code § 13107.3** and **§ 20711** of this Chapter, the Secretary of State may request that a candidate submit additional supporting documentation or other evidence to support the proposed ballot designation.

(a) Time is of the essence regarding all matters pertaining to the review of proposed ballot designations submitted by candidates for public office. Failure to promptly submit requested supporting materials will preclude consideration of such materials in and the rendering of a final decision on the candidate's proposed ballot designation.

(b) The Secretary of State will communicate, whenever possible, with the candidate in the most expeditious manner, including, but not limited to, telephone, facsimile transmission and electronic mail at the number or address provided by the candidate. When the candidate does not have reasonable access to a facsimile machine or electronic mail, the Secretary of State will transmit written communication to the candidate by means of overnight express delivery to the address provided by the candidate.

(c) The candidate shall have the burden of establishing that the proposed ballot designation that he or she has submitted is accurate and complies with all provisions of **Elections Code § 13107** and this Chapter.

Note: Authority cited: **§ 12172.5, Government Code. Reference: §§ 13107** and **13107.3, Elections Code.**

§ 20718. Communication of Decisions Regarding Ballot Designations.

(a) If a candidate's proposed ballot designation has been rejected, an official copy of the decision of the Secretary of State will be made in writing and transmitted directly to the candidate by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address provided by the candidate. The Secretary of State shall also provide a copy to the elections official in the candidate's county of residence and to the elections official of each county within the political subdivision. Copies may also be made available to all other candidates in the race.

(b) At the request of the candidate, the Secretary of State will transmit a copy of the decision of the Secretary of State regarding the candidate's proposed ballot designation by facsimile transmission or e-mail to the facsimile number or e-mail address listed on the candidate's Ballot Designation Worksheet.

(c) All written decision of the Secretary of State regarding ballot designations are public records and are available for inspection and copying at the public counter of the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State, 1500 11th Street, Fifth Floor, Sacramento, California 95814.

Note: Authority cited: **§ 12172.5, Government Code. Reference: § 13107, Elections Code**.

§ 20719. Service of Legal Process Regarding Ballot Designations.

(a) In the event a candidate or other interested party files a petition for the issuance of an extraordinary writ with the court or other legal action pertaining to a candidate's ballot designation, the summons and any other legal process should be served upon the Chief Counsel to the Secretary of State, 1500 11th Street, Sixth Floor, Sacramento, California 95814. The Chief Counsel may designate a Deputy Secretary of State to accept service of process on behalf of the Secretary of State.

(b) Telephone notice pertaining to any ex parte applications filed with the court by any candidate or other interested party should be directed to the attention of the Chief Counsel to the Secretary of State at (916) 653-7244. Counsel for all parties to such ex parte matters are admonished that waivers of the Secretary of State's right to timely notice and the right to personally appear at the ex parte hearing will be granted in writing and only in limited instances.

(c) The Secretary of State shall provide a copy of any legal actions in subdivision (a) or (b) above to the elections official in the county of the candidate's residence and any other county in the district.

(d) The Secretary of State shall be named as a respondent in any legal action pertaining to a ballot designation for a candidate described in **Elections Code § 15375**, except for a candidate for judge of the superior court.

Note: Authority cited: **§ 12172.5, Government Code. Reference: §§ 13107** and **13314, Elections Code**.

(Back to Table of Contents)

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