

# Introduction

This guide has been prepared to assist candidates, committees, and members of the news media in preparing for the upcoming June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election. It is not intended to be all-encompassing but instead summarize major provisions related to candidates and committees involved in elections in Sonoma County and the State of California.

While staff has attempted to be as informative as possible in compiling this information, and we appreciate the opportunity to address your questions not answered in this handbook, the law prohibits employees from answering questions of a legal nature. This handbook is not intended as a substitute for legal counsel. For your protection, we strongly urge you to consult an attorney.

For additional information, feel free to contact our office Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding County holidays. Our email is [rov-info@sonomacounty.gov](mailto:rov-info@sonomacounty.gov), our phone number is (707) 565-6800, and our website is <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/vote>. Our office is located at 435 Fiscal Dr, Santa Rosa CA 95403. As of January 2026, we will be relocating to 3880 Brickway Blvd, Santa Rosa CA 95403.

**Evelyn Mendez**

Sonoma County Registrar of Voters

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Our office will be moving in January 2026.  
Our new address will be:  
3880 Brickway Blvd, Santa Rosa CA 95403

# Election Resources

## ROV Contact Phone Numbers

Information Type	Phone	Notes
General Information	<a href="tel:(707)565-6800">(707) 565-6800</a>	
Toll-free	<a href="tel:(800)750-8683">(800) 750-8683</a>	Within California Only
TDD	<a href="tel:(707)565-6888">(707) 565-6888</a>	Telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD)
Fax	<a href="tel:(707)565-6843">(707) 565-6843</a>	
Vote by Mail Division	<a href="tel:(707)565-6803">(707) 565-6803</a>	Vote by mail ballot applications, information
Campaign Disclosure Division	<a href="tel:(707)565-6808">(707) 565-6808</a>	Financial disclosure statements, information
Campaign Materials Division	<a href="tel:(707)565-6818">(707) 565-6818</a>	Voter lists, maps, precinct information
Candidate Filing Division	<a href="tel:(707)565-6804">(707) 565-6804</a>	Filing requirements for office
Voter Registration Division	<a href="tel:(707)565-6800">(707) 565-6800</a>	Voter registration forms, information

## ROV Website

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/vote> Provides information about the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters Office and voting information including the following: Registering to Vote, Political Party Preference, Facts for New Citizens, Services for Voters with Disabilities, Vote by Mail Information including Permanent Vote by Mail Voting, Polling Places and County Voter Information Guide, Serving at the Polls, Student Precinct Officer Program, and Campaign Materials and Costs.

# Election Resources

## Sonoma County Election Night Results

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/vote> Election results are posted starting at 8:00 PM on Election night and updated periodically through the night. Final results are posted after certification up to 28 days post election.

## ROV Contact Email Addresses

Vote by Mail Information	<a href="mailto:rov-absentee@sonomacounty.gov">rov-absentee@sonomacounty.gov</a>
Voter Registration Information	<a href="mailto:rov-voterreg@sonomacounty.gov">rov-voterreg@sonomacounty.gov</a>
Campaign Information	<a href="mailto:rov-campaign@sonomacounty.gov">rov-campaign@sonomacounty.gov</a>
Campaign Materials	<a href="mailto:rov-materials@sonomacounty.gov">rov-materials@sonomacounty.gov</a>
Precinct Officer Information	<a href="mailto:rov-polls@sonomacounty.gov">rov-polls@sonomacounty.gov</a>

## Office of the Secretary of State

### Contact Phone Numbers

Information Type	Phone Number	Notes
Elections Division	<a href="tel:(916)657-2166">(916) 657-2166</a>	General information, filing for state & federal offices
Fax	<a href="tel:(916)653-3214">(916) 653-3214</a>	
Political Reform Division	<a href="tel:(916)653-6224">(916) 653-6224</a>	Committee ID number, termination

# Election Resources

## Web Addresses

- <https://www.sos.ca.gov> Secretary of State Website
- <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections> Secretary of State Elections Division
- <https://www.sos.ca.gov/prd> Secretary of State Political Reform Division

## Fair Political Practices Commission

### Contact Phone Numbers

Information Type	Phone Number	Notes
Technical Assistance Division	<a href="tel:(866)275-3772">(866) 275-3772</a>	Monday-Thursday 9:00-11:30 AM and 1:30-3:30 PM. Campaign disclosure, state contribution limits, conflict of interest disclosure
Fax	<a href="tel:(916)322-2329">(916) 322-2329</a>	
Enforcement Division	<a href="tel:(866)275-3772">(866) 275-3772</a>	Monday-Thursday 9:30 AM-11:30 AM. File complaint under Political Reform Act

### Website

- <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/> California Fair Political Practices Commission

## State Franchise Tax Board

### Contact Phone Numbers

Information Type	Phone Number	Notes
Automated Information	<a href="tel:(800)338-0505">(800) 338-0505</a>	Committee tax status, tax deductible contributions, charitable non-profit groups, general information

# Election Resources

## Web Address

<https://www.ftb.ca.gov/> State Franchise Tax Board Website

## Internal Revenue Service

## Web Address

<https://www.irs.gov> Internal Revenue Service Website

## Federal Election Commission

## Contact Phone Number

Information Type	Phone Number	Notes
General Information	<a href="tel:(800)424-9530">(800) 424-9530</a>	Federal campaign disclosure, contributions from national banks, national corporations, foreign nationals

## Web Address

<https://www.fec.gov> Federal Election Commission Website

## California Law

## Web Address

<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/> California Legislative Information

# Offices Up for Election

## Overview

This page is meant to provide basic, preliminary information for candidates interested in collecting signatures to offset part or all of the filing fee cost for offices up for election in the June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election.

Additional information about federal and state offices (including State Superintendent of Public Instruction) can be found at the [Qualifications for Running for Office in 2026](#) page on the [California Secretary of State's](#) website. More detailed information about judicial and county offices (including County Superintendent of Schools) is coming soon.

To view a list of important election dates in 2026, please visit our [June 2, 2026, Timeline Calendar](#) page and/or the [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) page on the [California Secretary of State's](#) website.

## Voter-Nominated Offices

### Federal (Elected by District)

Office	Term of Office	Term Dates	Office-holder	Nom Sigs	Filing Fee	In-lieu Sigs
U.S. Representative, 1 <sup>st</sup> District	2 yrs	1/3/27 to 1/3/29	No incumbent due to new district lines	40-60	\$1,740	1,714
U.S. Representative, 2nd District	2 yrs	1/3/27 to 1/3/29	No incumbent due to new district lines	40-60	\$1,740	1,714
U.S. Representative, 4th District	2 yrs	1/3/27 to 1/3/29	No incumbent due to new district lines	40-60	\$1,740	1,714

### State (Elected Statewide)

Office	Term of Office	Term Dates	Office-holder	Nom Sigs	Filing Fee	In-lieu Sigs
Governor	4 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/6/31	No incumbent due to term limits	65-100	\$4,918.58	6,000
Lieutenant Governor	4 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/6/31	No incumbent due to term limits	65-100	\$3,688.94	6,000

# Offices Up for Election

Office	Term of Office	Term Dates	Office-holder	Nom Sigs	Filing Fee	In-lieu Sigs
Secretary of State	4 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/6/31	Shirley Weber	65-100	\$3,688.94	6,000
Controller	4 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/6/31	Malia Cohen	65-100	\$3,934.86	6,000
Treasurer	4 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/6/31	No incumbent due to term limits	65-100	\$3,934.86	6,000
Attorney General	4 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/6/31	Rob Bonta	65-100	\$4,272.34	6,000
Insurance Commissioner	4 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/6/31	No incumbent due to term limits	65-100	\$3,934.86	6,000

## State (Elected by District)

Office	Term of Office	Term Dates	Office-holder	Nom Sigs	Filing Fee	In-lieu Sigs
Board of Equalization, 2nd District	4 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/6/31	Sally Lieber	40-60	\$1,844.47	4,743
State Senator, 2nd District	4 yrs	12/7/26 to 12/1/30	No incumbent due to term limits	40-60	\$1,346.94	1,714
Member of the State Assembly, 2nd District	2 yrs	12/7/26 to 12/4/28	Chris Rogers	40-60	\$1,346.94	857
Member of the State Assembly, 4th District	2 yrs	12/7/26 to 12/4/28	Cecilia Aguiar-Curry	40-60	\$1,346.94	857

# Offices Up for Election

Member of the State Assembly, 12th District	2 yrs	12/7/26 to 12/4/28	Damon Connolly	40-60	\$1,346.94	857
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## Nonpartisan Offices

### Judicial (Elected Countywide)

Office	Term of Office	Term Dates	Office-holder	Nom Sigs	Filing Fee	In-lieu Sigs
Superior Court Judge, Office #2	6 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/3/33	Christopher Honigsberg	20-40	\$2,447.27	7,342
Superior Court Judge, Office #8	6 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/3/33	Lawrence Ornell	20-40	\$2,447.27	7,342
Superior Court Judge, Office #9	6 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/3/33	Mark Urioste	20-40	\$2,447.27	7,342
Superior Court Judge, Office #10	6 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/3/33	Kenneth Gness	20-40	\$2,447.27	7,342
Superior Court Judge, Office #12	6 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/3/33	Dana Simonds	20-40	\$2,447.27	7,342

# Offices Up for Election

## School (Elected Statewide)

Office	Term of Office	Term Dates	Office-holder	Nom Sigs	Filing Fee	In-lieu Sigs
State Superintendent of Public Instruction	4 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/6/31	No incumbent due to term limits	65-100	\$4,272.34	6,000

## School (Elected Countywide)

Office	Term of Office	Term Dates	Office-holder	Nom Sigs	Filing Fee	In-lieu Sigs
County Superintendent of Schools	4 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/6/31	Amie Carter	20-40	\$3,289.18	9,868

## County (Elected Countywide)

Office	Term of Office	Term Dates	Officeholder	Nom Sigs	Filing Fee	In-lieu Sigs
Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector	4 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/6/31	Erick Roeser	20-40	\$2,957.24	8,872
County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor	4 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/6/31	Deva Marie Proto	20-40	\$2,617.04	7,851

## County (Elected by District)

Office	Term of Office	Term Dates	Office-holder	Nom Sigs	Filing Fee	In-lieu Sigs
County Supervisor, 2nd District	4 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/6/31	David Rabbitt	20-40	\$1,742.95	4,700
County Supervisor, 4th District	4 yrs	1/4/27 to 1/6/31	James Gore	20-40	\$1,742.95	4,384

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

## Voter-Nominated Offices

There are two basic types of offices up for election in California in the June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election:

- **Voter-Nominated Offices:** For these offices, candidates list their political party (or lack thereof) on the ballot. However, voters can vote for any candidate they choose, regardless of their party or the candidate's party. The top two vote-getters in the primary election move on to the general election. Most federal and state offices are voter-nominated (with a few exceptions, such as U.S. President and State Superintendent of Public Instruction).
- **Nonpartisan Offices:** For these offices, candidates cannot list their political party affiliation on the ballot. Also, unlike voter-nominated offices, if a candidate wins 50% or more of the vote in the primary, they are declared the winner and do not have to run again in the general election. Most county and local offices are nonpartisan. Only one federal/state office is nonpartisan: State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

For more information about voter-nominated offices, please visit <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-nominated-offices>

- Federal (Elected by District)
  - [United States Representative in Congress, 1st District](#)
  - [United States Representative in Congress, 2nd District](#)
  - [United States Representative in Congress, 4th District](#)
- State (Elected Statewide)
  - [Governor](#)
  - [Lieutenant Governor](#)
  - [Secretary of State](#)
  - [Controller](#)
  - [Treasurer](#)
  - [Attorney General](#)
  - [Insurance Commissioner](#)
- State (Elected by District)
  - [Member, State Board of Equalization \(2nd District\)](#)
  - [State Senator \(2nd District\)](#)
  - [Member of the State Assembly, 2nd District](#)
  - [Member of the State Assembly, 4th District](#)
  - [Member of the State Assembly, 12th District](#)

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

## Nonpartisan Offices Judicial (Elected Countywide) Judge of the Superior Court (Offices 2, 8, 9, 10, and 12)

### Term of Office

Superior Court Judges serve 6-year terms beginning January 4, 2027.

*California Constitution Article VI §16(c)*

### Qualifications

A candidate for Superior Court Judge shall:

- be a citizen of the United States; and
- be registered to vote; and
- not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes, or for being an official interested in contracts, or becoming a vendor or purchaser at sales, or purchasing scrip or other evidences of indebtedness, in which the official has financial interest; and
- have been a member of the State Bar for ten years immediately preceding the election; or
- have served as a judge of a California court of record for ten years immediately preceding the election.

*California Constitution Article VI, §15*

*Elections Code §§20, 201*

*Government Code §1097*

### Filing Requirements

#### Filing Fee or Signatures-in-Lieu of Paying Filing Fee

##### *Filing Fee*

The non-refundable filing fee is payable to the Registrar of Voters, and must be paid at the time the Declaration of Intention is filed.

**The filing fee for Judge of the Superior Court is \$2,447.27**

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

## *Signatures-in-Lieu of Paying Filing Fee*

A candidate may submit petitions containing signatures of registered voters to cover all, or any pro-rata portion, of the filing fee. The petition-in-lieu form may be obtained from any county elections official beginning December 19, 2025. The petitions must be filed with the county elections official in the county where circulated no later than the close of business on February 4, 2026, and prior to filing a Declaration of Intention. Circulators shall be 18 years of age or older.

**The number of signatures-in-lieu needed to cover the full cost of the filing fee for Judge of the Superior Court is 7,342**

Any registered voter may sign an in-lieu-filing-fee petition for any candidate for whom he or she is eligible to vote.

*Elections Code §§102, 8104(b), 8105(b), 8106 (a)(4),(6), (b)(1),(4)*

## Nomination Documents and Procedures

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### *Declaration of Intention*

Each candidate must file a Declaration of Intention between January 26, 2026 and February 4, 2026, in the office of the elections official in which his or her nomination papers are required to be filed. If an incumbent, eligible to be elected, fails to file by the close of business on February 4, 2026, any person other than the incumbent may file a Declaration of Intention not later than the close of business on February 9, 2026. No candidate for a judicial office shall be required to state his or her residential address on the Declaration of Intention; however, the address must be provided to the elections official for verification.

*Elections Code §§15, 8023, 8024*

### *Declaration of Candidacy*

Each candidate is required to file a Declaration of Candidacy between February 9, 2026, and March 6, 2026. The Declaration shall be obtained from the county elections official of the county in which the candidate resides and is a voter. The Declaration of Candidacy must be executed in the office of the elections official unless the candidate, in a written statement signed and dated by the candidate, designates a third party to obtain the Declaration from the county elections official and deliver it to the candidate. Such written statement shall state that the candidate is aware the Declaration must be properly executed and delivered to the county elections official from whom it was obtained not later than the close of business on March 6, 2026.

If an incumbent, eligible to be elected, files a Declaration of Intention within the prescribed time frame, but fails to file a Declaration of Candidacy by the close of business on March 6, 2026, any person, other than the person who was the incumbent on March 6, 2026, may file a Declaration of Candidacy not later than

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

the close of business on March 11, 2026, regardless of whether that person filed a Declaration of Intention. No candidate for a judicial office shall be required to state his or her residential address on the Declaration of Candidacy; however, the address must be provided to the elections official for verification.

*Elections Code §§15, 8023, 8024*

## *Nomination Petitions*

Each candidate is required to file a Nomination Petition between February 9, 2026, and March 6, 2026, containing at least 20 and no more than 40 signatures of registered voters in the jurisdiction. Each section of the Nomination Petition shall be delivered to the county elections official of the county where circulated, not later than the close of business on March 6, 2026. Circulators shall be 18 years of age or older. NOTE: Signatures submitted in lieu of paying the filing fee, which meet the requirements of this section, may be designated to satisfy this requirement.

*Elections Code §§100, 102, 106(a), 8020, 8041, 8061, 8062(a)(2), 8063, 8066, 8068, 8106(d)*

## *Statement of Qualifications (Optional)*

Any candidate for local nonpartisan office may submit a Statement of Qualifications to be printed in the County Voter Information Guide. Statements must be filed at the same time nomination papers are filed and may be withdrawn, but not changed, until 5 p.m. the next regular business day after nominations close. Statements are confidential until nominations (or extended nominations) close and then become public record.

Statements 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.

*Elections Code §§13307, 13308, 13311*

## *Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700)*

Government Code §87300 requires every agency to adopt a Conflict of Interest Code. A Conflict of Interest Code is a document that designates the positions within an agency, which make or participate in making governmental decisions that may have a foreseeable material effect on any financial interest.

Each candidate must file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) not later than the final filing date for the Declaration of Candidacy. Elected officials must also file Statements of Economic Interests within (30) days after assuming office, annually, and within (30) days of leaving office. If an individual is appointed to an office, he or she must file not more than (30) days after assuming office. Under certain conditions, the Statement of Economic Interests need not be filed if such a statement was filed within (60) days prior to the filing of a Declaration of Candidacy or the date of assuming office.

*Government Code §§87200 et seq.*

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

## *Voluntary Code of Fair Campaign Practices (Optional)*

At the time an individual files his or her Declaration of Candidacy, Nomination Petition, or any other paper evidencing an intention to be a candidate for public office, the county elections official shall give the individual a copy of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices and a copy of the provisions of Ch. 5, Div. 20 of the Elections Code.

*Elections Code §20440*

## *California Political Cyberfraud Abatement Act*

As defined in Elections Code §18320 it is unlawful for a person, with intent to mislead, deceive, or defraud, to commit an act of political cyberfraud.

*Elections Code §18320*

## Campaign Committee Filing Obligations

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See General Information on Campaign Filing Obligations in this guide or the appropriate Fair Political Practices Commission Manual.

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

## Nonpartisan Offices School (Elected Statewide) State Superintendent of Public Instruction

### Qualifications

Every candidate shall:

- A. Be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person. § 2011
- B. Not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes. § 20
- C. Not have served two terms in the office.

*Cal. Const., art. IX, § 2*

### Filing Requirements

#### *Filing Fee*

The non-refundable filing fee is payable to the Registrar of Voters, and must be paid at the time the candidate takes out nomination petitions.

**The filing fee for County Superintendent of Schools is \$4,272.34.**

#### *Signatures-in-Lieu of Paying Filing Fee*

A candidate may submit petitions containing signatures of registered voters to cover all, or any pro-rata portion, of the filing fee. The petition-in-lieu form may be obtained from any county elections official beginning December 19, 2025. The petitions must be filed with the county elections official in the county where circulated no later than the close of business on February 4, 2026, and prior to obtaining a Declaration of Candidacy. Circulators shall be 18 years of age or older.

**The number of signatures-in-lieu needed to cover the full cost of the filing fee for County Superintendent of Schools is 6,000.**

Any registered voter may sign an in-lieu-filing-fee petition for any candidate for whom he or she is eligible to vote.

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

## Nonpartisan Offices School (Elected Countywide) County Superintendent of Schools

### Term of Office

The County Superintendent of Schools serves a 4–year term beginning at noon on January 4, 2027.

*Government Code §24200*

### Qualifications

A candidate for County Superintendent of Schools shall:

- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time nomination papers are issued; and
- possess a valid certification document authorizing administrative services (possession of a valid elementary administrative credential and a valid secondary administrative credential are equivalent to the possession of a valid general administrative credential); and
- not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes, or for being an official interested in contracts, or becoming a vendor or purchaser at sales, or purchasing scrip or other evidences of indebtedness, in which the official has financial interest.

*Education Code §§1205-1208*

*Elections Code §§20, 201*

*Government Code §1097*

### Filing Requirements

#### *Filing Fee*

The non-refundable filing fee is payable to the Registrar of Voters, and must be paid at the time the candidate takes out nomination petitions.

**The filing fee for County Superintendent of Schools is \$3,289.18.**

#### *Signatures-in-Lieu of Paying Filing Fee*

A candidate may submit petitions containing signatures of registered voters to cover all, or any pro-rata portion, of the filing fee. The petition-in-lieu form may be obtained from any county elections official

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

beginning December 19, 2025. The petitions must be filed with the county elections official in the county where circulated no later than the close of business on February 4, 2026, and prior to obtaining a Declaration of Candidacy. Circulators shall be 18 years of age or older.

**The number of signatures-in-lieu needed to cover the full cost of the filing fee for County Superintendent of Schools is 9,868.**

Any registered voter may sign an in-lieu-filing-fee petition for any candidate for whom he or she is eligible to vote.

*Education Code §1207*

*Elections Code §§100(a), 102, 8104(b), 8105(b), 8106(a)(4), 8106(a)(6), 8106(b)(1), 8106(b)(4)*

## Nomination Documents and Procedures

### *Declaration of Candidacy*

Each candidate is required to file a Declaration of Candidacy between February 9, 2026, and March 6, 2026. The Declaration shall be obtained from the office of the county elections official. The Declaration of Candidacy must be executed in the office of the elections official unless the candidate, in a written statement signed and dated by the candidate, designates a third party to obtain the Declaration from the county elections official and deliver it to the candidate. Such written statement shall state that the candidate is aware the Declaration must be properly executed and delivered to the county elections official from whom it was obtained not later than the close of business on March 6, 2026.

If an incumbent, eligible to be elected, fails to file a Declaration of Candidacy by the close of business on March 6, 2026, any person, other than the person who was the incumbent on March 6, 2026, may file a Declaration of Candidacy not later than the close of business on March 11, 2026.

*Elections Code §§10510, 10516*

### *Nomination Petitions*

Each candidate is required to file a Nomination Petition between February 9, 2026, and March 6, 2026, containing at least 20 and no more than 40 signatures of registered voters in the jurisdiction. Each section of the Nomination Petition shall be delivered to the county elections official of the county where circulated, not later than the close of business on March 6, 2026. Circulators shall be 18 years of age or older. NOTE: Signatures submitted in lieu of paying the filing fee, which meet the requirements of this section, may be designated to satisfy this requirement.

*Elections Code §§100, 102, 106(a), 8020, 8041, 8061, 8062(a)(2), 8063, 8066, 8068, 8106(d)*

### *Statement of Qualifications (Optional)*

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

Any candidate for local nonpartisan office may submit a Statement of Qualifications to be printed in the County Voter Information Guide. Statements must be filed at the same time nomination papers are filed and may be withdrawn, but not changed, until 5:00 p.m. the next regular business day after nominations close. Statements are confidential until nominations (or extended nominations) for that particular office close and then become public record.

Statements 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.

*Elections Code §§13307, 13308, 13311*

## *Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700)*

Government Code §87300 requires every agency to adopt a Conflict of Interest Code. A Conflict of Interest Code is a document that designates the positions within an agency, which make or participate in making governmental decisions that may have a foreseeable material effect on any financial interest.

Each candidate must file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) not later than the final filing date for the Declaration of Candidacy. Elected officials must also file Statements of Economic Interests within (30) days after assuming office, annually, and within (30) days of leaving office. If an individual is appointed to an office, he or she must file not more than (30) days after assuming office. Under certain conditions, the Statement of Economic Interests need not be filed if such a statement was filed within (60) days prior to the filing of a Declaration of Candidacy or the date of assuming office.

*Government Code §§87200 et seq.*

## *Voluntary Code of Fair Campaign Practices (Optional)*

At the time an individual files his or her Declaration of Candidacy, Nomination Petition, or any other paper evidencing an intention to be a candidate for public office, the county elections official shall give the individual a copy of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices and a copy of the provisions of Chapter 5, Division 20 of the Elections Code.

*Elections Code §20440*

## *California Political Cyberfraud Abatement Act*

As defined in Elections Code §18320 it is unlawful for a person, with intent to mislead, deceive, or defraud, to commit an act of political cyberfraud.

*Elections Code §18320*

## Campaign Committee Filing Obligations

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# Office Qualifications and Requirements

See General Information on Campaign Filing Obligations in this guide or the appropriate Fair Political Practices Commission Manual.

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

## Nonpartisan Offices County (Elected Countywide) Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector

### Term of Office

The Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector serves a 4-year term beginning at noon on January 4, 2027.

*Government Code §24200*

### Qualifications

A candidate for Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector shall:

- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time nomination papers are issued; and
- not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes, or for being an official interested in contracts, or becoming a vendor or purchaser at sales, or purchasing scrip of other evidences of indebtedness, in which the official has financial interest; and
- possess at least one of the following certificates, credentials or qualifications from each section below:
  - Section 1 - Qualifications for Auditor-Controller:
    1. a valid certificate issued by the California Board of Accountancy showing the person to be, and a permit authorizing the person to practice as, a certified public accountant or as a public accountant; or
    2. a baccalaureate degree from an accredited university, college, or other four-year institution, with a major in accounting or its equivalent, and have served in a senior fiscal management position in a county, city, public agency, private firm, or non-profit organization, dealing with similar fiscal responsibilities, for a continuous period of not less than three years, within the last five years; or
    3. a certificate issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors showing the person to be a designated professional internal auditor, with a minimum of 16 college semester units, or their equivalent, in accounting, auditing, or finance; or

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

4. have served as county auditor, chief deputy county auditor, or chief assistant county auditor for a continuous period of not less than three years;

**\*\*AND\*\***

- Section 2 - Qualifications for Treasurer-Tax Collector:
  1. have served in a senior financial management position in a county, city, or other public agency, dealing with similar financial responsibilities for a continuous period of not less than three years, including, but not limited to, treasurer, tax collector, auditor, auditor-controller, or the chief deputy or an assistant in those offices; or
  2. possess a valid baccalaureate, masters, or doctoral degree from an accredited college or university in any of the following major fields of study: business administration, public administration, economics, finance, accounting, or a related field, with a minimum of 16 college semester units, or their equivalent, in accounting, auditing, or finance; or
  3. possess a valid certificate issued by the California Board of Accountancy, showing that person to be, and a permit authorizing that person to practice as, a certified public accountant; or
  4. possess a valid charter issued by the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts showing the person to be designated a Chartered Financial Analyst, with a minimum of 16 college semester units, or their equivalent, in accounting, auditing, or finance; or
  5. possess a valid certificate issued by the Treasury Management Association showing the person to be designated a Certified Cash Manager, with a minimum of 16 college semester units, or their equivalent, in accounting, auditing, or finance; or
  6. have continuously held the office of county treasurer, county tax collector, or county treasurer-tax collector since December 31, 1997.

*Elections Code §§20, 201*

*Government Code §§1097, 26945, 27000.7*

## Filing Requirements

### *Filing Fee*

The non-refundable filing fee is payable to the Registrar of Voters, and must be paid at the time the candidate takes out nomination petitions.

**The filing fee for Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector is \$2,957.24.**

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

## *Signatures-in-Lieu of Paying Filing Fee*

A candidate may submit petitions containing signatures of registered voters to cover all, or any pro-rata portion, of the filing fee. The petition-in-lieu form may be obtained from any county elections official beginning December 19, 2025. The petitions must be filed with the county elections official in the county where circulated no later than the close of business on February 4, 2026, and prior to obtaining a Declaration of Candidacy. Circulators shall be 18 years of age or older.

**The number of signatures-in-lieu needed to cover the full cost of the filing fee for Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector is 8,872.**

Any registered voter may sign an in-lieu-filing-fee petition for any candidate for whom he or she is eligible to vote.

*Elections Code §§100(a), 102, 8104(b), 8105(a), 8106(a)(4), 8106(a)(6), 8106(b)(1), 8106(b)(4)*

## Nomination Documents and Procedures

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### *Declaration of Candidacy*

Each candidate is required to file a Declaration of Candidacy between February 9, 2026, and March 6, 2026. The Declaration shall be obtained from the office of the county elections official. The Declaration of Candidacy must be executed in the office of the elections official unless the candidate, in a written statement signed and dated by the candidate, designates a third party to obtain the Declaration from the county elections official and deliver it to the candidate. Such written statement shall state that the candidate is aware the Declaration must be properly executed and delivered to the county elections official from whom it was obtained not later than the close of business on March 6, 2026.

If an incumbent, eligible to be elected, fails to file a Declaration of Candidacy by the close of business on March 6, 2026, any person, other than the person who was the incumbent on March 6, 2026, may file a Declaration of Candidacy not later than the close of business on March 11, 2026.

*Elections Code §§10510, 10516*

### *Nomination Petitions*

Each candidate is required to file a Nomination Petition between February 9, 2026, and March 6, 2026, containing at least 20 and no more than 40 signatures of registered voters in the jurisdiction. Each section of the Nomination Petition shall be delivered to the county elections official of the county where circulated, not later than the close of business on March 6, 2026. Circulators shall be 18 years of age or older. NOTE: Signatures submitted in lieu of paying the filing fee, which meet the requirements of this section, may be designated to satisfy this requirement.

*Elections Code §§100, 102, 106(a), 8020, 8041, 8061, 8062(a)(2), 8063, 8066, 8068, 8106(d)*

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

## *Statement of Qualifications (Optional)*

Any candidate for local nonpartisan office may submit a Statement of Qualifications to be printed in the County Voter Information Guide. Statements must be filed at the same time nomination papers are filed and may be withdrawn, but not changed, until 5:00 p.m. the next regular business day after nominations close. Statements are confidential until nominations (or extended nominations) for that particular office close and then become public record.

Statements 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.

*Elections Code §§13307, 13308, 13311*

## *Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700)*

Government Code §87300 requires every agency to adopt a Conflict of Interest Code. A Conflict of Interest Code is a document that designates the positions within an agency, which make or participate in making governmental decisions that may have a foreseeable material effect on any financial interest.

Each candidate must file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) not later than the final filing date for the Declaration of Candidacy. Elected officials must also file Statements of Economic Interests within (30) days after assuming office, annually, and within (30) days of leaving office. If an individual is appointed to an office, he or she must file not more than (30) days after assuming office. Under certain conditions, the Statement of Economic Interests need not be filed if such a statement was filed within (60) days prior to the filing of a Declaration of Candidacy or the date of assuming office.

*Government Code §§87200 et seq.*

## *Voluntary Code of Fair Campaign Practices (Optional)*

At the time an individual files his or her Declaration of Candidacy, Nomination Petition, or any other paper evidencing an intention to be a candidate for public office, the county elections official shall give the individual a copy of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices and a copy of the provisions of Chapter 5, Division 20 of the Elections Code.

*Elections Code §20440*

## *California Political Cyberfraud Abatement Act*

As defined in Elections Code §18320 it is unlawful for a person, with intent to mislead, deceive, or defraud, to commit an act of political cyberfraud.

*Elections Code §18320*

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

## Campaign Committee Filing Obligations

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See General Information on Campaign Filing Obligations in this guide or the appropriate Fair Political Practices Commission Manual.

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

## Nonpartisan Offices County (Elected Countywide) County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor

### Term of Office

The County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor serves a 4–year term beginning at noon on January 4, 2027.

*Government Code §24200*

### Qualifications

A candidate for County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor shall:

- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time nomination papers are issued; and
- not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes, or for being an official interested in contracts, or becoming a vendor or purchaser at sales, or purchasing scrip of other evidences of indebtedness, in which the official has financial interest; and
- hold a valid appraiser’s certificate issued by the State Board of Equalization; however,
  1. a duly elected or appointed person may exercise the powers and duties of Assessor, for a period not to exceed one year, if he or she acquires a temporary appraiser’s certificate from the State Board of Equalization no later than 30 days after taking office;
  2. these provisions shall not apply to any person holding the office of Assessor on January 1, 1997.

*Elections Code §§20, 201*

*Government Code §§1097, 24002.5*

### Filing Requirements

#### *Filing Fee*

The non-refundable filing fee is payable to the Registrar of Voters, and must be paid at the time the candidate takes out nomination petitions.

**The filing fee for County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor is \$2,617.04**

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

## Signatures-in-Lieu of Paying Filing Fee

A candidate may submit petitions containing signatures of registered voters to cover all, or any pro-rata portion, of the filing fee. The petition-in-lieu form may be obtained from any county elections official beginning December 19, 2025. The petitions must be filed with the county elections official in the county where circulated no later than the close of business on February 4, 2026, and prior to obtaining a Declaration of Candidacy. Circulators shall be 18 years of age or older.

**The number of signatures-in-lieu needed to cover the full cost of the filing fee for County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor is 7,851.**

Any registered voter may sign an in-lieu-filing-fee petition for any candidate for whom he or she is eligible to vote.

*Elections Code §§102, 8104(b), 8105(a), 8106(a)(4), 8106(a)(6), 8106(b)(1), 8106(b)(4)*

## Nomination Documents and Procedures

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### *Declaration of Candidacy*

Each candidate is required to file a Declaration of Candidacy between February 9, 2026, and March 6, 2026. The Declaration shall be obtained from the office of the county elections official. The Declaration of Candidacy must be executed in the office of the elections official unless the candidate, in a written statement signed and dated by the candidate, designates a third party to obtain the Declaration from the county elections official and deliver it to the candidate. Such written statement shall state that the candidate is aware the Declaration must be properly executed and delivered to the county elections official from whom it was obtained not later than the close of business on March 6, 2026.

If an incumbent, eligible to be elected, fails to file a Declaration of Candidacy by the close of business on March 6, 2026, any person, other than the person who was the incumbent on March 6, 2026, may file a Declaration of Candidacy not later than the close of business on March 11, 2026.

*Elections Code §§10510, 10516*

### *Nomination Petitions*

Each candidate is required to file a Nomination Petition between February 9, 2026, and March 6, 2026, containing at least 20 and no more than 40 signatures of registered voters in the jurisdiction. Each section of the Nomination Petition shall be delivered to the county elections official of the county where circulated, not later than the close of business on March 6, 2026. Circulators shall be 18 years of age or older. NOTE: Signatures submitted in lieu of paying the filing fee, which meet the requirements of this section, may be designated to satisfy this requirement.

*Elections Code §§100, 102, 106(a), 8020, 8041, 8061, 8062(a)(2), 8063, 8066, 8068, 8106(d)*

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

## *Statement of Qualifications (Optional)*

Any candidate for local nonpartisan office may submit a Statement of Qualifications to be printed in the County Voter Information Guide. Statements must be filed at the same time nomination papers are filed and may be withdrawn, but not changed, until 5:00 p.m. the next regular business day after nominations close. Statements are confidential until nominations (or extended nominations) for that particular office close and then become public record.

Statements 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.

*Elections Code §§13307, 13308, 13311*

## *Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700)*

Government Code §87300 requires every agency to adopt a Conflict of Interest Code. A Conflict of Interest Code is a document that designates the positions within an agency, which make or participate in making governmental decisions that may have a foreseeable material effect on any financial interest.

Each candidate must file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) not later than the final filing date for the Declaration of Candidacy. Elected officials must also file Statements of Economic Interests within (30) days after assuming office, annually, and within (30) days of leaving office. If an individual is appointed to an office, he or she must file not more than (30) days after assuming office. Under certain conditions, the Statement of Economic Interests need not be filed if such a statement was filed within (60) days prior to the filing of a Declaration of Candidacy or the date of assuming office.

*Government Code §§87200 et seq.*

## *Voluntary Code of Fair Campaign Practices (Optional)*

At the time an individual files his or her Declaration of Candidacy, Nomination Petition, or any other paper evidencing an intention to be a candidate for public office, the county elections official shall give the individual a copy of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices and a copy of the provisions of Chapter 5, Division 20 of the Elections Code.

*Elections Code §20440*

## *California Political Cyberfraud Abatement Act*

As defined in Elections Code §18320 it is unlawful for a person, with intent to mislead, deceive, or defraud, to commit an act of political cyberfraud.

*Elections Code §18320*

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

## Campaign Committee Filing Obligations

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See General Information on Campaign Filing Obligations in this guide or the appropriate Fair Political Practices Commission Manual.

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

## Nonpartisan Offices County (Elected by District) County Supervisor (2nd and 4th Districts)

### Term of Office

County Supervisors serve 4–year terms beginning at noon on January 4, 2027.

*Government Code §24200*

### Qualifications

A candidate for County Supervisor shall:

- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time nomination papers are issued; and
- reside in the district during his or her incumbency; and
- not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes, or for being an official interested in contracts, or becoming a vendor or purchaser at sales, or purchasing scrip of other evidences of indebtedness, in which the official has financial interest.

*Elections Code §§20, 201*

*Government Code §§1097, 25041*

### Filing Requirements

#### *Filing Fee*

The non-refundable filing fee is payable to the Registrar of Voters, and must be paid at the time the candidate takes out nomination petitions.

**The filing fee for County Supervisor is \$1,742.95.**

#### *Signatures-in-Lieu of Paying Filing Fee*

A candidate may submit petitions containing signatures of registered voters to cover all, or any pro-rata portion, of the filing fee. The petition-in-lieu form may be obtained from any county elections official beginning January 11, 2026. The petitions must be filed with the county elections official in the county where circulated no later than the close of business on February 4, 2026, and prior to obtaining a Declaration of Candidacy. Circulators shall be 18 years of age or older.

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

**The number of signatures-in-lieu needed to cover the full cost of the filing fee for County Supervisor, 2nd District, is 4,700, and for County Supervisor, 4th District, is 4,384.**

Any registered voter may sign an in-lieu-filing-fee petition for any candidate for whom he or she is eligible to vote.

*Elections Code §§102, 8104(b), 8105(a), 8106(a)(4), 8106(a)(6), 8106(b)(1), 8106(b)(4)*

## Nomination Documents and Procedures

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### *Declaration of Candidacy*

Each candidate is required to file a Declaration of Candidacy between February 9, 2026, and March 6, 2026. The Declaration shall be obtained from the office of the county elections official. The Declaration of Candidacy must be executed in the office of the elections official unless the candidate, in a written statement signed and dated by the candidate, designates a third party to obtain the Declaration from the county elections official and deliver it to the candidate. Such written statement shall state that the candidate is aware the Declaration must be properly executed and delivered to the county elections official from whom it was obtained not later than the close of business on March 6, 2026.

If an incumbent, eligible to be elected, fails to file a Declaration of Candidacy by the close of business on March 6, 2026, any person, other than the person who was the incumbent on March 6, 2026, may file a Declaration of Candidacy not later than the close of business on March 11, 2026.

*Elections Code §§10510, 10516*

### *Nomination Petitions*

Each candidate is required to file a Nomination Petition between February 9, 2026, and March 6, 2026, containing at least 20 and no more than 40 signatures of registered voters in the jurisdiction. Each section of the Nomination Petition shall be delivered to the county elections official of the county where circulated, not later than the close of business on March 6, 2026. Circulators shall be 18 years of age or older. NOTE: Signatures submitted in lieu of paying the filing fee, which meet the requirements of this section, may be designated to satisfy this requirement.

*Elections Code §§100, 102, 106(a), 8020, 8041, 8061, 8062(a)(2), 8063, 8066, 8068, 8106(d)*

### *Statement of Qualifications (Optional)*

Any candidate for local nonpartisan office may submit a Statement of Qualifications to be printed in the County Voter Information Guide. Statements must be filed at the same time nomination papers are filed and may be withdrawn, but not changed, until 5:00 p.m. the next regular business day after nominations

# Office Qualifications and Requirements

close. Statements are confidential until nominations (or extended nominations) for that particular office close and then become public record.

Statements 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.

*Elections Code §§13307, 13308, 13311*

## *Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700)*

Government Code §87300 requires every agency to adopt a Conflict of Interest Code. A Conflict of Interest Code is a document that designates the positions within an agency, which make or participate in making governmental decisions that may have a foreseeable material effect on any financial interest.

Each candidate must file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) not later than the final filing date for the Declaration of Candidacy. Elected officials must also file Statements of Economic Interests within (30) days after assuming office, annually, and within (30) days of leaving office. If an individual is appointed to an office, he or she must file not more than (30) days after assuming office. Under certain conditions, the Statement of Economic Interests need not be filed if such a statement was filed within (60) days prior to the filing of a Declaration of Candidacy or the date of assuming office.

*Government Code §§87200 et seq.*

## *Voluntary Code of Fair Campaign Practices (Optional)*

At the time an individual files his or her Declaration of Candidacy, Nomination Petition, or any other paper evidencing an intention to be a candidate for public office, the county elections official shall give the individual a copy of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices and a copy of the provisions of Chapter 5, Division 20 of the Elections Code.

*Elections Code §20440*

## *California Political Cyberfraud Abatement Act*

As defined in Elections Code §18320 it is unlawful for a person, with intent to mislead, deceive, or defraud, to commit an act of political cyberfraud.

*Elections Code §18320*

## Campaign Committee Filing Obligations

See General Information on Campaign Filing Obligations in this guide or the appropriate Fair Political Practices Commission Manual.

# Statements of Qualifications

## Estimated Statement Costs

### All Statements Will Be Printed in English & Spanish

Sonoma County was designated a [bilingual county](#) by the federal government, all candidate Statements of Qualifications published in the County Voter Information Guide are required to be in both English and Spanish.

## Overview

Candidates running for office in the June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election have the option of paying to have a statement describing their background, education, and qualifications for office printed in either the County Voter Information Guide or the State Voter Information Guide. This statement is formally called a Statement of Qualifications. The type of office dictates which Guide the Statement is printed in.

- County Voter Information Guide: U.S. Representative, State Senator, Member of the State Assembly, Superior Court Judge, County Superintendent of Schools, Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector, County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor, County Supervisor
- State Voter Information Guide: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, Member of the State Board of Equalization, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Below are the **ESTIMATED** costs for candidates to print statements in the *County* Voter Information Guide. For information about printing statements in the *State* Voter Information Guide, visit the [Candidate Statements](#) page of the [Secretary of State's](#) website.

### Federal (Elected by District)

Office	1 Statement Per Page	2 Statements Per Page
U.S. Representative, 1st District	\$5,296	\$2,698
U.S. Representative, 2nd District	\$1,945	\$1,023
U.S. Representative, 4th District	\$3,268	\$1,684

# Statements of Qualifications

## State (Elected Statewide)

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- Controller
- Treasurer
- Attorney General
- Insurance Commissioner

Candidate statements for voter-nominated state offices elected statewide are published in the State Voter Information Guide. For more information, refer to the [Candidate Statements](#) page of the [California Secretary of State's](#) website:

## State (Elected by District)

- Member, State Board of Equalization

Candidate statements for Member of the State Board of Equalization are published in the State Voter Information Guide. For more information, refer to the [Candidate Statements](#) page of the [California Secretary of State's](#) website.

Office	1 Statement Per Page	2 Statements Per Page
State Senator, 2nd District	\$7,271	\$3,686
Member of the State Assembly, 2nd District	\$4,769	\$2,434
Member of the State Assembly, 4th District	\$1,345	\$723
Member of the State Assembly, 12th District	\$4,395	\$2,248

# Statements of Qualifications

## Nonpartisan Offices

### Judicial (Elected Countywide)

Office	1 Statement Per Page	2 Statements Per Page
Superior Court Judge, Office #s 2, 8, 9, 10, & 12	\$8,751	\$4,426

### School (Elected Statewide)

- State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Candidate statements for State Superintendent of Public Instruction are published in the State Voter Information Guide. For more information, refer to the [Candidate Statements](#) page of the [California Secretary of State's](#) website.

### School (Elected Countywide)

Office	1 Statement Per Page	2 Statements Per Page
County Superintendent of Schools	\$8,751	\$4,426

# Statements of Qualifications

## County (Elected Countywide)

Office	1 Statement Per Page	2 Statements Per Page
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector</li> <li>County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor</li> </ul>	\$8,751	\$4,426

## County (Elected by District)

Office	1 Statement Per Page	2 Statements Per Page
County Supervisor, 2nd District	\$2,541	\$1,320
County Supervisor, 4th District	\$2,428	\$1,264

# Statements of Qualifications

## Statement Requirements for Voter-Nominated Offices

### Notice to Candidates in Districts That Encompass More than One County

Procedures, requirements, fees, formats, and public examination periods for candidate' statements may vary between counties. It is the candidate's responsibility to contact each county (in which he or she wishes to have a statement printed) within the district to obtain the appropriate information from each county. Failure to do so may jeopardize the printing of the candidate's statement.

### Applicable Offices

This section applies to statements by candidates running for the following offices in Sonoma County:

- U.S. Representative, 1st, 2nd, and 4th Districts
- State Senator, 2nd and 3rd Districts
- State Assembly, 2nd, 4th, and 12th Districts

### Candidate Information

The text of the statement shall not exceed 250 words. Word count standards shall be pursuant to Elections Code §9.

All statements must be submitted on, or attached to, the form provided by the county elections official of each county in which the candidate wishes to have his or her statement printed. Statements must be formatted pursuant to the guidelines provided by each county. Statements not submitted in the appropriate format will be reformatted by the county elections official. The county elections official bears no responsibility for the correct typesetting of statements that must be reformatted.

Statements shall not, in any way, refer to other candidates for office or to another candidate's qualifications, character, or activities.

The statement will be printed in languages required by the Voting Rights Act (in Sonoma County, Spanish) as well as those languages, if any, required by the counties within the jurisdiction.

Costs of providing statements to voters, including translated statements, shall be paid by the candidates.

# Statements of Qualifications

## Filing Information

Candidates' statements shall be filed in the office of the elections official of each county within the district in which the candidate wishes a statement to be printed, not later than 5 p.m. on the 88th day prior to the election, or in the event that the nomination period has been extended, until 5 p.m. on the 83rd day prior to the election. Candidates' statements are confidential until the expiration of the period for filing such statements. Statements may be withdrawn, but not changed, until 5 p.m. of the next working day after the 88th or 83rd day prior to the election, whichever is applicable.

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 corrections or deletions to the statement in the event that errors or an excess number of words are detected prior to filing the statement. Statements received by mail prior to the deadline will be filed provided that they meet the statutory requirements and county policies regarding candidates' statements. Statements may not be changed after filing.

Counties may require candidates to deposit the estimated cost of printing the statement at the time of filing the statement or may invoice the candidate for the actual cost of printing the statement after the election. 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 over payment.

Candidates' statements are available for public examination in the county elections official's office 10 calendar days following the close of filing for each such office. During this period any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is to be held, or the county elections official, may seek a writ of mandate or an injunction requiring any or all of the material in the statement to be amended or deleted. Venue for such a proceeding shall be the county in which the statement is filed. If the statement is filed in more than one county, the writ or injunction must be sought in each county in which amendments or deletions to the statement are sought.

## Preparation of the Candidate's Statement

Shown below is a reduced facsimile of a Sonoma County Candidate's Statement of Qualifications form for State Legislative Candidates. Note that the first paragraph in the upper portion contains information as to the cost of printing and handling your statement. This portion of the form is to be completed by the official issuing the form. You should date and sign where indicated. The Statement shown below has been typed in upper and lower case, block paragraph form.

# Statements of Qualifications

*Official issuing form to complete* →

**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE / STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES  
CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS**  
(INSTRUCTIONS AND STATEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM)

Office: State Assembly District: 81st

The estimated cost of printing a 250 word statement of qualifications in the Sonoma County Voter Information Guide for the office indicated is between \$ 1577 and \$ 3054 . The candidate shall bear the cost of the statements and payment shall be required at the time of filing the statement.

*Estimates are based on two candidates sharing the cost of a single page. If the number of candidate statements submitted is not evenly divisible by two, and the statement cannot be printed with any others, the run charges and page set up fees increase. The charges are prorated among the candidates submitting statements for a particular contest.*

I hereby state that I prepared the following statement for printing and distribution in the Sonoma County Voter Information Guide. I understand that per federal and state law requirements, my statement will be printed in English and Spanish.

State Legislative Candidates only: I have accepted the Voluntary Expenditure Limits pursuant to G.C. §85400. JQC  
(Initial here)

*Date and Sign* → DATE: 12/2/2019 CANDIDATE SIGNATURE: John Q Candidate

*Correct and initial any typos prior to filing* →

**NAME:** John Q. Candidate

**(STATEMENT / WORD COUNT BEGINS HERE)**

I am running for the 81<sup>st</sup> Assembly District because I believe I can bring a fresh outlook to the legislature. There are pressing issues facing our district, and I want to be a part of the solution. School districts and local governments need more funds to supply needed services. Citizens need to have confidence that their needs, including housing, safety, jobs and education will be met.

*All statements should be typed, in upper and lower case lettering, block paragraph style* →

I have lived and worked in this district since 1948. I own a small printing business which I started in my garage in 1982. Today that business is quite successful and I have 27 employees. I believe state government can and should be run like a business. There is a limited amount of money with which to fund government services, and we need to examine our expenditures very carefully.

I am well qualified for this position. I attended local schools before joining the military in which I served for 6 years. At the completion of my military service I returned to Anytown and attended the State University, from which I graduated with honors in 1986. I served on the Uptown Unified School District governing board from 1988 through 1996 and currently am serving on the Anytown City Council.

My wife, Jane and I have three children, Joshua, 18, Justin, 16 and Jessica, 13, all of whom attend local public schools. I want this district to continue to be a wonderful place to live, work and play for generations to come.

Thank you for your vote.

## Printed Candidate's Statement

**Printed Candidate's Statement** - The example below approximately illustrates the candidate's statement as it will be printed in the County Voter Information Guide. All statements are printed in BLOCK PARAGRAPH STYLE with spacing between paragraphs (no indentations).

JOHN Q. CANDIDATE

81<sup>st</sup> District

I am running for the 81ST District because I feel I can bring a fresh outlook to the legislature. There are pressing issues facing our district, and I want to be a part of the solution. School districts and local governments need more funds to supply needed services. Citizens need to have confidence that their needs, including housing, safety, jobs and education will be met. I have lived and worked in this district since 1948. I own a small printing business which I started in my garage in 1982. Today that business is quite successful and I have 27 employees. I believe state government can and should be run like a business. There is a limited amount of money with which to fund government services, and we need to examine our expenditures very carefully. I am well qualified for this position. I attended local schools

# Statements of Qualifications

before joining the military in which I served for 6 years. At the completion of my military service I returned to Anytown and attended the State University, from which I graduated with honors in 1986. I served on the Uptown Unified School District governing board from 1988 through 1996 and currently am serving on the Anytown City Council. My wife, Jane and I have three children, Joshua, 18, Justin, 16 and Jessica, 13, all of whom attend local public schools. I want this district to continue to be a wonderful place to live, work and play for generations to come. Thank you for your vote.

## Word Count Standards

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1. Punctuation is not counted.
2. Each word shall be counted as one word except as specified.
3. All proper nouns, including geographical names shall be counted as one word (e.g., "City and County of San Francisco" or "Rincon Valley Union School District" shall be counted as one word).
4. Each abbreviation for a word, phrase, or expression shall be counted as one word (e.g., S.R.J.C.).
5. Hyphenated words that appear in any generally available standard reference dictionary published in the United States shall be counted as one word. Each part of all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word.
6. Dates shall be counted as one word.
7. Digital numbers shall be counted as one word (e.g., 100). Numbers which are written out are counted as one word each (e.g., "one" shall be counted as one word and "one hundred" shall be counted as two words).
8. Telephone numbers shall be counted as one word.
9. Internet web site addresses shall be counted as one word.

Statements must be typewritten in upper and lower case, with paragraphs clearly marked. Statements must be submitted on the appropriate form; however, statements may be prepared on a word processor and attached to the form, providing no pertinent information is covered by the attachment. Statements submitted in a format other than block paragraph will be reformatted as illustrated above. *The statement must be written in the first person* (e.g., "I am running..." not "Jane Doe is running..." or "He is running...").

*Please proofread your statement.* This office will not be responsible for the accurate printing of any re-formatted statement or handwritten statement, nor will it correct any misspellings or errors in, grammar or punctuation. Special formatting using ALL CAPITALS, *italics*, underlines, **boldface type**, \*\*\*stars\*\*\*,!!!, dots..., etc., are prohibited.

# Statements of Qualifications

## Statement Requirements for Nonpartisan Offices

### Notice to Candidates in Districts That Encompass More than One County

Procedures, requirements, fees, formats, and public examination periods for candidate' statements may vary between counties. It is the candidate's responsibility to contact each county (in which he or she wishes to have a statement printed) within the district to obtain the appropriate information from each county. Failure to do so may jeopardize the printing of the candidate's statement.

## Electronic Distribution of Statements for Local Nonpartisan Offices Not Offered at This Time

If the elections official who is conducting the election permits electronic distribution of a candidate's statement, the governing body of a local agency may permit each candidate to prepare a candidate's statement for the purpose of electronic distribution pursuant to this subdivision (Elections Code §13307 (c)1). **Sonoma County does not offer this service at this time.**

## Applicable Offices

This section applies to statements by candidates running for the following offices in Sonoma County:

- All school district, county, city, and special district offices.

## Candidate Statement

- Any candidate for local nonpartisan office may submit a Statement of Qualifications to be printed in the County Voter Information Guide. Statements of Qualifications are optional and, unless otherwise determined by the governing body, are printed at the expense of the candidate. Candidates who are required to prepay the estimated costs will either be billed for the additional costs or refunded any overpayment following the election. Estimated costs for Statements of Qualifications are based on the printer's price list, set-up fees and the number of registered voters within the jurisdiction. Estimates are for statements not exceeding 200 words. Final costs will be determined by the number of candidate statements that are submitted for a particular office. Candidates are required to submit a check with "not to exceed" the highest possible cost, written under the amount line, (Elections Code §13307(d)). All checks will be held until after the final deadline to withdraw a candidate statement.
- The body of the statement (not including name, age and occupation) shall not exceed 200 words. Words shall be counted pursuant to Elections Code §9.

# Statements of Qualifications

- Statements must be submitted on, or attached to, the form provided. Statements must be typewritten and single-spaced in a block paragraph style. Words in all capitals, indentions, italics, underlines, stars, dots, etc., are prohibited. Lists and enumerations will be wrapped as a single paragraph. Multiple single sentence paragraphs that do not fit in the space will be wrapped. Indented text, if submitted, will be run together as a sentence. The elections official is not responsible for the correct typesetting of statements that must be reconfigured to comply with these guidelines.
- Statements for candidates shall be limited to a recitation of the candidate's own personal background and qualifications, and shall not in any way reference other candidates for that office or to another candidate's qualifications, character, or activities.
- Statements shall be written in the first person (e.g., "I am running..." not "She is running..." or "Jane Doe is running...") and shall be limited to a recitation of the candidate's personal background and qualifications. Each statement shall be accompanied by a declaration executed under penalty of perjury, declaring that the information contained therein is true and correct.
- Statements will be printed in random alphabet order unless repositioned due to space considerations. Statements do not rotate.

## Filing Information

- Statements shall be filed with the county elections official when nomination papers are returned for filing, or in the case of an election for which nomination papers are not required (i.e., run-off election) no later than the 88th day prior to the election.
- Statements shall remain confidential until the expiration of the filing deadline for nomination papers for the office. Statements may be withdrawn, but shall not be changed (except as specifically required by the elections official), until 5 p.m. the next regular business day following the close of nominations for such office.
- Statements are subject to examination and challenge by any voter of the jurisdiction (Elections Code §13313) for a period of 10 calendar days following the close of filing for each such office.

## Preparation of the Candidates' Statement

Shown below is a reduced facsimile of a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications form. Note that the first paragraph in the upper portion contains information as to the limitations on the number of words and the cost of printing and handling your statement. This portion of the form is to be completed by the officer issuing the form. You should date and sign where indicated. The statement shown below has been typed

# Statements of Qualifications

in upper and lower case, block paragraph form. The candidate has corrected and initialed a typographical error (had the candidate not corrected this error it would have been typeset as submitted).

Official issuing form to complete →

JURISDICTION: \_\_\_\_\_ CONTEST ID: \_\_\_\_\_ CANDIDATE ID: \_\_\_\_\_

**CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS**  
(INSTRUCTIONS AND STATEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM)

The governing body of your jurisdiction has determined that statements shall be limited to 200 words; the (candidate/ jurisdiction) shall bear the cost of the statements and payment shall be required (prior to/ after) the election. (Payments required in advance are to be made directly to the jurisdiction. Proof of payment will be required at the time the statement is filed). The estimated cost of printing a 200 word statement for the office is between \$ 349 and \$ 688.

*Estimates are based upon two candidates sharing the cost of a single page. If the number of candidate statements submitted is not evenly divisible by two, and the statement cannot be printed with any others, the run charges and set up fees increase. The charges are prorated among the candidates submitting statements for a particular contest.*

I hereby state that I prepared the following statement for printing and distribution in the County Voter Information Guide. I understand that per federal and state law requirements, my statement will be printed in English and Spanish.

DATE: Nov. 18, 2020 CANDIDATE SIGNATURE: Elita P. Snodgrass

← Cost of printing, word limitation, for payment responsibility

Date and Sign →

Occupation may be more descriptive than ballot designation →

NAME: ELITA P. SNODGRASS AGE: 32 ← If either age or occupation is left blank, none will be printed

OCCUPATION: PAINTER/SINGER ← If left blank will not be printed

STATEMENT/WORD COUNT BEGINS HERE:

All statements should be typed, in upper and lower case lettering, block paragraph style →

Correct any typos prior to filing and initial →

I am running for the governing board of the Washington Unified School District because I feel I can bring a balance to the board. I attended local schools, graduating from Washington High School in 1985. I am married and currently have two children attending school in the district.

I own and operate my own business, so I am well aware of the need to operate within a budget. With proper distribution of resources and educational materials I am convinced we can offer quality education to all students within the district.

I have been active in the P.T.A., served on the Save Our Youth committee, and am an active member of the All-Faith Church. I have served as Boy Scout Den Mother and Girl Scout Leader for the past 3 years. I also serve as a volunteer at the Community Recycling Center as time allows.

I am looking forward to serving you on the Washington Unified School District Governing Board.

E.P.S  
Thank you for your vote.

## Printed Candidates' Statement

The example below illustrates the candidate's statement as it will be printed in the County Voter Information Guide. All statements are printed in **Block Paragraph Style** with spacing between paragraphs (no indentations).

WASHINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ELITA P. SNODGRASS Age: 32

Occupation: Businesswoman

I am running for the governing board of the Washington Unified School District because I feel I can bring a balance to the board. I attended local schools, graduating from Washington High School in 1985. I am married and currently have two children attending school in the district.

# Statements of Qualifications

I own and operate my own business, so I am well aware of the need to operate within a budget. With proper distribution of resources and educational materials, I am convinced we can offer quality education to all students within the district.

I have been active in the P.T.A., served on the Save Our Youth committee, and am an active member of the All-Faith Church. I have served as Boy Scout Den Mother and Girl Scout Leader for the past 3 years. I also serve as a volunteer at the community Recycling Center as time allows.

I am looking forward to serving you on the Washington Unified School District Governing Board.

Thank you for your vote.

## Word Count Standards

---

1. Punctuation is not counted.
2. Each word shall be counted as one word except as specified.
3. All proper nouns, including geographical names shall be counted as one word (e.g., "City and County of San Francisco" or "Rincon Valley Union School District" shall be counted as one word).
4. Each abbreviation for a word, phrase, or expression shall be counted as one word (e.g., S.R.J.C.).
5. Hyphenated words that appear in any generally available standard reference dictionary published in the United States shall be counted as one word. Each part of all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word.
6. Dates shall be counted as one word.
7. Digital numbers shall be counted as one word (e.g., 100). Numbers which are written out are counted as one word each (e.g., "one" shall be counted as one word and "one hundred" shall be counted as two words).
8. Telephone numbers shall be counted as one word.
9. Internet web site addresses shall be counted as one word.

Statements must be typewritten in upper and lower case, with paragraphs clearly marked. Statements must be submitted on the appropriate form; however, statements may be prepared on a word processor and attached to the form, providing no pertinent information is covered by the attachment. Statements submitted in a format other than block paragraph will be reformatted as illustrated above. If age and/or occupation are left blank, none will be printed. Occupation is not restricted by ballot designation limitations; however, occupations exceeding one line will be shortened. *Statement Must be Written in the First Person* (e.g., "I am running..." not "Jane Doe is running..." or "He is running...").

*Please Proofread Your Statement.* This office will not be responsible for the accurate printing of any reformatted statement or handwritten statement, nor will it correct any misspellings or errors in, grammar or

# Statements of Qualifications

punctuation. Special formatting using ALL CAPITALS, *italics*, underlines, **boldface type**, \*\*\*stars\*\*\*,!!!, dots..., etc., are prohibited.

# Campaign Finance

## Campaign Disclosure Requirements

### Introduction

The Political Reform Act of 1974 requires all candidates for state and local elective office, all state and local elected officeholders, proponents of state and local ballot measures who control a ballot measure committee, and committees supporting or opposing state and local candidates, and all measure committees, to file campaign disclosure statements disclosing contributions received and expenditures made.

It is the responsibility of the candidate and or committee to be aware of and to file the required campaign disclosure statements in a correct and timely manner. *Government Code §91013 provides for a late filing fine of \$10 per day for the late filing of any campaign disclosure statements after the deadline until the statement or report is filed.*

### Campaign Filing Obligations

Except as noted below, an individual who intends to be a candidate for an elective office must file Form 501. Please see instructions on the Form 501 for the filing requirements. For State Candidates, Form 501 is filed with the Secretary of State. Local Candidates file with the appropriate local filing officer for their jurisdiction.

*Government Code §§85200, 85201*

**Form 501–Candidate Intention Statement:** This statement must be filed before a candidate solicits or receives any contributions (including loans) from others or before any expenditures are made from personal funds on behalf of his/her candidacy, excluding personal funds used to pay filing fees and/or fees for Statements of Qualifications. Exception: Candidates for county central committee offices that do not raise or spend \$2,000 or more in a calendar year.

*Government Code §§85200, 85201*

**Exception:** Form 501 is not required to be filed by candidates who do not intend to receive any contributions or loans, and the only expenditures from personal funds would be for payment of the filing fee and Statement of Qualifications. Form 501 is not used to obtain a Committee Identification Number.

**Form 410–Statement of Organization:** In addition to the above mentioned form, a Form 410 must be filed with the Secretary of State's Office to obtain a Committee Identification Number. Form 410 must be filed if a candidate or committee receives contributions (including loans) totaling \$2,000 or more in a calendar year. This statement must be filed within 10 days of raising or spending \$2,000 in contributions. Include a \$50 payment made payable to the Secretary of State. Thereafter, the \$50 fee is due annually no later than January 15. In addition to the \$50 fee, a penalty of \$150 may be assessed if payment is late. All personal funds and/or 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 a campaign bank

# Campaign Finance

account prior to expenditure. All campaign expenditures shall be made from the account. Exception: A bank account is not required if a candidate will not receive contributions or make personal expenditures of more than \$2,000. The filing and statement of qualification fees are not included in calculating the \$2,000. For more details, refer to Campaign Disclosure Manual 2 for Local Candidates and their Controlled Committees.

*Government Code §§84101, 84101.5, 85201*

**Form 470–Officeholder/Candidate Campaign Statement–Short Form:** Candidates for office who expect to receive or spend less than \$2,000 during the election and who do not have a controlled committee may file a Form 470 with their Declaration of Candidacy (or no later than the filing deadline for the first pre-election campaign statement). The following individuals seeking or holding office are not required to file campaign disclosure statements (Form 470 or 460): candidates for county central committee offices that do not raise or spend \$2,000 or more in a calendar year; officeholders whose salaries are less than \$200 per month and judicial candidates who have not made or received contributions or made expenditures during non-election years; and judges who do not receive contributions and who make personal expenditures of less than \$1,000 or more in non-election years. State officeholders, state candidates, judges and judicial candidates must file the original and one copy with the Secretary of State Political Reform Division.

*Government Code §§84206(a), (b), 84207, 85201*

**Form 470–Supplement:** Any candidate who files a Form 470 and who subsequently has \$2,000 or more in receipts and/or expenditures prior to his/her election must send a notice to the Secretary of State, the local filing officer, if any, and to all candidates for the same office. This notice must be sent within 48 hours. Detailed information concerning the notice required is included on the Supplemental Form 470.

*Government Code §§84206(c), 85201*

**Form 460–Recipient Committee Campaign Statement:** Candidates for office who receive contributions or have expenditures of \$2,000 or more must file pre-election and semi-annual campaign statements during the year in which their election is being held. Please refer to the Campaign Filing Schedule in this guide for the actual filing periods covered by each statement.

The first pre-election campaign statement is due no later than September 26, 2019; the second pre-election campaign statement is due no later than October 24, 2019; and the semi-annual campaign statement must be filed no later than January 31, 2020. Please refer to the Campaign Filing Schedule for the actual filing periods covered by each statement.

*Government Code §§84200, 85201*

**Termination:** Once contributions and expenditures for a particular office cease, all funds are expended, the ending cash balance is \$0.00, and the bank account is closed, an original and one copy of Form 410 must be filed with the Office of the Secretary of State. Additionally, you must file a copy of Form 410 along with an original of the final campaign statement (Form 460) with the appropriate filing officer.

# Campaign Finance

There is no deadline for terminating a committee controlled by a local candidate or officeholder unless the controlling candidate/officeholder becomes a state officeholder (in which case, refer to the FPPC Campaign Disclosure Manual 1 for State Candidates for termination requirements). Primarily formed committees also do not have a deadline to terminate. However, the committee, by its nature, may need to change its committee status if it remains open after the election.

*Government Code §84214*

*Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Regulation §18404*

**Important Note:** Candidates and Committees are encouraged to visit the Fair Political Practices Commission website for information on new or revised rules and regulations: [www.fppc.ca.gov/](http://www.fppc.ca.gov/)

# Campaign Finance

## Pre-Campaign Reporting Requirements

### Form 501 - Candidate Intention Statement

#### Who Files

A candidate for state or local office must file Form 501 prior to solicitation or receipt of any contribution or expenditure of any personal funds used for the election.

You must file a separate Form 501 for each election, including reelection to the same office.

**Exception:** *This form is not required if you will not solicit or receive contributions from other persons and the only expenditures will be from your personal funds used for the filing fee and/or Statement of Qualifications in the County Voter Information Guide. Candidates for county central committees that do not raise or spend \$2000 or more in a calendar year are also exempt from filing this form.*

#### When to File

Form 501 must be filed before you solicit or receive any contributions or before you make any expenditures from personal funds on behalf of your candidacy. This form is considered filed the date it is postmarked or hand delivered.

**Exception:** *A candidate may use his or her personal check to pay the filing fee and/or Statement of Qualifications fee.*

Pursuant to Government Code §84300(a), no contribution of one hundred dollars (\$100) or more shall be made or received in cash. Pursuant to Government Code §84300(b), no expenditure of one hundred dollars (\$100) or more shall be made in cash.

See appropriate Campaign Disclosure Manual and California Form 501 for additional instructions and filing requirements.

### Where to File Form 501

#### State Candidates:

**Send original to:**

Secretary of State Political Reform Division  
1500 11th Street, Room 495  
Sacramento, CA 95814

#### Local Candidates:

**Send original to:** The appropriate local filing officer

# Campaign Finance

## Form 410 – Statement of Organization

### Definitions:

#### Recipient Committee

A recipient committee is any individual (including an officeholder or a candidate), group of individuals, organizations, groups or other entities that raise contributions from others totaling \$2,000 or more in a calendar year to spend on California elections.

#### Contribution

The term “contribution” includes monetary payments, loans and non-monetary goods or services received or made for a political purpose.

#### Personal Funds – Candidates

The personal funds of a candidate or officeholder used in connection with seeking or holding elective office are contributions and are counted towards qualifying as a recipient committee. However, personal funds used to pay a candidate filing fee or a fee for the Statement of Qualifications to appear in the County Voter Information Guide are not counted toward the \$2,000 threshold.

Pursuant to Government Code §84300(a), no contribution of one hundred dollars (\$100) or more shall be made or received in cash. Pursuant to Government Code §84300(b), no expenditure of one hundred dollars (\$100) or more shall be made in cash.

### When to File

File the Form 410 within 10 days of receiving \$2,000 in contributions. The date this form is postmarked is the date it is considered filed. In addition to the 10-day rule to file an original Form 410:

- a recipient committee qualifying during the 16 days prior to an election in which it must file pre-election statements must file a Form 410 by fax, guaranteed overnight delivery, or personal delivery within 24 hours of qualification with the filing officer who will receive the committee’s original disclosure statements. A Form 410 must also be filed with the Secretary of State within 10 days.
- a recipient committee qualifying during the 90 days prior to an election in which the committee makes independent expenditures of \$1,000 or more to support or oppose a candidate in that election must file the Form 410 (or the information contained on the Form 410) within 24 hours of qualification with the filing officer who will receive the committee’s original disclosure statements and with the filing officer(s) for the candidate(s) supported or opposed by the independent expenditure. These filings

# Campaign Finance

must be made by fax, guaranteed overnight delivery, personal delivery, or online (if online filing is available).

You will receive written notification from the Secretary of State's Office assigning an identification number to your committee. Identification numbers are also posted on the Secretary of State's web site at <http://cal-access.ss.ca.gov>.

See appropriate Campaign Disclosure Manual and California Form 410 for additional instructions and filing requirements.

## Where to File Form 410

All Committees:

**Send original & one copy to:**

Secretary of State Political Reform Division  
1500 11th Street, Room 495  
Sacramento, CA 95814

County & City Committees:

**Send one copy to:**

The appropriate local filing officer

# Campaign Finance

## Often Overlooked Campaign Disclosure Requirements

### Be Informed

**Be Informed:** *The Franchise Tax Board is authorized under Section 90001 of the California Government Code to audit Campaign Disclosure Statements. The audit can include tests of the accounting records and other such auditing procedures. The purpose of campaign disclosure is to provide the public with the identity of contributors and the amounts they give, as well as the amount officeholders, candidates and committees spend. The laws passed to enforce that purpose can be challenging for the unwary, therefore some often overlooked requirements, some identified in audit reports, are provided here:*

- Even unopposed candidates are subject to the campaign disclosure provisions of the Political Reform Act. (Government Code §82007)
- Prior to soliciting or receiving any contribution (including a loan), all elected officeholders, and all candidates must file Form 501 (candidate intention).
- Contributions include **Personal Funds** and are subject to the same disclosure requirements.
- A Statement of Organization (Form 410) must be filed within 10 days by any person who receives contributions totaling \$2,000 or more during a calendar year.
- Officeholders and candidates who receive contributions or make expenditures of \$2,000 or more must establish a campaign checking account in California and report it on a Form 410.
- Loans to a candidate are considered contributions unless the loan is from a financial institution.
- Filing fees and candidate statement fees may be paid in cash if the candidate is using personal funds and will not be reimbursed through the committee. Otherwise, campaign disclosure laws require that expenditures of \$100 or more be made by written instrument containing the names of both the payee and payor. (Gov. Code §84300)
- Never accept or spend \$100 or more in cash (Gov. Code §84300(a),(b)).
- For contributions of \$100 or more, including loans, and in-kind contributions, you must disclose the contributor's name, street address, occupation and employer. (Gov. Code §84211(f),(g))  
Contributions of \$100 or more may not be made in the form of a money order or cashier's check. Contributions may continue to be made with a credit card.
- Maintain details on contributions and expenditures of \$25 or more. Refer to recordkeeping guidelines in Manual 2
- Make copies of all contributor checks.

# Campaign Finance

- No Personal Use of Campaign Funds. Use campaign funds only for political, legislative, or governmental purposes (Government Code §8314, Penal Code 426).
- The source for each loan must be disclosed.
- All expenditures of \$100 or more must be itemized on the campaign statements, and then summarized on the Campaign Disclosure Statement Summary Page. Payee street addresses must be disclosed on the campaign statements for expenditures made (Government Code §84211(k)).
- Open committees are required to file the necessary campaign finance disclosure statements, even if there is no activity, until terminated.
- When information contained in the committee's Statement of Organization changes, file an amendment within 10 days of the change with the Secretary of State and local filing officer (if applicable).
- All committees making or receiving contribution(s) that total in the aggregate \$1,000 or more during the last 90 days before the election, must disclose receipt within 24 hours, even if the contribution is from your personal funds.
- (County Candidates as per Ordinance 5798) If \$500 or more including contributions aggregated that are made to or received by a county candidate during the last 16 days before the election, disclose receipt within 24 hours, even if the contribution is from your personal funds.
- Any person who makes independent expenditures in support of or in opposition to a single candidate for elective office or a single ballot measure, which accumulate to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or more during the 90 days immediately preceding the election in which the candidate or measure will be voted on shall file Form 496 within twenty-four (24) hours, each time an independent expenditure is made (Form 462 affirming the independent nature of the expenditure is required). Per Local Ordinance 5798 – Committees supporting or opposing any County candidate are required to file 24-hour independent expenditure reports during the local election cycle.

Any person who makes independent expenditures in support of or in opposition to a single candidate for elective office or a single ballot measure, which accumulate to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or more during the 90 days immediately preceding the election in which the candidate or measure will be voted on shall file Form 496 within twenty-four (24) hours, each time an independent expenditure is made (Form 462 affirming the independent nature of the expenditure is required). Per local County Ordinance 5798 – Committees supporting or opposing any County candidate are required to file 24 hour independent expenditure reports during the local election cycle.

# Campaign Finance

## Filing Schedule for June 2026 Election

Filing Deadline	Type of Statement	Period	Method of Delivery
February 2, 2026	Semi-annual	* - 12/31/25	Personal Delivery First Class Mail
Within 10 Business Days (State Candidate Controlled Committees)	\$5,000 Reports	Ongoing - 03/04/26	E-File only with Secretary of State File any time other than the 90-day Election Cycle
Within 24 Hours (State Candidate Controlled Committees)	Contribution Reports	03/04/26 - 06/02/26	E-File only with Secretary of State
Within 24 Hours (Local Candidate Controlled Committees)	Contribution Reports	03/04/26 - 06/02/26	Personal Delivery Fax Email Guaranteed Overnight Service
April 23, 2026	1 <sup>st</sup> Pre-election	01/01/26 - 04/18/26	Personal Delivery First Class Mail
May 21, 2026	2 <sup>nd</sup> Pre-election	04/19/26 - 05/16/26	Personal Delivery Guaranteed Overnight Service
July 31, 2026	Semi-annual	05/17/26 - 06/30/26	Personal Delivery First Class Mail

\* 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.

# Campaigning

## Campaign Literature

### Mass Mailing

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Definition of Mass Mailing means over two hundred (200) substantially similar pieces of mail, mailed within a calendar month, but does not include a form letter or other mail, which is sent in response to an unsolicited request, letter, or other inquiry. Mass Mailing Sent Electronically: It is required that the name of the candidate or committee be disclosed on over 200 substantially similar campaign messages distributed to the public through email.

NOTE: If you are planning any type of mass mailing, please contact the post office in advance for specific postal regulations.

*Government Code §82041.5*

*Fair Political Practices Commission Regulation §18435*

### Mass Mailing Requirements

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- a. 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.
- 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 Section 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.

# Campaigning

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).

*Government Code §84305*

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 via U.S. mail or through electronic mail. This identification must be presented in the same size and color as the committee name—no less than 6-point 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 name and address

*Fair Political Practices Commission Regulation §18435*

## Mass Mailing Prohibitions

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No newsletter or other mass mailing shall be sent at public expense.

Notwithstanding subdivision (b) of Section 89002, a mass mailing, as defined in Section 82041.5, that meets the criteria of subdivision (a) of Section 89002 shall not be sent within the 60 days preceding an election by or on behalf of a candidate whose name will appear on the ballot at that election, except as provided in paragraphs (2) to (8), inclusive, and paragraph (10) of subdivision (b) of Section 89002.

*Government Code §89003*

## Political Advertising Requirements — Newspapers

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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 this section “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.

*Elections Code §20008*

# Campaigning

## Simulated Ballot Requirements

a. Every simulated ballot or simulated county voter information guide 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 official county voter 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).”*

This section shall not be construed as requiring this notice in any editorial or other statement appearing in a regularly published newspaper or magazine other than a paid political advertisement.

b. A simulated ballot or simulated county voter information guide referred to in subdivision (a) shall not bear an official seal or the insignia of a public entity, and that seal or insignia shall not appear upon the envelope in which it is mailed or otherwise delivered.

c. The superior court, in a case brought before it by any registered voter, may issue a temporary or permanent restraining order or injunction against the publication, printing, circulation, posting, or distribution of any matter in violation of this section, and all cases of this nature shall be in a preferred position for purposes of trial and appeal, so as to assure the speedy disposition of cases of this nature.

*Elections Code §20009*

## Truth in Endorsements Law

Provides information regarding restrictions on endorsements, representation requirements, etc. A copy is available in the California Elections Code which can be viewed at <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>.

*Elections Code §§20000-20010*

## Electioneering Near Polling Place

No person, on Election Day, or at any time that a voter may be casting a ballot, shall, within 100 feet of a polling place or an elections official's office:

- a. Circulate an initiative, referendum, recall, or nomination petition or any other petition.
- b. Solicit a vote or speak to a voter on the subject of marking his or her ballot.

# Campaigning

- c. Place a sign relating to voters' qualifications or speak to a voter on the subject of his or her qualifications except as provided in Section 14240.
- d. Do any electioneering.

As used in this section, "100 feet of a polling place or an elections official's office" means a distance 100 feet from the room or rooms in which voters are signing the roster and casting ballots.

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

*Elections Code §18370*

# Campaigning

## Campaign Posters and Signs

### City and County Restrictions

City and Contact	Posting Restrictions	Posting & Removal Dates
City of Santa Rosa (707) 543-3015 Dina Manis, City Clerk	Sign permit required. Must have owners' permission. Signs may not exceed 16 square feet in are and, if detached, more than 9 feet in height. Private property only	60 days prior to, and 15 days after the date of the election
City of Cloverdale (707) 894-1712 Community Development Department	Must have property owner's permission. <b>Residential:</b> 6 square feet with no portion higher than 7 feet above existing grade. <b>Nonresidential:</b> 24 square feet, 10 feet in height. Private property only.	30 days total. Potential extension of up to 45 days upon approval of Planning Director
City of Cotati (707) 665-3622 Kevin Patterson, Deputy City Clerk	Must have property owner's permission. <b>Residential:</b> 12 square feet total (front & back); <b>Nonresidential:</b> 20 square feet (front & back). Private property only	60 days prior to, and 10 days after the date of the election
City of Healdsburg (707) 431-3317 Raina Allan, City Clerk	Must have property owner's permission. Private property only.	90 days prior to, and 15 days after the date of the election
City of Petaluma (707) 778-4361 City Community Development Department	Contact City Community Development Department for information.	90 days prior to and 15 days after the date of the election
City of Rohnert Park (707) 588-2227 Sylvia Lopez Cuevas, City Clerk	Must have property owner's permission. Private property only.	Signs must be removed within 10 days after the date of the election

# Campaigning

City and Contact	Posting Restrictions	Posting & Removal Dates
<p>City of Sebastopol (707) 823-1153 Mary Gourley, City Clerk</p>	<p>Must have property owner’s permission. Private property only.</p>	<p>No specific guidelines established for posting, remove after election</p>
<p>City of Sonoma (707) 933-2216 City Planning Department</p>	<p>No signs or posters on public property or utility poles. Must obtain permission from property owner to post on private property and shall file written approval with a \$25.00 fee to the City Clerk, to be refunded upon removal of signs. Signs may not exceed 8 square feet without a permit</p>	<p>Signs must be removed within 10 days after the date of the election</p>
<p>Town of Windsor (707) 838-1021 Town Planning Division</p>	<p>Must have property owner’s permission. <b>Residential:</b> 32 square feet; maximum 4 feet in height from ground. <b>Nonresidential:</b> 64 square feet, maximum 6 feet in height from ground. Private property only. No portion of a sign shall be located within five feet of a road, street, or common driveway and no sign may obstruct vision on a public right-of-way.</p>	<p>Limited to 45 days maximum period, up to twice per year</p>
<p>County of Sonoma (707) 565-1900 Permit &amp; Resource Management Department (PRMD)</p>	<p>Must obtain Zoning Permit from the PRMD. No signs shall be erected earlier than ninety (90) days prior to the election in which the candidate or measure will be voted upon. Signs on behalf of a political candidate who is successful in the primary election may be retained for the general election provided they are properly maintained. All signs shall be removed entirely within twenty (20) days of the close of the campaign. Refer to Article 84 (Sign Regulations) in Sonoma County Zoning Ordinance for design standards and further information.</p>	

# Campaigning

## State Law Governing Campaign Signs

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As a candidate or campaign worker for either office or a ballot measure, this information from Caltrans about State law governing campaign signs should be helpful to you.

- [Caltrans Information on Political Signs](#)

## Purchasing Voter Registration Data

For information about purchasing voter registration data, including our most up-to-date prices, visit the [Campaign Materials](#) page of our website.

# Code of Fair Campaign Practices

(as found In [Chapter 5 of Division 20 of the California Elections Code](#))

## Chapter 5. Fair Campaign Practices

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### Article 1. General Intent

**20400.** 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.

### Article 2. Definitions

**20420.** As used in this chapter, "Code" means the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

### Article 3. Code of Fair Campaign Practices

**20440.** 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.

In the case of a committee making an independent expenditure, as defined in Section 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 Section 81000) of the Government Code, an initial campaign statement on behalf of the committee.

**20441.** 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.

**20442.** 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.

**20443.** Every code subscribed to by a candidate for public office pursuant to this chapter is a public record open for public inspection.

**20444.** In no event shall a candidate for public office be required to subscribe to or endorse the code.

# Calendar of Events

## Overview

The following calendar is intended to provide general information and does not have the force or effect of law, regulation, or rule. It is distributed with the understanding that the Registrar of Voters is not rendering legal advice and that this calendar is not a substitute for legal counsel. References to code sections are not guaranteed to be correct and may have changed since the calendar was published. In the case of conflict, the law, regulation, or rule will apply.

Evelyn Mendez,  
Sonoma County Registrar of Voters

## Holiday Schedule

A list of holidays observed by the County of Sonoma in 2026 is shown below. Please note that these holidays may not be the same as those recognized by other counties, the Secretary of State's Office, or the federal government.

<b>January 19</b>	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
<b>February 12</b>	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
<b>February 16</b>	Presidents' Day
<b>March 31</b>	Cesar Chavez Day
<b>May 25</b>	Memorial Day
<b>July 4</b>	Independence Day
<b>September 7</b>	Labor Day
<b>November 11</b>	Veterans Day
<b>November 26</b>	Thanksgiving Day
<b>November 27</b>	Day after Thanksgiving
<b>December 25</b>	Christmas Day

# Calendar of Events

## Events

### Dates variable

CANDIDATES (Before candidate raises any money)

*CANDIDATE INTENTION STATEMENT (FORM 501)*

Prior to the solicitation or receipt of any contribution or loan, or the expenditure of any personal funds, any individual who intends to be a candidate for **an elective state office** shall file with the Secretary of State's Office an original of the Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501). Similarly, prior to the solicitation or receipt of any contribution or loan, or the expenditure of any personal funds, any individual who intends to be a candidate for **any other elective office** shall file the Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501) with the same filing officer with whom the original campaign statements are required to be filed. See [Pre-Campaign Reporting Requirements](#) in this Campaign Guide for more information on filing this form.

*Fair Political Practices Commission Campaign Disclosure Manual (2020) Manual 2, Chapter 1*

*Government Code §85200*

CANDIDATES (Before candidate raises \$2000 or more)

*STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION/CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT (FORM 410)*

Upon the filing of the Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501), any candidate who raises contributions of \$2,000 or more in a calendar year shall establish a campaign account at an office of a financial institution located in the state. Personal funds used to pay filing or candidate statement fees are not counted toward the \$2,000 threshold. The candidate shall then file an original Statement of Organization (Form 410) with the Secretary of State and a copy with the local filing officer within 10 days. See [Pre-Campaign Reporting Requirements](#) in this Campaign Guide for more information on filing this form.

*Fair Political Practices Commission Campaign Disclosure Manual (2020) Manual 2, Chapter 1*

*Government Code §§84101, 85201*

COMMITTEES (W/in 10 days of committee making an independent expenditure of \$1,000 or more)

*VERIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES (FORM 462)*

If a committee makes an independent expenditure of \$1,000 or more in a calendar year to support or oppose a single candidate or single ballot measure, the committee must email the Fair Political Practices Commission the Verification of Independent Expenditures (Form 462) within 10 days. This form is used to identify an individual responsible for ensuring that the campaign committee's independent expenditures are not coordinated with the listed candidate or measure committee (or the opponent) and that the committee will report all contributions and reimbursements as required by law.

# Calendar of Events

*Fair Political Practices Commission Campaign Disclosure Manual (2020) Manual 2, Chapter 10*

*Government Code 84213*

INDIVIDUALS (W/in 24 hours of individuals making an independent expenditure of \$1,000 or more in support or in opposition to a county candidate)

## *VERIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES*

Any person who makes independent expenditures in support of or in opposition to a **county** candidate which accumulate to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or more during an election cycle shall notify the county registrar of voters and all candidates running for the same seat, by telegram, facsimile, or by any other electronic means accepted by the county registrar of voters, within **twenty-four (24) hours** each time such an expenditure is made.

*Sonoma County Ordinance Number 5231 §2, 2000*

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## January 2, 2026\*

SECRETARY OF STATE (6 Days After State Redistricting Deadline)

### *NOTICE OF OFFICES FOR WHICH CANDIDATES ARE TO BE NOMINATED*

The Secretary of State shall send to the Registrar of Voters Office a list of all the offices, except county officers and judges of superior courts, for which candidates are to be nominated at the primary election held.

*Elections Code §§8166, 12103*

*\*For dates that fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, use the next regular business day for transactions.*

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## December 19, 2025 to February 4, 2026

CANDIDATES FOR ALL OFFICES (7 Days After Redistricting Deadline to E-118)

### *SIGNATURES-IN-LIEU OF FILING FEES*

Between these dates, a **candidate for any office other than county supervisor** may obtain forms from, and file signatures-in-lieu of paying all or part of the non-refundable filing fee with, the Registrar of Voters Office. Candidates must either pay the filing fee or submit sufficient face value signatures-in-lieu (or any combination thereof) prior to obtaining their nomination forms. Signatures may also be applied to the nomination signature requirements for the office if filed during this period.

*Elections Code §§8020(b), 8061, 8105(b), 8106(a)(4), 8106(b)(3), 8163(a)*

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## January 22, 2026

SECRETARY OF STATE (E-131)

### *LEGISLATIVE STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES*

Last day for the Legislature to adopt a constitutional amendment, bond measure, or other legislative measure. Every constitutional amendment, bond measure, or other legislative measure submitted to the

# Calendar of Events

people by the Legislature shall appear on the ballot of the first statewide election occurring at least 131 days after the adoption of the proposal by the Legislature.

*Elections Code §9040*

## February 2, 2026

CANDIDATES/COMMITTEES (Date fixed by law)

*SEMI-ANNUAL CAMPAIGN STATEMENT DUE*

All candidates and committees filing campaign finance statements in conjunction with the June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election, must file a semi-annual statement no later than February 2, 2026, for the period beginning July 1, 2025 (or from the date of last filing), and ending December 31, 2025.

*Government Code §§84200, 84218*

## January 26 to February 4, 2026

JUDICIAL CANDIDATES (E-127 to E-118)

*DECLARATION OF INTENTION*

Between these dates, candidates for judicial office must file a Declaration of Intention with the Registrar of Voters in their county of residence. Candidates must either pay the non-refundable filing fee or submit sufficient face value signatures-in-lieu, or any combination thereof, at the time of filing a Declaration of Intention. Checks should be made payable to the Registrar of Voters.

If an incumbent, eligible to be elected, fails to file a Declaration of Intention by 5:00 PM on the final day to file, persons other than the incumbent may file a Declaration of Intention not later than 5:00 p.m. on the first day for filing nomination papers.

*Elections Code §§8023, 8024, 8061, 8105(b), 8106*

## January 28, 2026

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-125)

*PRECINCT BOUNDARY CHANGES*

Precinct boundary changes occurring less than 125 days before an election shall not be effective for purposes of that election.

*Elections Code §12262*

# Calendar of Events

## February 4, 2026

### JUDICIAL CANDIDATES (E-118)

#### *SIGNATURES-IN-LIEU OF FILING FEES DEADLINE (JUDICIAL CANDIDATES)*

Last day candidates for judicial offices may file signatures–in–lieu of paying all or part of the nonrefundable filing fee in the Registrar of Voters Office. The balance of the filing fee not covered by face value signatures must be paid by this date upon filing the Declaration of Intent. Within 10 days after receipt of the petitions, the Registrar of Voters Office shall notify the candidate in writing of any deficiency due to invalid signatures. It is recommended that the candidate deposit a check, not to exceed the amount of the remainder of the filing fee due as a result of the deficiency, with the Registrar of Voters Office, to avoid disqualification due to nonpayment of fees. Circulators of an in-lieu-filing-fee petition shall be 18 years of age or older.

*Elections Code §§8023, 8024, 8061, 8105(b),8106*

### JUDICIAL CANDIDATES (E-118)

#### *DECLARATION OF INTENTION DEADLINE (JUDICIAL CANDIDATES)*

Last day candidates for judicial offices may file a Declaration of Intention to run for office (unless an incumbent, eligible to be elected, fails to file).

*Elections Code §8023*

### NON-JUDICIAL CANDIDATES (E-118)

#### *SIGNATURES-IN-LIEU OF FILING FEES DEADLINE (NON-JUDICIAL CANDIDATES)*

Last day candidates for non-judicial offices may file signatures–in–lieu of paying all or part of the nonrefundable filing fee in the Registrar of Voters Office. The balance of the fee not covered by face value signatures must be paid by the close of the filing period for nomination documents. Within 10 days after receipt of the petitions, the Registrar of Voters Office shall notify the candidate in writing of any deficiency.

If a petition is circulated for an office in more than one county, the candidate shall submit the signatures to the Registrar of Voters Office in the county where the petition was circulated. It is recommended that the candidate deposit a check, not to exceed the amount of the remainder of the filing fee due as a result of the deficiency, with the Registrar of Voters Office of the candidate’s county of residence, to avoid disqualification due to nonpayment of fees.

The Registrar of Voters shall, within two days of verifying the petitions, notify the Secretary of State of the total number of valid signatures, if appropriate. If the number of signatures is insufficient, the Secretary of State shall notify the candidate and the elections official in each county of the fact.

Circulators of an in-lieu-filing-fee petition shall be 18 years of age or older.

*Elections Code §§102, 8020(b), 8061, 8062, 8106(b)(3)*

# Calendar of Events

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## February 5 to February 9, 2026

JUDICIAL CANDIDATES (E-117 to E-113)

*DECLARATION OF INTENTION EXTENDED FILING PERIOD (JUDICIAL CANDIDATES)*

If an incumbent judicial officer, eligible to be reelected, fails to file a Declaration of Intention by 5:00 p.m. on the final day to file a Declaration of Intention, any person who is qualified, other than the incumbent, may file a Declaration of Intention no later than 5:00 p.m. on the first day for filing nomination papers. The nonrefundable filing fee or sufficient face value signatures-in-lieu (or any combination thereof) shall be deposited at the time of filing the Declaration of Intention.

*Elections Code §§8023, 8105(b)*

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## February 9 to March 6, 2026

CANDIDATES (E-113 to E-88)

*NOMINATION PERIOD*

Period for filing nomination documents for all candidates for the Statewide Direct Primary Election.

*Election Code §§333, 8020, 8040, 8041, 8061-8064, 8100 et seq*

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AND STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES (E-113 to E-88)

*STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS – U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AND STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES*

Any candidate for U.S. Representative, and state legislative office who accepts voluntary expenditure limits, may submit a 250–word Statement of Qualifications to be printed in the Voter Information Guide. The statement will be printed at the candidate’s expense and may not make any reference to any opponent of the candidate.

*Government Code §§85200, 85400, 85401, 85600, 85601*

*Elections Code §13307.5*

CANDIDATES (E-113 to E-88)

*STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS – LOCAL NONPARTISAN CANDIDATES*

Any candidate for local nonpartisan office (including an incumbent in a recall election) may submit a Statement of Qualifications to be printed in the County Voter Information Guide at the time his or her nomination documents are filed. If a jurisdiction requires payment in advance, the candidate must pay the jurisdiction and bring proof of payment at the time of filing. Once filed, the statement may be withdrawn (but not changed) until 5 p.m. on the next regular business day following the close of nominations. All statements remain confidential until the close of the nomination (or extended nomination) period.

# Calendar of Events

Any candidate in an election (including an incumbent in a recall election) who knowingly makes a false statement of a material fact in a candidate's statement prepared pursuant to Elections Code §11327 or §13307, with the intent to mislead voters, is punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

*Elections Code §§13307 et seq., 18351*

## CANDIDATES (E-113 to E-88)

### *CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS*

Any candidate who does not anticipate spending or receiving \$2,000 or more in a calendar year may file an Officeholder and Candidate Campaign Statement – Short Form (Form 470), which does not require detailed information concerning receipts and expenditures.

Any candidate who plans to spend or receive \$2,000 or more in a calendar year must establish a campaign bank account in California and deposit all the contributions or loans into the account before making any expenditures. An original Statement of Organization (Form 410) must be completed and sent to the Secretary of State's Office within 10 days of opening the account. A copy of the 410 must also be filed with the candidate's local filing officer. Note that filing fees and Statement of Qualification fees are not included in calculating the \$2,000.

Any candidate who has already filed a Form 470 because they did not originally plan to spend or receive \$2,000 or more in a calendar year but then changes their mind shall do the following:

1. Establish a campaign account before the \$2,000 expenditure threshold is reached.
2. Complete and send an original Statement of Organization (Form 410) to the Secretary of State's Office and file a copy with the candidate's local filing officer.
3. Complete and send an original Officeholder and Candidate Campaign Statement – Short Form (Form 470) **Supplement** to the Secretary of State's Office, the candidate's local filing officer, and each candidate seeking the same office. This notice is required to be filed within 48 hours of receiving or making contributions or expenditures of \$2,000 or more.

Please refer to the appropriate Campaign Disclosure Manual for additional information regarding filing obligations for candidates, officeholders and committees supporting or opposing candidates or measures.

*Fair Political Practices Commission Regulations §18406*

*Government Code §§ 84101 et seq., 84206, 85201*

## CANDIDATES (E-113 to E-88)

### *STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS (FORM 700)*

The Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) must be filed not later than the final filing date for the Declaration of Candidacy if it is required by the Conflict of Interest Code for the jurisdiction or by state

# Calendar of Events

law. This statement shall not be required if the candidate has filed, within 60 days prior to the filing of his or her Declaration of Candidacy, a statement for the same jurisdiction.

*Government Code §§87200 et seq., 87302.3, 87500*

## CANDIDATES/FILING CLERK (E-113 to E-88)

### *CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES*

At the time a candidate is issued their Declaration of Candidacy, nomination papers, or any document evidencing an intention to be a candidate for public office, the elections official shall issue a copy of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices and the provisions of Elections Code §20440 et seq. The clerk shall inform each candidate for public office that signing the Code of Fair Campaign Practices is voluntary. Forms so filed shall be retained for public viewing until 30 days after the election.

*Elections Code §20400 et seq.*

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## March 4 to June 2, 2026

### CANDIDATES/COMMITTEES (E-90 to E-Day)

#### *90-DAY REPORTING PERIOD OR 24-HOUR CONTRIBUTION/INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE REPORTING PERIOD*

Candidates, ballot measure committees, and recipient committees that make or receive a late contribution or loan that totals in the aggregate \$1,000 or more during the 90-day election cycle before an election must report late monetary contributions within 24 hours and non-monetary contributions within 48 hours by personal delivery, fax, or guaranteed overnight service.

Committees that make independent expenditures of \$1,000 or more in connection with a candidate for elective local office or a local ballot measure during the 90-day election cycle before an election must file a report by fax, guaranteed overnight delivery, personal delivery, or email with the local filing officer within 24 hours. Regular mail may not be used.

*Government Code §§82036 et seq., 84203 et seq, 85204, 85309, 85500*

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## March 6, 2026

### GOVERNING BODIES (E-88)

#### *CONSOLIDATION DEADLINE – MEASURES*

Whenever an election called by a district, city or other political subdivision for the submission of any question, proposition or office to be filled, is to be consolidated with a statewide election, the jurisdiction calling the election shall, not later than 5 p.m. on this date, file with the Board of Supervisors, and a copy to the Registrar of Voters Office, a resolution of its governing board requesting such consolidation and setting forth the exact form of any question, proposition or office to be voted upon at such election, as it is to appear on the ballot. Measures that exceed 75 words must be abbreviated to 75 words or less to

# Calendar of Events

appear on the ballot. The resolution requesting the consolidation shall be adopted and filed at the same time as the ordinance, resolution or order calling the election.

*Education Code §5322*

*Elections Code §§9051(b), 10402, 10403, 13247*

## CANDIDATES/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-88)

### *FILE OR WITHDRAW NOMINATION DOCUMENTS*

All nomination documents must be filed or withdrawn no later than 5 p.m. on this date (except in the cases of extended nomination periods).

- Required Documents: Declaration of Candidacy; Ballot Designation Worksheet; Statement of Economic Interests (if required by the jurisdiction's Conflict of Interest Code or state law).
- Optional Documents: Code of Fair Campaign Practices; Candidate's Statement of Qualifications.

This is also the **recommended** date for candidates who do not intend to raise or spend \$2,000 or more in connection with seeking or holding office to file the Officeholder and Candidate Campaign Statement – Short Form (Form 470).

*Elections Code §§8020, 8063, 8801, 10220, 10407, 13107*

*Government Code §87201*

## CANDIDATES FOR U.S. HOUSE, STATE SENATE, & STATE ASSEMBLY (E-88)

### *STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS – U.S. HOUSE & STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES*

Last day any candidate for U.S. Representative or state legislative office who accepts voluntary expenditure limits, to submit a Statement of Qualifications to be printed in the County Voter Information Guide.

*Elections Code §13307.5*

*Government Code 01856(c)*

## CANDIDATES FOR LOCAL NONPARTISAN OFFICES (E-88)

### *STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS – LOCAL NONPARTISAN CANDIDATES*

Last day any candidate for nonpartisan local office (including an incumbent in a recall election) may submit a Statement of Qualifications to be printed in the County Voter Information Guide (excluding offices that have gone to extension).

*Elections Code §§13307 et seq., 18351*

## GOVERNING BODY (E-88)

### *TAX RATE STATEMENT – BOND ISSUES*

Last day for legislative or governing body of a jurisdiction putting a bond measure on the ballot to file a Tax Rate Statement. Tax Rate Statements shall be printed in the County Voter Information Guide for any

# Calendar of Events

bond issue proposed by a county, city and county, city, district, or other political subdivision, or by any agency, department or board thereof, the security for which constitutes a lien on the property for *ad valorem* taxes within the jurisdiction and the proposal for which is required to be submitted to the voters for approval.

*Elections Code §9400 et seq.*

## PROPONENT/OPPONENT (E-88)

### *NOTICE TO SUBMIT ARGUMENTS*

Based on the time reasonably necessary to prepare and print County Voter Information Guides, as well as to permit the 10-day public examination period, the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters has determined that March 18 (E-81) shall be the date prior to the election after which no arguments for or against any measure may be submitted (or changed) for printing and distribution to the voters. For cities, the city clerk shall fix and determine the deadlines for arguments and rebuttals. Arguments submitted must be accompanied by a Statement of Accuracy and signed by each proponent and author, if different. Forms are available from the elections official.

Notice of the date by which arguments must be submitted shall be published by the elections official pursuant to Government Coder §6061.

*Elections Code §§9163, 9286, 9316, 9502, 9600*

*Government Code §6061*

## CITY CLERK/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-88)

### *REQUEST FOR IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS (ALL LOCAL MEASURES)*

Whenever a **county**, **school**, or **special district** measure qualifies for the ballot, the Registrar of Voters Office shall transmit a copy of the measure text to the County Counsel, who shall prepare an impartial analysis of the measure showing the effect of the measure on existing law. The analysis shall not exceed 500 words.

Whenever a **municipal** measure qualifies for the ballot, the City Council may direct the City Clerk to transmit a copy of the measure to the City Attorney. The City Attorney shall prepare an impartial analysis of the measure showing the effect of the measure on existing law. The analysis shall not exceed 500 words.

Based on the time reasonably necessary to prepare and print County Voter Information Guides, as well as to permit the 10-day public examination period, the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters has fixed and determined that March 18 (E-81) shall be the date when all impartial analyses are due.

*Elections Code §§9160, 9280, 9313, 9500*

# Calendar of Events

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-88)

### *REQUEST FOR FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT (COUNTY MEASURES)*

Whenever a county measure qualifies for the ballot, the Registrar of Voters Office shall transmit a copy of the measure to the County Auditor. The Board of Supervisors may direct the County Auditor to prepare a Fiscal Impact Statement estimating any increase or decrease in revenues or cost to the county if the measure is adopted. The Fiscal Impact Statement shall not exceed 500 words.

Based on the time reasonably necessary to prepare and print County Voter Information Guides, as well as to permit the 10-day public examination period, the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters has fixed and determined that March 18 (E-81) shall be the date when all fiscal analyses are due.

*Elections Code §9160*

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-88)

### *DEADLINE TO DETERMINE REQUIRED NUMBER OF DROP BOXES AND VOTE CENTERS*

By this date, the Registrar of Voters Office must calculate the number of official ballot drop boxes and required for the upcoming election.

*Elections Code §§4005(a)(1)(A), 4005(a)(3)(A), 4005(a)(4)(A)*

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## **March 7\* to March 11, 2026**

### CANDIDATES (E-87 to E-83)

#### *EXTENDED NOMINATION PERIOD*

If an incumbent eligible to be elected for an office fails to file the required nomination documents by 5 p.m. on E-88, anyone other than the incumbent who is otherwise qualified shall have five (5) calendar days (until 5 p.m. on the 83rd day before the election) to file for that office. This section does not apply when there is no incumbent eligible to be elected.

If this section is applicable, notwithstanding Election Code §10510, a candidate for the affected office may withdraw his or her nomination documents until 5 p.m. on the 83rd day before the date of the election

*Elections Code §§8022, 10225, 10407, 10510, 10516*

*\*For dates that fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, use the next regular business day for transactions.*

## **March 7\* to March 16, 2026**

### PUBLIC/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-87 to E-78)

#### *PUBLIC EXAMINATION PERIOD – ELECTION MATERIALS DUE ON E-88*

The Registrar of Voters Office shall make a copy of certain election materials due on E-88 available for public examination for a period of 10 calendar days. Such materials include candidates' Statements of

# Calendar of Events

Qualifications (for offices that are *not* going to extension), measure full texts, and tax rate statements for bond measures. Any person may obtain a copy of the materials but a fee may be charged.

During the 10-day review period, any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held, or the Registrar of Voters Office, may seek a writ of mandate or an injunction requiring any or all such materials to be amended or deleted. 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 the requirements set forth in the Elections Code. The issuance of the writ or injunction must also not substantially interfere with the printing or distribution of official election materials as provided by law.

*Elections Code §§9190, 9295, 9380, 9509, 13313*

*\*For dates that fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, use the next regular business day for transactions.*

## March 11, 2026

GOVERNING BOARD (E-83)

*AMEND OR WITHDRAW BALLOT MEASURE*

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, whenever a legislative body has ordered that a measure or proposal be submitted to the voters of any jurisdiction at a special election, the order of election shall not be amended or withdrawn after the 83rd day prior to the election.

The order of election shall be amended or withdrawn upon the filing of a resolution by the legislative body stating the specifics concerning the amendment or withdrawal. The resolution shall be filed with the elections official not later than the 83rd day prior to the election.

*Elections Code §9605*

## March 12\*, 2026

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

*OFFICIAL LIST OF LOCAL MEASURE LETTER ASSIGNMENT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC*

On this day the Registrar of Voters Office will make the official list of local measure letter assignments available to the public.

CANDIDATES (E-85)

*WITHDRAW STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS (OFFICES NOT GOING TO EXTENSION)*

Any candidate for an office that is *not* going to extension has until 5 p.m. on this day to withdraw their Statement of Qualifications.

*Elections Code §13307(a)(3)*

*\*For dates that fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, use the next regular business day for transactions.*

# Calendar of Events

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## March 12, 2026

### CANDIDATES (E-82)

#### *WITHDRAW STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS (OFFICES THAT WENT TO EXTENSION)*

Any candidate for an office that went into extension has until 5 p.m. on this day to withdraw their Statement of Qualifications.

*Elections Code §13307(a)(3)*

### SECRETARY OF STATE/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-82)

#### *RANDOMIZED ALPHABET*

The Secretary of State shall conduct a drawing of the alphabet to determine the order of the names of the candidates to appear on the ballot. The resulting random order of letters constitutes the alphabet for all offices other than multi-county state legislative offices. In addition, and only if applicable, the candidates' names will be rotated pursuant to Elections Code §§13111, 13112.

For candidates for multi-county state legislative offices, the Registrar of Voters Office in each affected county shall conduct a randomized alphabet drawing. The result of each county's drawing shall be used only to determine the order of the names of candidates for multi-county legislative offices within such county

*Elections Code §§13111, 13112*

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## March 12 to March 21, 2026

### PUBLIC/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-82 to E-73)

#### *PUBLIC EXAMINATION PERIOD – ELECTION MATERIALS DUE ON E-83*

The Registrar of Voters Office shall make a copy of certain election materials due on E-83 available for public examination for a period of 10 calendar days. Such materials include candidates' Statements of Qualification for offices that went into extension. Any person may obtain a copy of the materials but a fee may be charged.

During the 10-day review period, any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held, or the Registrar of Voters Office, may seek a judicial remedy if they believe such materials contain information that is false, misleading, or inconsistent with requirements set forth in the Elections Code. For more details on this process, see E-87 to E-77 calendar entry in this Campaign Guide titled, "Public Examination Period – Election Materials Due on E-88."

*Elections Code §13313*

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# Calendar of Events

## March 13, 2026

### PROPONENTS/OPPONENTS (E-81)

#### *ARGUMENTS FOR/AGAINST MEASURES*

Final filing date for arguments for or against any school, county, or special district measure to appear on the ballot, as set by the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters. Arguments must be filed in the Registrar of Voters Office not later than 5 p.m. on this date.

Suggested last day for arguments for or against any municipal measure to appear on the ballot. Actual date set by the City Clerk. Check with the City Clerk for information regarding city measures.

Arguments shall not exceed 300 words and must be accompanied by a Statement of Accuracy and signed by the author(s). Forms are available from the Registrar of Voters Office (or for municipal measures, from the office of the appropriate city clerk). Each argument shall be titled either "Argument in Favor of Measure ..." or "Argument Against Measure ..." (letter designation to be filled in after assignment).

*Elections Code §§9162, 9163, 9282, 9286, 9315, 9316, 9501, 9502, 9600*

### COUNTY COUNSEL/CITY ATTORNEY (E-81)

#### *IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS*

In order to provide for the 10-calendar-day review period, the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters has set this date as the deadline for County Counsel (or City Clerk in the case of municipal measures) to transmit to the Registrar of Voters Office an impartial analysis of each school, county, and special district measure showing the effect on existing law and the operation of the measure. The analysis shall be printed in the County Voter Information Guide along with the County Auditor's Fiscal Analysis (if applicable and requested) and arguments for and/or against the measure (if submitted). The Impartial Analysis shall not exceed 500 words.

*Elections Code §§9160, 9280, 9313, 9500*

### COUNTY AUDITOR (E-81)

#### *FISCAL ANALYSIS (COUNTY MEASURES)*

In order to provide for the 10-calendar-day review period, this is the last day for the County Auditor, if so directed by the Board of Supervisors, to transmit to the Registrar of Voters Office a Fiscal Analysis (Fiscal Impact Statement) of each county measure, estimating any increase or decrease in revenues or cost to the county if the measure is adopted. The Fiscal Impact Statement (if any) shall be printed in the County Voter Information Guide along with County Counsel's Impartial Analysis, preceding the arguments for and/or against the measure, if submitted. The Fiscal Impact Statement shall not exceed 500 words.

*Elections Code §9160*

# Calendar of Events

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## March 14 to March 23, 2026

PUBLIC/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-80 to E-71)

*PUBLIC EXAMINATION PERIOD – ELECTION MATERIALS DUE ON E-81*

The Registrar of Voters Office shall make a copy of certain election materials that were due on E-81 available for public examination for a period of 10 calendar days. Such materials include tax rate statements for bond measures, impartial analyses for all measures, Fiscal Impact Statements for county measures, and arguments in favor of or against all measures. Any person may obtain a copy of the materials but a fee may be charged.

During the 10-day review period, any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held, or the Registrar of Voters Office, may seek a judicial remedy if they believe such materials contain information that is false, misleading, or inconsistent with requirements set forth in the Elections Code. For more details on this process, see E-87 to E-77 calendar entry in this Campaign Guide titled, “Public Examination Period – Election Materials Due on E-88.”

*Elections Code §§9190, 9295, 9380, 9509*

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## March 20, 2026

PROPOSERS/OPPONENTS (E-74)

*REBUTTAL ARGUMENTS FOR MEASURES*

If both an argument in favor of and an argument against any school, county, or special district measure have been filed, the Registrar of Voters Office shall send copies of each argument to the opposing author(s). The opposing author(s) may, if desired, file rebuttal arguments no later than 10 days after the final date for filing direct arguments.

Suggested last day for rebuttal arguments for or against any municipal measure to appear on the ballot. Actual date set by the City Clerk. Check with the City Clerk for information regarding city measures.

Rebuttal arguments shall not exceed 250 words and must be accompanied by a Statement of Accuracy and signed by the author(s). Forms are available from the Registrar of Voters Office (or for municipal measures, from the City Clerk’s Office). Each argument shall be titled either “Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure ...” or “Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure ...” (letter designation to be filled in after assignment).

*Elections Code §§9167, 9285, 9317, 9504, 9600*

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# Calendar of Events

## March 21 to March 30, 2026

PUBLIC/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-73 to E-64)

*PUBLIC EXAMINATION PERIOD – ELECTION MATERIALS DUE ON E-74*

The Registrar of Voters Office shall make a copy of certain election materials that were due on E-74 available for public examination for a period of 10 calendar days. Such materials include rebuttal arguments. Any person may obtain a copy of the materials but a fee may be charged.

During the 10-day review period, any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held, or the Registrar of Voters Office, may seek a judicial remedy if they believe such materials contain information that is false, misleading, or inconsistent with requirements set forth in the Elections Code. For more details on this process, see E-87 to E-77 calendar entry in this Campaign Guide titled, “Public Examination Period – Election Materials Due on E-88.”

*Elections Code §§9190, 9295, 9380, 9509*

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## March 26, 2026

SECRETARY OF STATE/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-68)

*DEATH OF A CANDIDATE*

Whenever a candidate has filed a Declaration of Candidacy, the name of the candidate shall be printed upon the ballot unless the candidate has died and that fact has been ascertained by the Registrar of Voters Office at least 68 days before the election.

*Education Code §5329, Elections Code §§8803, 8810*

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## April 3, 2026

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-60)

*FIRST DAY TO MAIL BALLOTS TO MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTERS*

First date the Registrar of Voters Office may begin transmitting ballots by mail, fax, or email, to active military or overseas voters.

*Elections Code §3105(b)(1)*

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## April 6 to May 19, 2026

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES (E-57 to E-14)

*WRITE-IN PERIOD*

Period when nomination documents for write-in candidates may be obtained from and delivered to the Registrar of Voters Office. Each write-in candidate must file a Statement of Write-In Candidacy, along with the requisite number of signatures (if any), in order to have their votes counted.

# Calendar of Events

*Elections Code §8600 et seq.*

## **April 18, 2026**

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-45)

*DEADLINE TO MAIL BALLOTS TO MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTERS WHO HAVE REQUESTED THEM BY THIS DATE*

By this date, the Registrar of Voters Office shall transmit ballots by mail, fax, or email, to all active military or overseas voters.

*Elections Code §3105(b)(1)*

## **April 23, 2026**

CANDIDATES AND COMMITTEES (E-40)

*FIRST PREELECTION CAMPAIGN STATEMENT*

Deadline for candidates, ballot measure committees, and recipient committees to file (by first class mail or personal delivery) the first preelection campaign statement covering the reporting period of January 1, 2026 through April 18, 2026 (E-45).

*Government Code §§84200.5, 84200.8(a)*

CANDIDATES AND COMMITTEES (E-40)

*OFFICEHOLDER AND CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN STATEMENT – SHORT FORM (FORM 470)*

Deadline for candidates who expect to receive or spend less than \$2,000 during the calendar year to file Officeholder and Candidate Campaign Statement – Short Form (Form 470) (if they have not already filed it with their nomination documents).

*Government Code §§84200.5, 84200.8(a)*

## **April 23 to May 12, 2026**

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-40 to E-21)

*MAIL COUNTY VOTER INFORMATION GUIDES*

During this period the Registrar of Voters Office shall mail County Voter Information Guides to all voters who registered to vote prior to the 28th day before the election. Any voter who registered to vote on or after the 28th day before the election may not be mailed a County Voter Information Guide but will be mailed a notice of the election as well as information about where they can obtain the County Voter Information Guide.

# Calendar of Events

*Elections Code §§ 13303, 13304, 13306*

## May 4, 2026

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-29)

*VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS AVAILABLE*

First day voters can pick up (or have mailed to them) Vote-by-Mail ballots at the Registrar of Voters Office. Vote-by-Mail ballots must be returned by mail, dropped off at the Registrar of Voters Office, taken to any vote center open on or before Election Day, or deposited at an official drop-off box. If the voter is unable to return the ballot themselves, they can designate another person to do so, but the designated person must return the ballot no later than three days after receiving it from the voter or before the close of polls on Election Day, whichever time period is shorter

Vote-by-Mail ballots shall be considered timely cast if they are received by the Registrar of Voters Office via the United States Postal Service or a bona fide private mail delivery company no later than seven days after Election Day and either:

- The ballot is postmarked on or before Election Day (or is time/date stamped by a bona fide private mail delivery company on or before Election Day)
- The ballot has no postmark (or the postmark is illegible) but the return envelope is signed and dated by the voter pursuant to §3011 on or before Election Day

Vote-by-Mail ballots shall also be considered timely cast if they are returned to an elections official, drop box, or vote center by the close of polls on Election Day.

*Elections Code §§ 3001, 3003, 3017, 3020, 3021*

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-29)

*VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS – MAILING BEGINS*

Date by which the Registrar of Voters Office must begin mailing official ballots to all active, registered voters in the election.

*Elections Code §§ 3000.5, 3001, 3005*

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-29)

*VOTE-BY-MAIL ENVELOPE SIGNATURE VERIFICATION*

The Registrar of Voters Office may begin to process Vote-by-Mail return envelopes beginning 29 days before the election. This includes verifying each voter's signature on the Vote-by-Mail ballot return envelope pursuant to §3019 and updating voter history records.

*Elections Code §§3019, 15101*

# Calendar of Events

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-29)

### *VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT PROCESSING*

Any jurisdiction having the necessary computer capability may start to process Vote-by-Mail ballots on the 29th day before the election. Processing Vote-by-Mail ballots includes opening Vote-by-Mail ballot return envelopes, removing ballots, duplicating any damaged ballots, and preparing the ballots to be machine read, or machine reading them, including processing write-in votes so they can be tallied by the machine. However, under no circumstances may a vote count be accessed or released until 8 p.m. on the day of the election

*Elections Code §15101(b)*

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## May 5 – June 2, 2026

### REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-28)

#### *OFFICIAL BALLOT DROP BOXES OPEN*

Official Ballot Drop Boxes are open 24/7 from May 5 until June 2 at 8:00 p.m.

*Elections Code §4005(a)(1)(A)*

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## May 17, 2026

### CANDIDATES/COMMITTEES (E-16)

#### *REPORTING OF LATE CONTRIBUTIONS (WITHIN 24 HOURS OF MAKING OR RECEIVING ANY CONTRIBUTION OF \$500 OR MORE IN SUPPORT OR IN OPPOSITION TO A COUNTY CANDIDATE)*

All contribution(s) of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or more, including contributions aggregated pursuant to Section 2-306 of the Local Campaign Ordinance, that are made to or received by a county candidate, his or her controlled committee or a committee formed or existing primarily to support or oppose a county candidate, shall be reported within twenty-four (24) hours, by personal delivery, fax, or guaranteed overnight service, if the contribution(s) were made or received before the date of the election at which the county candidate is to be voted on, but after the closing date of the last campaign statement required to be filed before the election.

*Sonoma County Ordinance Number 5231 §2, 2000*

# Calendar of Events

## May 18, 2026

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-15)

### *CLOSE OF STANDARD VOTER REGISTRATION*

Deadline for any qualified elector to submit a standard registration form to vote in the upcoming election. Any person who has moved, changed their name, or wishes to change their political party preference must re-register by this date. After this date, qualified electors who wish to register can still do so but must “conditionally” register and vote in person at the Registrar of Voters Office or at any vote center in the County.

Note that the only time political party changes impact the type of ballot a voter gets is in presidential primaries.

*Elections Code §§2102, 2115, 2116, 2152*

## May 19, 2026

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES (E-14)

### *WRITE-IN CANDIDATES*

Last day for write-in candidates who desire to have their votes counted to file a Statement of Write-In Candidacy along with the requisite number of signatures, if any, for that office. The Statement must be filed at the Registrar of Voters Office (or with the City Clerk for municipal offices) by the 14th day prior to the date of the election. No filing fee is required to run as a write-in candidate. Votes for write-in candidates who have not filed will not be counted.

*Elections Code §8601*

## May 21, 2026

CANDIDATES/COMMITTEES (E-12)

### *SECOND PREELECTION CAMPAIGN STATEMENT*

Deadline for candidates, ballot measure committees, and recipient committees to file (by overnight service or personal delivery but **not first-class mail**) the second pre-election campaign statement covering the reporting period of April 19, 2026 (E-44) through May 16, 2026 (E-17).

*Government Code §§84200.5, 84200.8(b)*

# Calendar of Events

## May 23, 2026\*

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-10)

### *NOTICE OF CENTRAL COUNTING PLACE*

The Registrar of Voters Office shall publish, at least 10 days before the election, in a newspaper of general circulation in the jurisdiction, a notice specifying the public place to be used to tally votes when ballots are to be counted in a central counting place.

*Elections Code §12109*

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-10)

### *MAILING NON-ENGLISH FACSIMILE BALLOTS*

By this day, the county elections official shall prepare and process all requests received so far for non-English facsimile ballots from voters in select precincts.

*Elections Code §13400*

*\*For dates that fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, use the next regular business day for transactions.*

## May 23 to June 1, 2026

VOTERS/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-10 to E-1)

### *11-DAY VOTE CENTERS OPEN*

Period during which a limited number of Vote Centers are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Elections Code §4005(a)(4)(A)*

## May 26, 2026

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-7)

### *LAST DAY BALLOTS WILL BE MAILED TO VOTERS*

Last day for the Registrar of Voters Office to mail out ballots. After this date, any voter may still apply in person at the Registrar of Voters Office or any open Vote Center to obtain a Vote-by-Mail ballot. Voters unable to request a ballot in person may designate in writing any other person as an authorized agent to obtain and return the Vote-by-Mail ballot on their behalf.

*Elections Code §§3001, 3003, 3102*

CITY CLERK/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-7)

### *NOTICE OF ELECTION (CITY MEASURES)*

If a municipal measure is placed on the ballot, the City Clerk (or Registrar of Voters Office on behalf of the city) shall not less than one week before the election publish a synopsis of the measure pursuant to Government Code §6061. The notice shall be titled "Measure To Be Voted On."

# Calendar of Events

*Elections Code §12111*

*Government Code §6061*

## May 27 to June 2, 2026

VOTERS/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-6 to E-Day)

*EMERGENCY VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS*

Period during which a voter may apply in writing to have an emergency Vote-by-Mail ballot delivered to them if they (1) never received or do not have the original Vote-by-Mail ballot that was mailed to them, and (2) are unable to go to a voting location due to unexpected illness, handicap, or absence. The voter may designate any authorized representative to receive the ballot, with a written request, and return the voted Vote-by-Mail ballot.

*Elections Code §3021*

## May 30 to June 2, 2026

VOTERS/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-3 to E-1)

*4-DAY VOTE CENTERS OPEN*

Period during which an expanded number of Vote Centers are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Elections Code §4005(a)(4)(B)*

## June 2, 2026

VOTERS/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E-Day)

*ELECTION DAY*

Both 11-day **and** 4-day Vote Centers are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Vote-by-Mail ballots may be returned in person or by a designated person not later than 8 p.m. either to the Registrar of Voters Office, any official Vote Center in the State, or any official Ballot Drop Box in the State. Vote-by-Mail ballots may also be returned in the mail as long as they are postmarked on or before Election Day and received within seven days.

*Elections Code §§4005(a), 3017, 3020, 3021, 10541, 14212*

## June 4, 2026

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E+2)

*OFFICIAL CANVASS*

No later than the Thursday following the election, the Registrar of Voters Office shall commence the official canvass of votes cast. The canvass shall be open to the public and, for state or statewide

# Calendar of Events

elections, shall result in a report of results to the Secretary of State. The canvass shall be continued daily (Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excepted) for not less than six hours each day until completed.

During the official canvass of every election in which a voting system is used, the Registrar of Voters Office shall conduct a public manual tally of the ballots tabulated by those devices, including Vote-by-Mail ballots.

*Elections Code §§335.5, 362, 15301, 15360*

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## June 9, 2026

VOTERS/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (E+7)

*VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS RECEIVED AFTER ELECTION DAY*

Vote-by-Mail ballots are considered timely cast if they are received by the Registrar of Voters Office no later than seven days after the election and either:

- The ballot is postmarked on or before Election Day (or is time/date stamped by a bona fide private mail delivery company on or before Election Day)
- The ballot has no postmark (or the postmark is illegible) but the return envelope is signed and dated by the voter pursuant to §3011 on or before Election Day

*Elections Code §3020(b)*

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## July 2, 2026

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS/GOVERNING BODY (E+30)

*COMPLETION OF CANVASS*

The Registrar of Voters Office shall prepare a certified statement of the results of the election and submit it to each local governing body participating in the election within 30 days of the election.

Upon receipt of the certified statement of the results of the election from the Registrar of Voters Office, the governing body shall declare elected or nominated to each office voted on at each election under its jurisdiction the person(s) having the highest number of votes for that office. The governing board shall also declare the results of each election under its jurisdiction as to each measure voted on at the election.

The Registrar of Voters Office shall make out and deliver to each person elected or nominated, as declared by the governing body, except those elected to a central committee, a certificate of election or nomination, signed and authenticated by the Registrar of Voters Office.

*Elections Code §§15372, 15400, 15401*

# Calendar of Events

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## July 10, 2026

SECRETARY OF STATE (E+38)

*STATEMENT OF THE VOTE*

Last day for the Secretary of State to compile results from all counties and issue Certificates of Nomination or Election to successful candidates for United States Senator, United States Representative in Congress, State Senator, and Member of the State Assembly.

*Elections Code §§8147, 15501, 15504*

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## July 31, 2026

CANDIDATES/COMMITTEES (Date fixed by law)

*SEMI-ANNUAL CAMPAIGN STATEMENT DUE*

All candidates and committees filing campaign finance statements in conjunction with the June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election, must file a semi-annual statement no later than July 31, 2026, for the period beginning January 1, 2026 (or from the date of last filing), and ending June 30, 2026.

*Government Code §§84200, 84218*