

# Candidate's Handbook



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## Statewide General Election November 3, 2026

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Prepared by:  
Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department  
701 Ocean St., Room 310  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
831-454-2060 / FAX: 831-454-2445  
Toll Free: 1-866-282-5900 / TDD: 711  
[www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov](http://www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov)

May 2026



# County of Santa Cruz

## County Clerk / Elections

701 Ocean Street, Room 310, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Phone: 831 454-2060 Toll-free: 866-252-5900 Fax: 831-454-2445 TDD: call 711  
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Web sites: [www.sccoclerk.us](http://www.sccoclerk.us) & [www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov](http://www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov)

**Tricia Webber, County Clerk**  
**Rita Sanchez, Assistant County Clerk**

Welcome to the November 3, 2026 electoral process. Regardless of who wins, we hope that this is a positive experience for you.

The County Clerk/Elections Department is dedicated to helping all qualified candidates get their name printed on the ballot and to ensuring that the election is fair, accurate and transparent. For the uninitiated, the process can be confusing, with resulting errors and misunderstandings. Although this handbook is a guide for candidates, it is for general information only and does not have the force and effect of law, regulation, or rule. In case of conflict, the law, regulation, or rule will apply. Candidates and others using this handbook must bear full responsibility to make their own determinations as to all legal standards and duties.

The best advice I can give to all candidates is FILE EARLY. The filing deadlines are rigid and if you wait until the last moment to file a document containing errors or omissions, your right to appear on the ballot may be lost. Most errors can be corrected given adequate time. We hope you find this Candidate's Handbook useful. We have also added many services and resources to our website at [www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov](http://www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov).

Each day we will update "Candidate Watch" on our website listing who has filed for which offices. You can also find this manual on our website, as well as other tools to assist you in conducting your campaign.

Should you have any suggestions for improving the manual or have identified corrections to be made, please call me, County Clerk Tricia Webber at 831-454-2409 or e-mail me at [tricia.webber@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:tricia.webber@santacruzcountyca.gov).

Sincerely,

Tricia Webber  
County Clerk

*The materials contained in this handbook represent the research and opinions of the staff at the Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department. The contents of this handbook and any legal interpretations contained herein are not to be relied upon as being correct either factually or as legal opinion. Reliance on the content without prior submission to and approval of your appropriate public counsel is at the reader's risk. Please call 831-454-2060 if you have any questions or comments or visit our website at [www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov](http://www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov) Thank you.*

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# Candidate Information Forums

The Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department is sponsoring a Candidate Information Night where potential candidates can learn about the election process and ask questions of the county’s chief election officials.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday, June 9, 2026</b>  <b>Co-hosted by Scotts Valley City Clerk</b>  <b>1 Civic Center Dr., Scotts Valley</b>  <b>5:30pm to 6:30pm</b>  <b>Hybrid participation – In-person and online.</b>  <b>Zoom Meeting ID: 891 3704 0469</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday, June 10, 2026</b>  <b>Co-hosted by Capitola City Clerk</b>  <b>420 Capitola Ave., Capitola</b>  <b>6pm to 7:30pm</b>  <b>Hybrid – In-person and online.</b>  <b>Please contact city clerk for link.</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday, June 11, 2026</b>  <b>Co-hosted by Watsonville City Clerk</b>  <b>275 Main Street, Suite 400, Top Floor, Watsonville CA 95076</b>  <b>6pm to 7:30pm</b>  <b>Hybrid participation with Spanish translation available online and in person.</b>  <a href="https://cityofwatsonville-org.zoomgov.com/j/1652809452">https://cityofwatsonville-org.zoomgov.com/j/1652809452</a></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>June 18, 2026</b>  <b>Community Room</b>  <b>701 Ocean St., Basement, Santa Cruz</b>  <b>3:30pm to 5:00pm (in-person)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>June 22, 2026</b>  <b>Community Room</b>  <b>701 Ocean St., Basement, Santa Cruz</b>  <b>6:00pm to 7:30pm (in-person)</b></p>

Election officials will explain:

- how and when to file papers
- what qualifications are required
- how to prepare a Candidate’s Statement of Qualifications
- what election data is available
- how to raise and spend money for campaigns

For questions about running for city office, please contact your City Clerk:

- Capitola – Julia Gautho: [jgautho@ci.capitola.ca.us](mailto:jgautho@ci.capitola.ca.us), 831-475-7300 ext. 228
- Scotts Valley – Cathie Simonovich: [csimonovich@scottsvalley.gov](mailto:csimonovich@scottsvalley.gov), 831-440-5600
- Watsonville – Irwin I. Ortiz: [irwin.ortiz@watsonville.gov](mailto:irwin.ortiz@watsonville.gov), 831-768-3040
- Santa Cruz – Bonnie Bush: [bbush@santacruzca.gov](mailto:bbush@santacruzca.gov), 831-420-5035

# Elections Department Contact Information

## County Clerk Tricia Webber

701 Ocean St., Room 310

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

831-454-2060 / FAX: 831-454-2445

Web Page: [www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov](http://www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov)

**Please feel free to contact us at the Elections Department should you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Direct telephone numbers, with voice mail availability, are listed under each person's name.**

County Clerk	Tricia Webber <a href="mailto:tricia.webber@santacruzcountyca.gov">tricia.webber@santacruzcountyca.gov</a> 831-454-2409
Assistant County Clerk	Rita Sanchez <a href="mailto:rita.sanchez@santacruzcountyca.gov">rita.sanchez@santacruzcountyca.gov</a> 831-454-2419
Candidate Services	Stanley Avila <a href="mailto:stanley.avila@santacruzcountyca.gov">stanley.avila@santacruzcountyca.gov</a> 831-454-2423
Petitions and Mapping Coordinator; Election data for sale; Precinct boundaries & consolidations	Gina Lapioli <a href="mailto:gina.lapioli@santacruzcountyca.gov">gina.lapioli@santacruzcountyca.gov</a> 831-454-2415
Vote-by-Mail Ballot Coordinator; Military & Overseas Voters	Nick Bailey <a href="mailto:nick.bailey@santacruzcountyca.gov">nick.bailey@santacruzcountyca.gov</a> 831-454-3456
Election Officer recruitment and training; Training manuals; Voter accessibility	Salvador Meza Lemus <a href="mailto:salvador.mezalemus@santacruzcountyca.gov">salvador.mezalemus@santacruzcountyca.gov</a> 831-454-2416
Department Information Services manager; Website manager; Ballot layout and tabulation	John Beck <a href="mailto:john.beck@santacruzcountyca.gov">john.beck@santacruzcountyca.gov</a> 831-454-2405
Operations Center Manager; Voting location selection, mitigations, and supplies	Emma Gordon <a href="mailto:emma.gordon@santacruzcountyca.gov">emma.gordon@santacruzcountyca.gov</a> 831-454-3020
Voter Registration & Outreach Coordinator; VoteCal manager; Language services	Helen Ruiz-Thomas <a href="mailto:helen.ruiz-thomas@santacruzcountyca.gov">helen.ruiz-thomas@santacruzcountyca.gov</a> 831-454-3389
Clerk Services Program Coordinator	Margarita Williams <a href="mailto:margarita.williams@santacruzcountyca.gov">margarita.williams@santacruzcountyca.gov</a> 831-454-2018
Deputy County Clerk	Lorena Bibriesca-Camacho <a href="mailto:lorena.bibriesca-camacho@santacruzcountyca.gov">lorena.bibriesca-camacho@santacruzcountyca.gov</a> 831-454-3462
Deputy County Clerk	Francisco Renteria <a href="mailto:francisco.renteria@santacruzcountyca.gov">francisco.renteria@santacruzcountyca.gov</a> 831-454-2412
Deputy County Clerk	Yvonne Leonor <a href="mailto:yvonne.leonor@santacruzcountyca.gov">yvonne.leonor@santacruzcountyca.gov</a> 831-454-2406
Accounting	Daisy Williams <a href="mailto:daisy.williams@santacruzcountyca.gov">daisy.williams@santacruzcountyca.gov</a> 831-454-2418

# State and Federal Offices

## Fair Political Practices Commission

1102 Q Street, Suite 3000

Sacramento, CA 95811

916-322-5660 / FAX 916-322-0886

Toll Free: 1-866-275-3772 (1-866-ASK-FPPC)

Website: [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov)

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) was created by the Political Reform Act of 1974, a ballot initiative passed by California voters as Proposition 9.

The FPPC educates the public and public officials on the requirements of the Act. It provides written and oral advice to public agencies and officials; conducts seminars and training sessions; develops forms, manuals, and instructions; and receives and files statements of economic interests from many state and local officials.

The FPPC investigates alleged violations of the Political Reform Act, imposes penalties when appropriate, and assists state and local agencies in developing and enforcing conflict-of-interest codes.

The FPPC regulates:

- campaign financing and spending;
- financial conflicts of interest;
- lobbyist registration and reporting;
- post-governmental employment;
- mass mailings at public expense; and gifts and honoraria given to public officials and candidates.

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## Secretary of State Shirley Webber, Ph. D.

1500 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

916-653-6814

Website: [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)

## Political Reform Division

916-653-6224 /FAX 916-653-5045

The Secretary of State's Political Reform Division administers provisions of California's Political Reform Act of 1974 that requires the disclosure of

financial activities related to political campaigns and lobbying.

Specific activities of the Political Reform Division include:

- Register and issue identification numbers for all state and local campaign committees that raise funds in connection with elections (non-federal) throughout California.
- Receive notices from all state and local candidates of their intentions to raise campaign funds and establish separate bank accounts for these funds.
- Receive campaign disclosure statements (itemizing contributions received and expenditures made) filed by individuals and committees raising or spending campaign funds to support or oppose state candidates or ballot measures. (Local campaign committees file their itemized disclosure statements with local filing officers. For California federal campaigns, the Political Reform Division receives copies of itemized disclosure statements filed with the [Federal Election Commission](#) in Washington, D.C.)
- Provide technical assistance regarding campaign disclosure provisions of the Political Reform Act to state and local candidates and elected officials, treasurers of campaign committees, and the general public.
- Review campaign documents to ensure compliance with reporting requirements.
- Provide public access to all campaign disclosure documents.
- Publish campaign financing reports that summarize and analyze the extensive information contained in campaign documents filed with the Political Reform Division.
- Determine if campaign documents have been filed on time and impose and collect fines for late filings.

## Secretary of State's Office (cont.)

### Elections Division

916-657-2166 / FAX 916-653-3214

TTY/TDD: 1-800-833-8683

1-800-345-VOTE (8683)

E-Mail: [Elections@sos.ca.gov](mailto:Elections@sos.ca.gov)

Responsible for:

- certifying the official lists of candidates;
- determining which types of voting systems are acceptable for use in California;
- advising candidates and local elections officials on the qualifications and requirements for running for office, providing guidance on choosing acceptable candidate ballot designations, and determining the order of the candidates on the ballot;
- tracking and certifying ballot initiatives;
- coordinating the tabulation of the votes from each county on election night;
- producing the official Statements of Vote after each election;
- printing registration forms, encouraging registration and voter turnout, and producing several voter information publications;
- investigating voter fraud

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### Campaign Filing Offices

Statewide candidates and officeholders, Supreme Court justices, state ballot measure committees, and other committees that support or oppose state candidates and ballot measures, or that support or oppose candidates and ballot measures in more than one county, file campaign reports with:

- the Secretary of State and
- the election officials for the counties in which they are domiciled.

State Committees are no longer required to file their forms with San Francisco or Los Angeles.

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### Federal Election Commission

999 E Street, NW

Washington, DC 20463

1-800-424-9530

For the hearing impaired, TTY 202-219-3336

Website: [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov)

- Federal Campaign Disclosure
- Contributions from National Banks, National Corporations, and Foreign Nationals

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### State Franchise Tax Board

800-852-5711

800-338-0505 (24/7 Automated Support)

Website: [www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov)

- Committee Tax Status
- Tax Deductible Contributions
- Charitable Non-Profit Groups
- Audit of Campaign Disclosure Statements

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### Internal Revenue Service

800-829-1040

Website: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

- Federal Taxpayer I.D. Numbers
- Any other Tax-related questions

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### Attorney General

California Department of Justice

Attn: Public Inquiry Unit

P.O. Box 944255

Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

800-952-5225 / FAX 916-323-5341

California Relay Service:

(For Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Callers)

TTY/TDD Dial 711 or

English: TTY/TDD 800 735-2929

Spanish: TTY/TDD 800 855-3000

Voice: 800 735-2922

Website: [www.oag.ca.gov](http://www.oag.ca.gov)

- Legal Opinions
- Incompatibility of office
- Quo Warranto actions
- Brown Act requirements

# Who to Call for Election Violations or Fraud

In response to the many inquiries we receive regarding possible election violations or fraud, we have the following list of resources regarding whom to contact for the various types of violations.

The Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department is **NOT** an enforcement agency and is therefore unable to investigate any violations. When our office receives reports of violations, we refer them to the agencies listed below:

- False or misleading campaign materials (No agency enforcement. These issues are dealt with in court).
- Violations of the Political Reform Act (Title 9 of the California Government Code at Sections 81000 through 91015), i.e. mass mailing requirements; slate mailers; campaign disclosure; proper use of campaign funds; disclosure of economic interests: contact the Fair Political Practices Commission at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov), 866-275-3772.
- Election fraud: contact your local district attorney, 831-454-2400, or the California Secretary of State at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov), 916-657-2166.
- Unlawful use of public funds, violations of the Elections Code, the Penal Code, or any laws other than the Political Reform Act: contact your local district attorney, 831-454-2400, or the California State Attorney General at [www.oag.ca.gov](http://www.oag.ca.gov), 800-952-5225.
- Federal campaigns, Congress, U.S. Senate, President of the United States, etc.: contact the Federal Election Commission at [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov), 800-424-9530.
- Open meeting laws (Brown Act): contact your local district attorney, 831-454-2400, or the California State Attorney General at [www.oag.ca.gov](http://www.oag.ca.gov), 800-952-5225.
- Local ordinances: contact your local city attorney or district attorney, 831-454-2400.
- Vandalism or requirements concerning campaign signs: contact your local city attorney or district attorney, 831-454-2400.

See prior pages for additional agency contact information. See below for information on contacting the county District Attorney.

## **Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office**

701 Ocean St., Room 200

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

831-454-2400 | FAX: 831-454-2227 | TDD/TTY: 711

[dao@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:dao@santacruzcountyca.gov)

or

275 Main St., Suite 202

Watsonville, CA 95076

831-768-6521 | FAX 831-454-2227 | TDD/TTY: 711

# Neighboring Counties

Below is a list of counties that are adjacent to Santa Cruz County or with whom we share a Congressional (18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>), State Senate (17<sup>th</sup>) or State Assembly (28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>) district.

## **Fresno**

James A. Kus, County Clerk and Registrar of Voters  
2221 Kern St  
Fresno, CA 93721  
(559) 600-8683 / (844) 977-8683  
FAX (559) 488-3279  
Hours: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm  
<https://www.fresnocountyca.gov/Departments/County-ClerkRegistrar-of-Voters/Elections>

## **Kings**

Lupe Villa, Registrar of Voters  
1400 W Lacey Blvd, Bldg. 7  
Hanford, CA 93230  
(559) 852-4401 / (800) 289-9981 ext. 4401  
M—Th: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, F: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm  
<https://www.countyofkingsca.gov/departments/administration/elections>

## **Monterey**

Gina Martinez, Registrar of Voters  
1441 Schilling Place – North Building  
Salinas, CA 93901  
*Mailing Address:*  
P.O. Box 4400  
Salinas, CA 93912  
(831) 796-1499 / FAX (831) 755-5485  
Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
[www.montereycountyelections.us](http://www.montereycountyelections.us)

## **San Benito**

Francisco Diaz, County Clerk-Recorder  
Registrar of Voters  
1601 Lana Way  
Hollister, CA 95024  
*Mailing Address:*  
P.O. Box 1150  
Hollister, CA 95024  
(831) 636-4016 / FAX (831) 636-2939  
Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
<https://www.sanbenitocounty-ca-cre.gov/>

## **San Luis Obispo**

Elaina Cano, County Clerk-Recorder  
1055 Monterey Street, Suite D120  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
(805) 781-5228 / FAX (805) 781-1111  
Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Clerk-Recorder>

## **San Mateo**

Mark Church, Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder  
40 Tower Road  
San Mateo, CA 94402  
(650) 312-5222 / FAX (650) 312-5348  
Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
<https://www.smcacre.gov/>

## **Santa Clara**

Matt Moreles, Registrar of Voters  
1555 Berger Drive, Bldg. 2  
San Jose, CA 95112  
*Mailing Address:*  
P.O. Box 611360  
San Jose, CA 95161-1360  
(480) 299-8683  
(866) 430-8683 / FAX (408) 998-7314  
Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
[www.sccvote.org](http://www.sccvote.org)

# Website: [www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov](http://www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov)

The Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department's website contains valuable information to assist candidates and voters.

## Some highlights are:

### Click on **November 3, 2026 Election**, and you will find:

- **Candidate Watch** – a daily update of who has filed.
- **Contact Candidates** – for those candidates who have authorized our department to do so, we will post contact information for candidates with links to websites and e-mail for easy voter and media access.
- **Candidate's Statements of Qualifications** – once they are made public, we will post the Candidate's Statement of Qualifications for those candidates who have filed one.
- **County Voter Information Guide** – contains information on local measures as well as a list of State Legislative candidates who have accepted the Proposition 34 expenditure limits.
- **November 3, 2026 Candidate's Handbook** – an expanded version of this handbook is available online.
- **Important Voter Information** – voting location lookup, sample ballot lookup, information on early voting, weekend voting, voting by mail, conditional voter registration, provisional voting, overseas voting, and voting in-person.
- **Campaign Forms from the FPPC**
- **Voter Registration Forms** – voters can go online and complete a voter registration form through the Secretary of State's online voter registration process.

### Other items on the web:

- **District maps**
- **Lists of Elected Officials**
- **Information on Political Parties**
- **Election Guidebooks** – "When and How to Call an Election for Local Jurisdictions;" "How to Place a Measure on the Ballot;" "Election Services For Voters With Specific Needs;" "How to Do a County Initiative;" "Guide to Writing Arguments, Rebuttals, and Analyses;" "Recall Guide for State and Local Officials;" "How to Fill a Vacancy;" and more.
- **Election Officer Applications and Information**
- **Results from Past Elections**
- **Voter Registration and Turnout History**

# Candidate Checklist

Listed below are the mandatory and optional forms for candidates in the November 3, 2026 General Election. Candidates are responsible for meeting all deadlines and are urged to file early to avoid last-minute complications. Personal filing is recommended, though you may authorize someone to pick up documents for you.

Nominees for county run-off offices, Congressional districts, and State Assembly nominees who accept Prop 34 expenditure limits may file a candidate statement and pay for its distribution by 5pm on August 7.

City council candidates must contact their respective City Clerk for specific filing requirements.

Document	Applies to	Filing Period	✓
<b>*Declaration of Candidacy</b>	All candidates – incumbents and challengers	Jul 13 – Aug 7 (E-113 to E-88)	
<b>Nomination Documents for City candidates</b>	All candidates – Incumbents and challengers	Jul 13 – Aug 7 (E-113 to E-88)	
<b>Candidate’s Statement of Qualifications</b> <b>and</b> <b>**Candidate Statement Agreement</b>	Optional for all candidates for school and special districts. <b>Plus</b> – Candidates for county offices in run-offs, and nominees for State Legislature who have accepted the Prop 34 campaign expenditure limits.	Must be filed & paid for with Declaration of Candidacy  <b>or</b> For the June 2 <sup>nd</sup> Primary Election nominees: <b>By 5 pm August 7</b>	
<b>**Confidential Voter Registration</b>	All candidates – AB 1392 (2025) requires all candidates to state if they want their voter registration in the public roster during the election.	Must be file with Declaration of Candidacy	
<b>**Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700)</b>	All candidates running for offices specified in Gov. Code § 87200	File with Declaration of Candidacy or by Aug 7	
<b>**Internet Waiver</b>	All candidates – incumbents and challengers	File with Declaration of Candidacy	
<b>**Code of Fair Campaign Practices</b>	Optional for all candidates	File with Declaration of Candidacy	
<b>**Form 501 – Candidate Intention Statement</b>	All candidates – Incumbents and challengers.	File before making expenditures on behalf of your candidacy or file with Declaration of Candidacy.	
<b>**Form 470 – Candidate Campaign Statement</b>	All candidates appearing on the ballot who do not have an open campaign committee	File with Declaration of Candidacy, or must be filed by <b>Sept 24</b>	

\* Declaration of Candidacy is printed at the elections office once all other forms have been filed.

\*\* Forms are available to download and print from the **Candidate Resources** page (November 3, 2026) or may be picked up in person at the Santa Cruz County Elections office.

## Filing Extension

If the incumbent does not file, anyone other than the incumbent may file by 5pm, Wednesday, August 12.

# Candidate Filing Documents

All candidate filing documents are public at the time they are filed, except for Candidate’s Statements of Qualifications which shall remain confidential until the expiration of the filing deadline. Dates marked with an asterisk (\*) indicate that it falls on a weekend or holiday, so the activity is moved to the next business day.

<p><b>Document</b></p>	<p><b>Declaration of Candidacy</b></p> <p>The Declaration of Candidacy is the official nomination document, wherein the candidate indicates how their name and ballot designation is to appear on the ballot. Additionally, the candidate declares that they meet the statutory and/or constitutional qualifications for the office sought, and that if nominated, the candidate will accept the nomination and not withdraw. Once filed, the Declaration of Candidacy is a public document.</p> <p>The Oath of Office on the Declaration of Candidacy form must be taken and signed by the candidate before a person authorized to administer oaths. The election officials and notaries public are so authorized.</p> <p>The candidate is required to execute the Declaration of Candidacy in the office of the elections official, unless a written statement is signed and dated by the candidate designating a person to receive the Declaration of Candidacy form from the elections official and deliver it to the candidate. The written statement from the candidate shall include language indicating that the candidate is aware that the Declaration of Candidacy must be properly executed and delivered to the elections official in the county of the candidate’s residence by the 88th day prior to the general election.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Elections Code §§ 8020, 8028, 8101</p>
<p><b>Who files</b></p>	<p>All Candidates running for school or special districts.</p>
<p><b>Deadline</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 7 at 5 pm</li> <li>• Extended to 5 pm, August 12 if the incumbent does not file</li> </ul>

<p><b>Document</b></p>	<p><b>Ballot Designation Worksheet</b></p> <p>This worksheet must be completed and filed at the time of filing for office.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Elections Code § 13107.3</p>
<p><b>Who files</b></p>	<p>All Candidates</p>
<p><b>Deadline</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 7 at 5 pm</li> <li>• Extended to 5 pm, August 12 if the incumbent does not file</li> </ul>

<b>Document</b>	<p><b>Candidate's Statement of Qualifications</b></p> <p>This statement by the candidate or nominee describing his or her education and qualifications is printed in the County Voter Information Guide. The statement must be paid for at the time of filing unless the district has agreed to pay for the statement. The statement may be withdrawn by 5 pm on the day following the filing deadline.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Elections Code § 13307(3); Government Code § 85601(c)</p>
<b>Who files</b>	<p>Optional for city, school &amp; special district candidates, nominees for local offices in a run-off election, and nominees for <b>Congressional, Judicial, and County Supervisor</b>.</p> <p>Candidates for <b>Legislative Office</b> who agree to adhere to the spending limitations of Prop. 34 may file a statement for printing in the county Voter Information Guide.</p> <p>The statement is printed in the county Voter Information Guide.</p>
<b>Deadline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 7 at 5 pm</li> <li>• Extended to 5 pm, August 12 if the incumbent does not file</li> </ul>
<b>Document</b>	<p><b>Internet Waiver</b></p> <p>This waiver must be filed to post contact information on our website.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Government Code § 6254.21</p>
<b>Who files</b>	<p>Optional for all candidates. Candidate's name and office are posted, all other information on the form is optional.</p>
<b>Deadline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be filed at any time prior to Election Day.</li> </ul>
<b>Document</b>	<p><b>Candidate Intention Statement &amp; Candidate Campaign Statement Forms</b></p> <p>The Candidate Intention Statement is filed each election for a specific office before you solicit or receive any contributions or before you make expenditures from personal funds on behalf of your candidacy.</p> <p>The Candidate Campaign Statement is filed by those who do not have a controlled committee, do not anticipate receiving contributions totaling \$2,000 or more, do not anticipate spending \$2,000 or more during the calendar year.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Government Code §§ 85200, 85201</p>
<b>Who files</b>	<p>All candidates who did not file <b>Form 501</b> for the primary election for the same office sought in the general election.</p> <p>Candidates who do not anticipate reaching the \$2,000 threshold must file the <b>Form 470 (Short Form)</b>.</p>
<b>Deadline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Form 501</b> may be filed at any time before or during the candidate filing period.</li> <li>• <b>Form 470</b> may be filed during the candidate filing period, or by September 24, 2026.</li> </ul>

<b>Document</b>	<p><b>Code of Fair Campaign Practices</b></p> <p>May be voluntarily subscribed to by candidates for public office.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Elections Code §§ 20400-20444</p>
<b>Who files</b>	Optional for all candidates
<b>Deadline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be filed at any time prior to Election Day. The Elections official shall retain them for public inspection until 30 days after the election.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">Elections Code § 20442</p>

<b>Document</b>	<p><b>Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700)</b></p> <p>Candidates must disclose their interests in real property and income within the past 12 months in a Form 700 to be filed with their Declaration of Candidacy.</p> <p>Candidates appointed to an office must file 30 days <u>after</u> assuming office. Assuming office date for newly elected officials is the date you are sworn in.</p> <p>The statement is not required if the candidate has filed such a statement within the past 60 days for the same jurisdiction.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Gov. Code §§ 87200, 87201, 87500</p>
<b>Who files</b>	Candidates elected to special districts file with the county elections official.
<b>Deadline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>File with Declaration of Candidacy for all candidates</li> </ul>

<b>Document</b>	<p><b>Statement of Organization – Recipient Committee &amp; Recipient Committee Campaign Statement</b></p> <p>Periodic statements disclosing contributions made to and expenditures made by the candidate or committee. Must be filed at least once and possibly several times during an election cycle if more than \$2,000 is raised or spent including personal funds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Government Code §§ 82013, 84101, 84200, 84200.5, 84200.8, 85201</p>
<b>Who files</b>	Within ten (10) days of receiving \$2,000 in contributions, candidates are required to file the <b>Form 410</b> (Statement of Organization) with the CA Secretary of State and later must file the <b>Form 460</b> (Recipient Committee Campaign Statement) electronically with the County Elections office.
<b>Deadline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See the filing schedule on page <a href="#">103</a></li> </ul>

# November 3, 2026 Election Calendar

All code sections are the Elections Code, unless otherwise noted.

Following the filing period dates, the number of days prior to or after the election is provided (E = Election day, followed by the number of days prior to (-) or after (+) election day.)

If there is an asterisk by the date, the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday and, in most cases, has been moved to the next business day.

<p><b>June 29 – July 13 (E-127 to E-113)</b></p>	<p><b>Cities Publish Election Notice</b></p> <p>Between these dates, any city that is consolidating an election with the November election will publish a Notice of Election one time in a newspaper of general circulation stating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The date and polling hours of the election</li> <li>• Any offices to be filled and any measure to be voted on, including a synopsis of each measure.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 12101, 12111</p>
<p><b>July 1 (E-125)</b></p>	<p><b>Special Districts &amp; Cities Deliver Notice of Election to County Clerk</b></p> <p>Last day for district secretaries and City Clerks to deliver Notice of Election listing the elective offices to be filled and any measure (if known at the time) to be voted on and to deliver a map of the District or City to the Elections Department. Cities and special districts should include in the notice how a tie vote will be resolved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 10509, 10522, 10524, 10551(b), 15651</p>
<p><b>July 3 (E-123)</b></p>	<p><b>County Holiday – Office Closed</b></p>
<p><b>July 3 (E-123)</b></p>	<p><b>Schools to Deliver Specifications of the Election Order</b></p> <p>Last day for a school board conducting a governing board election to deliver a resolution known as “Specifications of the Election Order” listing the elective offices to be filled and any measure (if known at the time) to be voted on and file it with the county Superintendent of Schools and county elections official, stating the date and purpose of the election as well as provide a map of the district.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ed. Code § 5322</p> <p>A clause to determine a tie vote is included in the “Specifications of the Elections Order”.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ed. Code § 5016</p>

<p><b>July 6 – Aug 5 (E-120 to E-90)</b></p>	<p><b>Notice of Election</b></p> <p>Between these dates the County Clerk will publish a Notice of Election containing the date of the election, the offices to be filled, qualifications for candidacy required by the principal act, where nomination papers are available, deadline for filing Declarations of Candidacy, and a notice that appointment will be made in lieu of election in accordance with state law.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 12112; Ed. Code §§ 5326, 5328, 5328.5</p> <p>The County Clerk is responsible for publishing information pertaining only to special districts; however, if authorized to do so by City Clerks and the Superintendent of Schools, the county may publish on behalf of all jurisdictions holding elections in November.</p> <p>Notice of central counting place may be combined with this notice.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 12109</p> <p>The county elections official will forward copies of all published notices to each school and special district.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 12113</p>
<p><b>July 13 – Aug 7 (E-113 to E-88)</b></p>	<p><b>Candidate Nomination Period</b></p> <p>Candidates obtain and file their Declarations of Candidacy along with their Candidate’s Statement of Qualifications if they choose to submit one. Forms are obtained from and filed with the County Elections Department.</p> <p>A person shall not file nomination papers for more than one district office or term of office for the same district at the same election.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 10510, 13307, 13311</p> <p>Candidates for city office must be nominated by not less than 20 nor more than 30 voters in cities with 1,000 or more registered voters. The nomination papers shall be accompanied by a Declaration of Candidacy. Nomination documents shall be obtained from and filed with the City Clerk.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 10220-10224, 10227; Gov. Code § 36503</p>
<p><b>Jul 13 – Aug 7 (E-113 to E-88)</b></p>	<p><b>Candidate’s Statement of Qualifications – Special District</b></p> <p>Between these dates, candidates may prepare a statement of qualifications, not to exceed 200 words, to be included in the County Voter Information Guide. The statement shall be filed and paid for at the time the Declaration of Candidacy is filed. The statement may not be changed but may be withdrawn up until 5 pm on August 10 if the contest closes on August 7, or August 13 if the contest closes on August 12 after the extension period.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 13307</p>

<p><b>Aug 5 – Nov 3 (E-90 - E)</b></p>	<p><b>24-hour Contribution Reports</b></p> <p>During the 90 days immediately preceding an election and including Election Day, the following contributions that total in the aggregate of \$1,000 or more must be reported within 24 hours to the county elections official.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 496: File if independent expenditures of \$1,000 or more are made.</li> <li>• 497: File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is received from a single source.</li> <li>• 497: File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is made to a candidate or measure being voted upon or to a political party committee.</li> <li>• The recipient of a non-monetary contribution of \$1,000 or more must file a Form 497 report within 48 hours from the time the contribution is received.</li> </ul> <p>File by personal delivery, e-mail, guaranteed overnight service, fax or online, if available.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Gov. Code §§ 82036, 84203, 85204, 85309</p>
<p><b>Aug 7 (E-88)</b></p>	<p><b>Last day for Candidates to File to Run for Office</b></p> <p>Deadline for candidates for special district boards to obtain and file their Declaration of Candidacy. Forms are obtained from and filed with the county Elections Department.</p> <p>If the candidate wants to file a Candidate’s Statement of Qualifications, it must be filed and paid for (unless the district has agreed to pay) at the same time that the Declaration of Candidacy is being filed. <b>The two documents may not be filed independent of one another.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 10510</p> <p>Any candidate who has filed a Declaration of Candidacy may withdraw that declaration up until 5 pm on August 7. <b>Candidates may not withdraw after that time</b> unless there is an extension if the incumbent does not file.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 10510(a)</p> <p>If the incumbent does not file, there will be a five-day extension for anyone other than the incumbent to file.</p>
<p><b>Aug. 7 (E-88)</b></p>	<p><b>Last Day to Submit Resolutions of Consolidation</b></p> <p>Final deadline for the governing body of a district, city, school or other political subdivision which requests consolidation of a local election for candidates and/or measures to file the request with the County Elections Department. <b>Earlier filing dates are encouraged to meet printing schedules.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 10401, 10402</p>
<p><b>Aug 8 – Aug 12 (E-87 to E-83)</b></p>	<p><b>Candidate filing extension</b></p> <p>If the incumbent does not file by 5 pm on August 7, there is a 5-day filing extension for anyone other than the incumbent to file for office.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 10516</p>

<p><b>Aug. 12 (E-83)</b></p>	<p><b>Insufficient Number of Nominees</b></p> <p><b><u>Special Districts:</u></b> If by 5 pm on this day, no one has filed candidacy papers or an insufficient number of persons has filed candidacy papers to fill an office or offices, and a petition signed by 10% or 50 voters (whichever is the smaller number) has not been submitted, the elections official shall certify this fact to the Board of Supervisors. A person who has filed a Declaration of Candidacy shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors at a regular or special meeting held prior to the Monday before the first Friday in December. If no one filed, another qualified person shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors on or before November 3, 2026 and shall take office and serve as if elected.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 10515</p> <p><b><u>Schools/County Boards of Education:</u></b> If by 5 pm on this day, only one person has filed or there are no filers for the office(s) to be filed or in the case of members elected at large or by trustee areas, there are fewer than the number to be elected, and no petition is signed by 10% or 50 voters (whichever is the smaller number) an appointment will be made. The qualified person nominated shall be seated at the organizational meeting of the board, or, if an insufficient number is nominated, the governing board shall appoint as necessary at a meeting held prior to Election Day. Persons so appointed shall be seated at the organizational meeting and serve as if they had been elected.</p> <p>In the event no one is nominated, the governing board shall publish a notice one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the district stating the board intends to make an appointment and informing the public how to apply for the office.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ed. Code §5326, 5328, 5328.5</p>
<p><b>Aug 12 (E-83)</b></p>	<p><b>Political Party Endorsements for Voter-Nominated Offices – Deadline</b></p> <p>Last day for the party chairperson of any qualified party to submit to the county elections official a list of all candidates for voter-nominated office who have been endorsed by the party. The elections official will print the list in the county Voter Information Guide.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 13302(b)</p>
<p><b>Aug 12 (E-83)</b></p>	<p><b>Write-In Campaign Against Incumbent Judge Running Unopposed</b></p> <p>Last day to file a petition indicating that a write-in campaign will be conducted against an incumbent superior court judge who did not appear on the June ballot. The Petition must be signed by at least 0.1 percent of the registered voters qualified to vote with respect to the office, provided that the petition shall contain at least 100 signatures but need not contain more than 600 signatures. Write-in candidates must file between September 7 – October 20.</p> <p>If a petition is filed, the name of the incumbent shall be placed on the general election ballot if it has not appeared on the direct primary election ballot.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 8203(b), 8600-8604</p>

<p><b>Aug 13, 11 am (E-82)</b></p>	<p><b>Randomized Alphabet Drawing</b>  The Secretary of State shall conduct the randomized alphabet drawing to determine the order in which the candidates will appear on the general election ballot.</p> <p>On this same day, the County Clerk shall conduct a randomized alphabet drawing for the State Legislative offices.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 13111, 13112(b)(1)(C)</p>
<p><b>Aug 27 (E-68)</b></p>	<p><b>Certified List of Candidates – Federal and State Offices</b>  Last day for the Secretary of State to certify and send to each elections official a list showing the name, party preference, and ballot designation of every person who has been nominated as a candidate for public office and is entitled to receive votes within the county at the general election.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 8148</p>
<p><b>Aug 27 (E-68)</b></p>	<p><b>Rotation List</b>  By this day, the Secretary of State shall provide to county elections officials a list of candidates for each county arranged according to the randomized alphabet drawn on August 13, 2026 (E-82).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 8149, 13111</p>
<p><b>Sept 4 (E-60)</b></p>	<p><b>Military or Overseas Vote-by-Mail Ballot Applications</b>  First day the county elections official may process applications for military or overseas voter ballots. Any applications received by the county elections official prior to this day shall be kept and processed on or after this date. If the applicant is not a resident of the county to which he or she has applied, the elections official receiving the application shall forward it immediately to the proper county.</p> <p>A request for a vote-by-mail ballot from a military or overseas voter will be deemed an affidavit of registration.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 300(b), 3102, 3105</p>
<p><b>Sept 4 – 14 (E-60 to E-50)</b></p>	<p><b>Report of Registration – 60-day County Report</b>  During this period, county elections officials shall send to the Secretary of State a summary statement of the number of people registered by party in their counties and in each political subdivision thereof as of Sept. 4, 2026.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 2187</p>
<p><b>Sept 7 – Oct 20 (E-57 to E-14)</b></p>	<p><b>Statement of Write-in Candidacy and Nomination Papers – Nonpartisan Offices</b>  During this period write-in candidates must file their Statement of Write-in Candidacy and Nomination Papers with the county elections official for nonpartisan offices.</p> <p>Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person may not be a write-in candidate at the general election for a voter-nominated office.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 8141, 8600 - 8606</p>
<p><b>Sept 7 (E-57)</b></p>	<p><b>County Holiday – Office Closed</b></p>

<p><b>Sept 10 (E-54)</b></p>	<p><b>Walking Lists Prepared</b> The County Elections Official will prepare the voter index that is available for purchase upon written application at a cost of 50 cents per 1,000 names. § 2184</p>
<p><b>Sept 19 (E-45)</b></p>	<p><b>State Voter Information Guides Available</b> By this date, the Secretary of State shall furnish copies of the State Voter Information Guides to cities, counties, members of the Legislature, proponents of statewide ballot measures, public libraries, and educational institutions. § 9096</p>
<p><b>Sept 24 – Oct 13 (E-40 to E-21)</b></p>	<p><b>Counties Mail County Voter Information Guides / State Voter Information Guide Mailing</b>  Between these dates the county elections official shall mail a county Voter Information Guide and polling place notice to each registered voter.  Between these dates the Secretary of State shall mail State Voter Information Guides to all households in which voters were registered by Friday, Sept. 4 (E-60).  §§ 9094, 13303, 13304</p>
<p><b>Sept 24 (E-40)</b></p>	<p><b>First Pre-Election Statement</b> Last day to file campaign statements for candidates and committees covering the period, <b>July 1 – September 19, 2026.</b> Gov. Code §§ 84200.5, 84200.8, 84218</p>
<p><b>Oct 5 (E-29)</b></p>	<p><b>Last Day to Register to Vote to Ensure Receipt of Voter Information Guides</b> Voter registration cards received by this date (postmark <b>NOT ACCEPTABLE</b>) will be added to the rolls and the voters will receive a County Voter Information Guide. Households will also receive a State Voter Information Guide.  The voters who submit cards after this date will only receive a notice that as a late registrant, they will NOT receive the County Voter Information Guide.  § 13303</p>
<p><b>Oct 5 (E-29)</b></p>	<p><b>Vote-by-Mail Ballots Mailed to all voters</b> All active registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail. Voters can vote in-person or obtain a replacement ballot from the County Elections Office, South County Government Center and Watsonville City Hall.  §§ 3001, 3003</p>

<p><b>Oct 5 – Nov 3 (E-29 to E)</b></p>	<p><b>Early Voting</b> Beginning 29 days before the election, the Santa Cruz County Elections Department, South County Government Center and Watsonville City Clerk’s Office will operate as a vote center providing voters with vote-by-mail ballots, assisting voters, and serving as a ballot drop location. Accessible voting tablets with an audio ballot and Spanish ballots is available at each location. Offices will be open during regular business hours with extended hours on the weekend prior to Election Day and on Election Day.</p>
<p><b>Oct 12 (E-22)</b></p>	<p><b>County Holiday – Office Closed</b></p>
<p><b>Oct 19 (E-15)</b></p>	<p><b>15-day Voter Registration</b> Deadline to register to vote in the general election. The Voter Registration Form shall be mailed (postmarked by this date), received online by midnight, or delivered to the county elections official by this date and is effective upon receipt. The Voter Registration Form may also be submitted by this date to the Secretary of State, Department of Motor Vehicles, or any National Voter Registration Act designated agency.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">52 U.S.C. § 20301; §§ 300(b), 321, 2102</p> <p>Deadline for military or overseas voters to register to vote. A request for a vote-by-mail ballot from a military or overseas voter, if postmarked on or before this date, will be deemed an affidavit of registration.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 3102</p>
<p><b>Oct 20 – Nov 3 (E-14 to E)</b></p>	<p><b>Conditional Voter Registration</b> Voters who missed the voter registration deadline can still register and vote a ballot - up to and including Election Day at the Santa Cruz County Elections Office, Watsonville City Clerk’s Office, and other locations designated by the County Clerk.</p> <p>Ballots will be issued provisionally and will be counted after the elections official verifies the voter’s registration and confirms that they have not already voted in the election.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 2170</p>
<p><b>Oct 22 (E-12)</b></p>	<p><b>Second Pre-Election Statement</b> The last day to file campaign statements for candidates and committees covering the period, <b>September 20—October 17, 2026.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Gov. Code §§ 84200.5, 84200.8, 84218</p>
<p><b>Oct 24 (E-10)</b></p>	<p><b>Notice of Central Counting Place</b> Last day for county elections official to publish the notice that the general election ballots will be counted at a specified public place. The notice shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 12109</p>

<p><b>Oct 24 to Nov 3 (E-10)</b></p>	<p><b>11-day Vote Center Polling Locations Open</b> Vote Centers open for this period are available for eight hours each day prior to Election Day, and normal polling hours on Election Day. Locations will be posted by October 5 on <a href="https://votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov/">https://votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov/</a></p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 4005(4)(A)</p>
<p><b>Oct 31 Date Fixed by Law</b></p>	<p><b>Quarterly Statements by Ballot Measure Committees</b> All committees primarily formed to support or oppose the qualification, passage or defeat of a ballot measure must file quarterly campaign statements for the period July 1 through September 30 during any semiannual period in which the measure is not being voted upon. Following the election, such committees are only required to file semiannual statements unless they make contributions or expenditures to qualify, support or oppose other measures, in which case they would have an ongoing duty to file quarterly statements.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Gov. Code § 84202.3</p>
<p><b>Oct 30 (E-4)</b></p>	<p><b>Third Pre-Election Statement – County Ordinance</b> The last day for committees for County candidates to file their disclosure statement for the period, <b>October 18—October 29, 2026.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Santa Cruz County Code §8.04.080</p>
<p><b>Oct 31 – Nov 3 (E-3 to E)</b></p>	<p><b>4-day Vote Center Polling Locations Open</b> Vote Centers are available for 8 hours each day prior to Election Day, and normal polling hours on Election Day. Locations will be posted by October 5 on <a href="https://votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov/">https://votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov/</a></p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 4005(3)(A)</p>
<p><b>Nov. 3 (E)</b></p>	<p><b>General Election Day</b> Polls open at 7am and close at 8pm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 1000, 14212</p>
<p><b>Nov. 3 (E)</b></p>	<p><b>Unopposed Judge: Superior Court</b> On this date, the County Clerk declares elected any incumbent superior court judge who has filed for office but whose name did not appear on either the primary or general election ballots because he or she was unopposed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 8203(c)</p>
<p><b>Nov. 3, 8pm (E)</b></p>	<p><b>Semifinal Official Canvass</b> Beginning at 8pm and continuously until completed, the county elections official shall conduct the semifinal official canvass of votes and report totals to the Secretary of State at least every two hours.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 15150, 15151</p>
<p><b>Nov. 5 – Dec 3 (E+2 to E+30)</b></p>	<p><b>Official Canvass</b> The official canvass of precinct returns is to be completed during this time.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 15301, 15372</p>
<p><b>Nov. 11 (E+8)</b></p>	<p><b>County Holiday – Office Closed</b></p>

<p><b>Nov. 10 (E+7)</b></p>	<p><b>Vote-by-Mail Ballots Returned Via Post Office – Deadline*</b></p> <p>Vote-by-mail ballots that are postmarked on or before Election Day or is time stamped or date stamped by a bona fide private mail delivery company on or before Election Day and received by the county elections official shall be considered received on time.</p> <p>If the ballot has no postmark, a postmark with no date, or an illegible postmark, the vote by mail ballot identification envelope must be signed and dated by the voter pursuant to Section 3011 on or before Election Day to be considered received on time.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 3020</p> <p>*Subject to change pending Supreme Court Ruling expected June/July 2026.</p>
<p><b>Nov 19</b></p>	<p><b>Board of Supervisors to Appoint Candidates In-Lieu of Election</b></p> <p>Candidates who filed a Declaration of Candidacy shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors at a regular or special meeting held prior to the first Monday before the first Friday in December. This is the last regularly scheduled board meeting before this statutory deadline.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 10515</p>
<p><b>Nov 26 + Nov 27 (E+23 - E+24)</b></p>	<p><b>County Holiday – Office Closed</b></p>
<p><b>Nov 29 (E+26)</b></p>	<p><b>Last day to cure your signature on your vote-by-mail ballot envelope</b></p> <p>Voters who failed to sign their vote-by-mail ballot envelope or whose signature does not compare to the one we have on file, have until 2 days before we certify the election to provide their signature on a ballot envelope statement and file it with the County Elections Department.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 3019</p>
<p><b>Nov 30 (E+27)</b></p>	<p><b>Declaration of Elected Candidates</b></p> <p>No later than the Monday before the first Friday in December, the county elections official shall declare the elected candidate or candidates to all school and special district holding elections in November. As soon as the canvass is completed, the elections official shall prepare a Statement of Vote and send it to the secretary of each participating district. The elections official shall immediately make and deliver to each person elected a certificate of election.</p> <p>This date conflicts with the deadline to certify the election – December 3.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 10551, 10553</p>
<p><b>Dec 3 (E+ 30)</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline to Certify the Election – Submit Statement of Vote to the Board of Supervisors</b></p> <p>No later than this date, the county elections official must complete the canvass, certify its results, and submit it to the board of supervisors. The Board of Supervisors shall declare the nominees or winners for each office and the results of each measure under its jurisdiction. The county elections official shall make and deliver to each person elected a certificate of election.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 15372, 15400-15401</p>

<p><b>5 days after canvass</b></p>	<p><b>Recount May Be Requested</b></p> <p>Within five (5) days after the completion of the official canvass, any voter may request a recount by filing a written request with the Elections official and specifying that candidates and/or measures are to be recounted.</p> <p>The request may specify the order of the precincts for the recount, and the petitioning voter shall, before commencement of each day’s recount, deposit such sum as the official requires to cover costs (approximately \$1008 to \$1804 per day).</p> <p>“Completion of the canvass” shall be presumed to be the time when the elections official signs the certified Statement of Vote.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 15620 – 15634</p>
<p><b>Varies between 10 days to 6 months following the certification of the vote</b></p>	<p><b>Contesting Election</b></p> <p>Any elector of a county, city, or of any political subdivision of either may contest any election held therein for any of the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) That the precinct board or any member thereof was guilty of malconduct.</li> <li>b) That the person who has been declared elected to an office was not, at the time of the election, eligible to that office.</li> <li>c) That the defendant has given to any elector or member of a precinct board any bribe or reward or has offered any bribe or reward for the purpose of procuring his election or has committed any other offense against the elective franchise defined in Division 18 (commencing with Section 18000).</li> <li>d) That illegal votes were cast.</li> <li>e) Eligible voters who attempted to vote in accordance with the laws of the state were denied their right to vote.</li> <li>f) That the precinct board, in conducting the election or in canvassing the returns, made errors sufficient to change the result of the election as to any person who has been declared elected.</li> <li>g) That there was an error in the vote-counting programs or summation of ballot counts.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 16100</p> <p>The contestant shall verify the statement of contest, as provided by Section 446 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and shall file it within the following times after the declaration of the result of the election by the body canvassing the returns thereof:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) In cases other than cases of a tie, where the contest is brought on any of the grounds mentioned in subdivision (c) of Section 16100, six months.</li> <li>b) In all cases of tie, 20 days.</li> <li>c) In cases involving presidential electors, 10 days.</li> <li>d) In all other cases, 30 days.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 16401</p>

<p><b>Dec 4 (E+31)</b></p>	<p><b>Assuming Office – Special Districts</b> Candidates for special districts declared elected or appointed (i.e. as provided in § 10515) take office this date at noon after having taken the oath or posted any bond required by the principal act.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 10554</p>
<p><b>Dec 4 (E+31)</b></p>	<p><b>Statement of Vote to Secretary of State</b> No later than this date the elections official shall send one copy of the Statement of Vote to the Secretary of State.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 15375</p>
<p><b>Dec 7 (E + 34)</b></p>	<p><b>State Senators and State Assemblymembers Assume Office</b> Terms begin the first Monday in December following their election.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CA. Const. Art. IV, §2</p>
<p><b>Dec. 11 (E+38)</b></p>	<p><b>Assuming Office - School and Community College Districts</b> Candidates elected or appointed to the school board take office on this date. Each person elected at a regular biennial governing board member election shall hold office for a term of four years commencing on the second Friday in December next succeeding his or her election. Any member of the governing board of a school district or community college district whose term has expired shall continue to discharge the duties of the office until his or her successor has qualified. The term of the successor shall begin upon the expiration of the term of his or her predecessor.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Education Code § 5017</p>
<p><b>Dec. 11 (E+38)</b></p>	<p><b>Certificates of Election</b> The Secretary of State shall issue certificates of election to persons elected to U.S. Senate, Congress, and legislative offices.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 15503-15504</p>
<p><b>Jan. 3, 2027 (E+61)</b></p>	<p><b>Candidates Elected to Congress Assume Office</b> Terms begin at noon on January 3.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">U.S. Const. 20th Amendment, § 1</p>
<p><b>Jan. 4, 2027 (E+62)</b></p>	<p><b>Candidates Elected to Statewide Office, County Offices, County Supervisors and Judicial Offices Assume Office</b> Terms begin at noon on the first Monday after January 1 succeeding their election for county offices and supervisors. Superior Court Judges and Statewide Constitutional Offices also begin on this date</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Gov. Code § 24200; CA Const. Art. VI, §16 &amp; Art. V, §2</p>
<p><b>Feb 1, 2027*</b> <b>Date Fixed by Law</b></p>	<p><b>Semi-annual Campaign Statement</b> Last day to file semi-annual campaign statements, if required, by all candidates and committees.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Gov. Code §§ 84200, 84218</p>

# Offices on the November 3, 2026 Ballot

## State and Federal Offices – Runoff from the June Primary Election

Office	Jurisdiction	Term
Governor	State	4 years, commencing Jan. 4, 2027
Lieutenant Governor	State	4 years, commencing Jan. 4, 2027
Attorney General	State	4 years, commencing Jan. 4, 2027
Controller	State	4 years, commencing Jan. 4, 2027
Insurance Commissioner	State	4 years, commencing Jan. 4, 2027
Secretary of State	State	4 years, commencing Jan. 4, 2027
State Treasurer	State	4 years, commencing Jan. 4, 2027
State Board of Equalization	2nd District	4 years, commencing Jan. 4, 2027
U.S. Representative in Congress	18 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> Dist.	2 years, commencing Jan. 3, 2027
State Assembly	28 <sup>th</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> Dist.	2 years, commencing Dec. 7, 2026

**Nonpartisan Offices – County Supervisor or County Office will appear on the November ballot if one candidate did not receive 50% +1 of the vote in June; the name of the incumbent Judge who did not appear on the June ballot will appear on the November ballot if a write-in petition is filed.**

Superintendent of Public Instruction	State	4 years, commencing Jan. 4, 2027
County Supervisor	4 <sup>th</sup> District	4 years, commencing Jan. 4, 2027
Supreme Court & Appellate, 6 <sup>th</sup> District, Court Judges	Statewide	12 years, commencing Jan. 4, 2027
County Office	Countywide	4 years, commencing Jan. 4, 2027

In 2023, California's Assembly Bill 759 established six-year terms for elected Sheriffs and District Attorneys and shifted these elections to presidential years to increase voter turnout. The office of District Attorney – Public Administrator and Sheriff-Coroner will be up for election in 2028, and the terms of office will revert to 4 years.

## Candidates to be elected from the following jurisdictions:

(The names of incumbents for the following offices are on file at the County Clerk/Elections Department or on the website at <https://votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov/Home/Publicofficialsroster.aspx>)

<b>Board of Education &amp; Community Colleges</b>			
<b>District</b>	<b>Offices up for election</b>	<b>How elected</b>	<b>Qualifications</b>
Santa Cruz County Board of Education	4 Governing Board Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Term Trustee Areas 1, 2, &amp; 7</li> <li>• Short Term Trustee Area 4</li> </ul>	By Trustee Area	Registered voter of the district residing within the trustee area (Ed. Code §5030, 35107)
Santa Clara County Board of Education	3 Governing Board Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trustee Areas 2<sup>1</sup>, 6 &amp; 7</li> </ul>	By Trustee Area	Registered voter of the district residing within the trustee area (Ed. Code §5030, 35107)
Cabrillo Community College District	4 Governing Board Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Full Term</b> Trustee Areas 1, 2, &amp; 6</li> <li>• <b>Short Term</b> Trustee Area 5</li> </ul>	By Trustee Area	Registered voter of the district residing within the trustee area (Ed. Code §5030, 72103)
West Valley-Mission Community College District	3 Governing Board Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trustee Areas 3, 5<sup>1</sup>, &amp; 7<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	By Trustee Area	Registered voter of the district residing within the trustee area (Ed. Code §5030, 72103)

<sup>1</sup> Includes voters in Santa Cruz County

## Unified/High School Districts

District	Offices up for election	How elected	Qualifications
Aromas-San Juan Unified School District	2 Governing Board Members <sup>2</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trustee Areas 3<sup>3</sup> &amp; 4</li> </ul>	By Trustee Area	Registered voter of the district residing within the trustee area (Ed. Code §5030, 35107)
Los Gatos-Saratoga Union HSD <sup>4</sup>	3 Governing Board Members Trustee Areas 2, 3 <sup>3</sup> , & 4	By Trustee Area	Registered voter of the district residing within the trustee area (Ed. Code §5030, 35107)
Pajaro Valley Unified School District	4 Governing Board Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trustee Areas 1, 4, 5 &amp; 7</li> </ul>	By Trustee Area	Registered voter of the district residing within the trustee area (Ed. Code §5030, 35107)
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District	3 Governing Board Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trustee Areas 1, 2, &amp; 4</li> </ul>	File by Trustee Area Elected at large	Registered voter of the district (Ed. Code §5030, 35107)
Santa Cruz City School District	5 Governing Board Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Full Term</b> Trustee Areas 1, 2, 4, &amp; 5</li> <li><b>Short Term</b> Trustee Area 6</li> </ul>	By Trustee Area	Registered voter of the district residing within the trustee area (Ed. Code §5030, 35107)
Scotts Valley Unified School District	2 Governing Board Members	At large	Registered voter of the district (Ed. Code §5030, 35107)

<sup>2</sup> Includes San Benito (lead) and Monterey counties.

<sup>3</sup> TA 3 includes Santa Cruz County

## Elementary School District

District	Offices up for election	How elected	Qualifications
Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District	3 Governing Board Members	At large	Registered voter of the district (Ed. Code §5030, 35107)
Happy Valley Elementary School District	3 Governing Board Members		
Lakeside Joint Elementary District <sup>4</sup>	3 Governing Board Members		
Live Oak School District	3 Governing Board Members		
Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District <sup>4</sup>	3 Governing Board Members		
Mountain Elementary School District	3 Governing Board Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Full Term</li> <li>• 1 Short Term</li> </ul>		
Pacific School District	3 Governing Board Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Full Term</li> <li>• 1 Short Term</li> </ul>	By Trustee Area	Registered voter of the district residing within the trustee area (Ed. Code §5030, 35107)
Soquel Union Elementary School District	2 Governing Board Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trustee Areas 3 &amp; 4</li> </ul>		

<sup>4</sup> Includes Santa Clara (lead) County.

# Fire Protection District

District	Offices up for election	How elected	Qualifications
Aromas Tri-County Fire <sup>5</sup>	3 Directors	At large	Registered voter of the District. (Health & Safety Code §13841)
Ben Lomond Fire	5 Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Full Term</li> <li>• 2 Short Term</li> </ul>		
Boulder Creek Fire	2 Directors		
Central Fire	2 Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divisions 4 &amp; 5</li> </ul>	By Division	Registered voter of the district residing within the division (Health & Safety Code §13841)
Felton Fire	3 Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Full Term</li> <li>• 1 Short Term</li> </ul>	At large	Registered voter of the district. (Health & Safety Code §13841)
Pajaro Valley Fire	2 Directors		
Scotts Valley Fire	2 Directors		
Zayante Fire	4 Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Full Term</li> <li>• 1 Short Term</li> </ul>		

<sup>5</sup> Includes San Benito and Monterey (lead) Counties

## Water Districts

District	Offices up for election	How elected	Qualifications
Central Water	4 Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Full Term</li> <li>• 1 Short Term</li> </ul>	At large	Registered voter of the district. (Water Code §30500)
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency	2 Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divisions: A &amp; C</li> </ul>	By Division	Registered voter of the division. (Water Code §30735)
San Lorenzo Valley Water	3 Directors	At large	Registered voter of the district. (Water Code §30500)
Scotts Valley Water	3 Directors	At large	
Soquel Creek Water	3 Directors	At large	

## Port District

District	Offices up for election	How elected	Qualifications
Santa Cruz Port District	2 Commissioners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divisions 4 &amp; 5</li> </ul>	By Division	Registered voter of the division. (Harbors & Navigations Code §6240.5)

## Recreation Districts

District	Offices up for election	How elected	Qualifications
Boulder Creek Recreation & Park District	2 Directors	At large	Registered voter of the district or a registered voter of the state who owns property in the district. (Public Resources Code §5783.1, 5784.1)
La Selva Beach Recreation District	2 Directors	At large	

## Miscellaneous Districts

District	Offices up for election	How elected	Qualifications
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District	4 Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wards 1,2,5 &amp; 6<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>	By Ward	Registered voters of the district, residing in the zone
Pajaro Dunes Geologic Hazard Abatement	3 Directors	At large by property owners	Owner of real property in district. (Public Resources Code §5783.3, 5784.1)
Pajaro Valley Health Care District <sup>7</sup>	3 Directors		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zones 1 &amp; 3</li> </ul>	By Zone	Registered voters of the district, residing in the zone.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 short term</li> </ul>	At Large	Registered voters of the district. (Health & Safety Code §32101)
Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District	3 Directors	Appointed by Board of Supervisors pursuant to Resolution No. 96-05-01	Registered voter of the state and <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) reside in the district and either own real property or have served two years or more as an associate director providing advisory assistance to the board.</li> </ol> or <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2) be a designated agent of a resident landowner within the district.</li> </ol> (Public Resources Code §9352)

<sup>6</sup> This district has seven wards that are mostly in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Ward 6 includes a few voters in Santa Cruz County.

<sup>7</sup> Includes Monterey County

## Cities

City	Office	Incumbent	Term	How elected	Qualifications
Capitola (General Law)	3 Council Members	Joe Clarke	4 year	At large	Registered voter of the city.
		Susan Westman			
		Margaux Morgan			
Scotts Valley (General Law)	2 Council Members	Derek Timm	4 year	At large	Registered voter of the city.
		Greg Wimp			
Watsonville (Charter)	Council Member – Dist. 3	Maria Orozco	4 year	File & elected by district	Registered voter of the city, resident of the city and residing within the council district 30 days preceding the opening date for the filing of nomination papers.
	Council Member – Dist. 4	Kristal Salcido			
	Council Member – Dist. 5	Casey K Clark			
	Council Member – Dist. 7	Ari Parker (Termed out)			

# Residence and Domicile

To qualify for most offices, a candidate must be a registered voter of the district or division thereof. The following code sections will assist in determining residence.

## **Elections Code § 349. Residence and Domicile**

“Residence” for voting purposes means a person’s domicile. The domicile of a person is that place in which his or her habitation is fixed, wherein the person has the intention of remaining, and to which, whenever he or she is absent, the person has the intention of returning. At a given time, a person may have only one domicile. The residence of a person is that place in which the person’s habitation is fixed for some period of time, but wherein he or she does not have the intention of remaining. At a given time, a person may have more than one residence. (Added by Stats. 1994)

## **Elections Code § 2020. Term of domicile**

The term of domicile is computed by including the day on which the person's domicile commenced and by excluding the day of the election. (Added by Stats. 1994)

## **Elections Code § 2021. Person away for temporary purposes**

A person who leaves his or her home to go into another state or precinct in this state for temporary purposes merely, with the intention of returning, does not lose his or her domicile.

A person does not gain a domicile in any precinct into which he or she comes for temporary purposes merely, without the intention of making that precinct his or her home. (Added by Stats. 1994)

## **Elections Code § 2022. Move to another state**

If a person moves to another state with the intention of making it his or her domicile, the voter loses his or her domicile in this state. (Added by Stats. 1994)

## **Elections Code § 2023. Move to another state**

If a person moves to another state as a place of permanent residence, with the intention of remaining there for an indefinite time, he or she loses his or her domicile in this state, notwithstanding that he or she intends to return at some future time. (Added by Stats. 1994)

## **Elections Code § 2024. Intention and fact of removal**

The mere intention to acquire a new domicile, without the fact of removal avails nothing, neither does the fact of removal without the intention. (Added by Stats. 1994)

## **Elections Code § 2025. Employment in the service of the United States; Navigation; Institution**

A person does not gain or lose a domicile solely by reason of his or her presence or absence from a place while employed in the service of the United States or of this state, nor while engaged in navigation, nor while a student of any institution of learning, nor while kept in an almshouse, asylum or prison. This section shall not be construed to prevent a student at an institution of learning from qualifying as an elector in the locality where he or she domiciles while attending that institution, when in fact the student has abandoned his or her former domicile. (Added by Stats. 1994)

## **Elections Code § 2026. Domicile of Legislative Member or Congressional Representative**

The domicile of a Member of the Legislature or a Representative in the Congress of the United States shall be conclusively presumed to be at the residence address indicated on that person's currently filed affidavit of registration. (Added by Stats. 1994)

**Elections Code § 2027. Domicile of family; residence in trailer**

The place where a person's family is domiciled is his or her domicile unless it is a place for temporary establishment for his or her family or for transient objects. Residence in a trailer or vehicle or at any public camp or camping ground may constitute a domicile for voting purposes if the registrant complies with the other requirements of this article. (Added by Stats. 1994)

**Elections Code § 2028. Place of family and business**

If a person has a family fixed in one place, and he or she does business in another, the former is his or her place of domicile, but any person having a family, who has taken up an abode with the intention of remaining and whose family does not so reside with him or her, is a domiciliary where he or she has so taken up the abode. (Added by Stats. 1994)

**Elections Code § 2029. Domicile of spouse**

The domicile of one spouse shall not be presumed to be that of the other, but shall be determined independently in accordance with this article. (Added by Stats. 1994)

**Elections Code §2030. Marriage to a person employed in the service of the United States**

A domiciliary of this state who marries a person employed temporarily in this state in the service of the United States government, may elect to retain his or her domicile for the purpose of qualifying as an elector only, except that his or her domicile in this state shall terminate if the domiciliary qualifies as an elector in any other state or any territory. (Added by Stats. 1994)

**Elections Code § 2031. Homeowner's property tax exemption; renter's tax credit; driver's license**

If a person has more than one residence and that person maintains a homeowner's property tax exemption on the dwelling of one of the residences pursuant to Section 218 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the residence subject to the homeowner's property tax exemption is that person's domicile. However, this presumption shall not apply in the event any other residence is listed as the person's current residence address on any driver's license, identification card or vehicle registration issued to that person by, and on file with, the Department of Motor Vehicles.

If a person has more than one residence and that person claims a renter's tax credit for one of the residences pursuant to Section 17053.5 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the residence subject to the renter's tax credit is that person's domicile. However, this presumption shall not apply in the event any other residence is listed as the person's current residence address on any driver's license, identification card, or vehicle registration issued to that person by, and on file with, the Department of Motor Vehicles. This section shall not be applicable to state or federal elected officials. (Added by Stats. 1994)

**Elections Code § 2032. More than one residence**

Except as provided in this article, if a person has more than one residence and that person has not physically resided at any one of the residences within the immediate preceding year, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that those residences in which he or she has not so resided within the immediate preceding year are merely residences as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 349 and not his or her domicile. (Added by Stats. 1994)

### **Elections Code § 2033. Change of house number**

Whenever the house number or the mailing address of a voter has been changed and the voter's domicile is the same, the public agency authorizing the change shall notify the county elections official in writing of the change and the county elections official shall make the change on the voter's affidavit of registration and a new affidavit shall not be required. (Added by Stats. 1994)

### **Elections Code § 2034. Domicile in more than one precinct**

A person domiciled in a house or apartment lying in more than one precinct shall be registered as domiciled in the precinct designated by the county elections official on the basis of the street address or other precinct the county elections official considers appropriate unless the person requests, either by letter or in person at the office of the county elections official, that he or she wishes to be domiciled for registration purposes in another precinct in which his or her house or apartment lies. In order to fulfill the requirements of this section, the letter of request shall include the name, signature, and residence address of the requester. (Added by Stats. 1994)

### **Elections Code § 2035. Voter residence change 14 days prior to an election**

A person duly registered as a voter in any precinct in California who removes therefrom within 14 days prior to an election shall, for the purpose of that election, be entitled to vote in the precinct from which the person so removed until the close of the polls on the date of that election. (Amended by Stats. 2000)

## **Court Cases**

### **Voter Registration and Establishment of Domicile. Walters v. Weed (1988)**

**AKA "UCSC Student Voting Case." 45 Cal.3<sup>rd</sup>.1**

In this California Supreme Court decision, the court held that voters who have moved, but have not established a new domicile, may vote in the precinct of their former domicile even though they have no intention of returning to live there.

### **Homeless Person's Right to Register to Vote.**

**Collier v. Menzel (1985). AKA "Fig Tree Case." 176 Cal. App.3d 24**

In this Court of Appeal decision, the court held that a homeless person may register at a location deemed by the voter to be a dwelling place or place of habitation for that voter. A mailing address needs to be provided for the voter to receive election materials.

# Incompatibility of Offices

The Political Reform Act does not prohibit any office holder from holding multiple public offices or seeking more than one elective office. For example, a deputy district attorney can hold the office of city council member, or a water board director may also be elected to a park and recreation district. There are, however, instances of holding more than one office that are considered incompatible.

There is no single statute that defines “incompatibility of offices”. The common law doctrine of incompatibility of offices, however, prevents an elected official from holding two offices simultaneously ***if the offices have overlapping and conflicting public duties.***

The courts have defined this concept as follows: “One individual may not simultaneously hold two public offices where the functions of the offices concerned are inherently inconsistent, as where there are conflicting interests, or where the nature of the duties of the two offices is such as to render it improper due to considerations of public policy for one person to retain both.”

The State of California Attorney General’s Office has issued many opinions of particular compatibility questions. Here are seven examples of incompatible offices:

1. The offices of city councilman and school district board member where the city and the school district have territory in common;
2. fire chief of a county fire protection district and member of the board of supervisors of the same county;
3. high school district trustee and trustee of an elementary school district which is wholly within the geographic boundaries of the high school district;
4. water district director and a city council member;
5. county board of supervisors member and community college board member;
6. water district director and a school district trustee having territory in common;
7. deputy sheriff and county supervisor; and

If you have a question about whether two public offices which you hold or seek to hold would be considered incompatible, contact the Attorney General’s office at 800-952-5225 or visit their website, [www.oag.ca.gov](http://www.oag.ca.gov). For further information about conflict of interest or incompatibility of offices, contact the Fair Political Practices Commission’s website at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov), or phone toll free 1-866-275-3772.

Elections Code § 8003. Independent nomination of candidates and prohibition against filing for multiple offices.

- (a) (1) A person shall not file nomination papers for more than one office at the same primary election.  
(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), “office” does not include the position of member of a political party’s county central committee.

(b) If a person has filed nomination papers for an office at a primary election and those nomination papers have not been withdrawn pursuant to Section 8020.5, the elections official reject as invalid any nomination papers that the person attempt to file for another office at the same primary election.

# Name & Ballot Designation

## Name on Ballot

The candidate states on the Declaration of Candidacy how his/her name should appear on the ballot. This should be recognizable as the name under which the candidate is registered, though the two need not be identical. Example: A candidate registered as Margaret Ann Smith may use such variations as Margaret A. Smith, Maggie Smith, Meg Smith, or Annie Smith. Nicknames may be designed by parentheses or quotation marks.

If a candidate changes his or her name within one year of any election, the new name shall not appear upon the ballot unless the change was made by either of the following: (a) Marriage; or (b) Decree of any court of competent jurisdiction. Elections Code § 13104

The ballot layout system used in Santa Cruz County accommodates up to a total of 39 characters (letters, spaces, punctuation) to fit in the space provided for a candidate's name and ballot designation. Therefore, candidates are encouraged to comply with that length. If the name or ballot designation selected by the candidate does not fit within the space provided, it will be abbreviated, or the font size will be reduced to fit.

## Ballot Designation - Legislative Requirements - Elections Code § 13107

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

All candidates who want a ballot designation printed under their name must complete a Ballot Designation Worksheet justifying the selected designation and providing alternatives.

### All candidates, except for judges, the following options are available:

- 1) **Elective Office:** Words designating the elective city, county, district, state, or federal office which the candidate holds at the time of filing the nomination documents to which he or she was elected by a vote of the people.
- 2) **Incumbent:** The word "incumbent" if the candidate is a candidate for the same office which he or she holds at the time of filing the nomination papers and was elected to that office by a vote of the people.
- 3) **3-word Profession/Occupation/Vocation:** No more than three words designating either the current principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate, or the principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents.
- 4) **Appointed Incumbent:** The phrase "appointed incumbent" may be used if:
  - a) the candidate holds an office by virtue of appointment, and the candidate is a candidate for the election to the same office, or,
  - b) if the candidate is a candidate for election to the same office or to some other office, the word "appointed" and the title of the office.

In either instance, the candidate may not use the unmodified word "incumbent" or any words designating the office unmodified by the word "appointed." However, the phrase "appointed incumbent" shall not be required of a candidate who seeks reelection to an office which he or she holds and to which he or she was appointed, as a nominated candidate, in lieu of an election.

**Candidates for judicial office may choose from the following options:**

- 1) **Office title:** Words designating the city, county, district, state, or federal office held by the candidate at the time of filing the nomination documents.
- 2) **Incumbent:** The word “incumbent” if the candidate is a candidate for the same office that he or she holds at the time of filing the nomination papers.
- 3) **3-word Profession/Occupation/Vocation:** No more than three words designating either the current principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate, or the principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents.
- 4) **Job title:** For a candidate for judicial office who is an active member of the State Bar employed by a city, county, district, state, or by the United States, the designation shall appear as one of the following:
  - a) Words designating the actual job title, as defined by statute, charter, or other governing instrument.
  - b) One of the following ballot designations: “Attorney,” “Attorney at Law,” “Lawyer,” or “Counselor at Law.” The designations “Attorney” and “Lawyer” may be used in combination with one other current principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate, or the principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents.

For options 1 and 4 above, the candidate shall also contain relevant qualifiers, as follows:

- a) If the candidate is an official or employee of a city, the name of the city shall appear preceded by the words “City of.”
- b) If the candidate is an official or employee of a county, the name of the county shall appear preceded by the words “County of.”
- c) If the candidate is an official or employee of a city and county, the name of the city and county shall appear preceded by the words “City and County.”
- d) If the candidate performs quasi-judicial functions for a governmental agency, the full name of the agency shall be included.

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

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

**Community Volunteer:** A candidate's ballot designation as "community volunteer" shall constitute a valid principal vocation or occupation for purposes of subdivision (a) of Section 13107, if not otherwise in violation of any of the restrictions set forth in that section, and subject to the following conditions:

- 1) A candidate's community volunteer activities constitute his or her principal profession, vocation, or occupation.
- 2) A candidate is not engaged concurrently in another principal profession, vocation, or occupation.

- 3) A candidate may not use the designation of "community volunteer" in combination with any other principal profession, vocation, or occupation designation.

The Secretary of State shall by regulation define what constitutes a community volunteer for purposes of this section. Elections Code §13107.5

## **Titles or Degrees Prohibited**

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

## **Unacceptable Designations**

Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107(e), the Secretary of State and any other election official shall not accept a designation of which any of the following would be true:

- 1) It would mislead the voter.
- 2) It would suggest an evaluation of a candidate, such as outstanding, leading, expert, virtuous, or eminent.
- 3) It abbreviates the word "retired" or places it following any word or words which it modifies.
- 4) It uses a word or prefix, such as "former" or "ex", which means a prior status. The only exception is the use of the word "retired".
- 5) It uses the name of any political party, whether it has qualified for the ballot.
- 6) It uses a word or words referring to a racial, religious, or ethnic group.
- 7) It refers to any activity that is prohibited by law.

## **Rejected Ballot Designations**

If, upon checking the nomination documents and the ballot designation worksheet described in Elections Code § 13107, the elections official finds the designation to be in violation of any of the restrictions set forth in this section, the elections official shall notify the candidate by registered or certified mail return receipt requested, addressed to the mailing address provided on the candidate's ballot designation worksheet.

The candidate shall, within three days, excluding Saturday, Sunday, and state holidays, from the date he or she receives notice by registered or certified mail, or from the date the candidate receives actual notice of the violation, whichever occurs first, appear before the elections official or, in the case of the Secretary of State, notify the Secretary of State by telephone, and provide a designation that complies with subdivision (a) or (b). Elections Code § 13107(f)

If a candidate fails to provide a designation that complies with subdivision (a) or (b) within the three-day period specified in paragraph (1), no designation shall appear after the candidate's name.

Elections Code § 13107.3(c)

## **Ballot Designation May Not be Changed After Filing**

A ballot designation given by a candidate shall not be changed by the candidate after the final date for filing nomination papers, except as specifically requested by the election official.

Elections Code § 13107(g)

## **Ballot Designation in Both Primary and General Elections**

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

### **Format of Name and Ballot Designation**

The ballot system used in Santa Cruz County has the following space limits (letters, spaces, punctuation) for names and ballot designations:

- Names = 39 characters
- Ballot Designations = 39 characters

Candidates are encouraged to comply with the ballot spacing limits. On the paper ballot, names are printed in 9-point uppercase bold and ballot designations are printed in 9 point uppercase and lowercase regular font. Touchscreen ballots are displayed in a larger font and the system allows voters to increase the font size if needed.

If the designation selected is so long that it would conflict with the space requirements of Elections Code §§ 13207 and 13211, the election official shall use a type size for the designation for each candidate for office sufficiently smaller to meet these requirements.

If a foreign language translation of a candidate's designation is required under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.), as amended, to appear on the ballot in addition to the English version, it shall be as short as possible, as consistent as is practicable with Section 13107, and shall employ abbreviations and initials wherever possible in order to avoid undue length.

Elections Code § 13107(j)

### **No Ballot Designation**

A candidate who does not want a ballot designation should indicate this in the space provided for ballot designation on the Declaration of Candidacy, or the space may be left blank. If no designation is given, it will be assumed that none is desired.

### **Ballot Designation Worksheet**

A ballot designation worksheet must be completed at the time of filing. Elections Code § 13107.3 states:

(a) A candidate who submits a ballot designation pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 13107 shall file a ballot designation worksheet that supports the use of that ballot designation by the candidate, in a format prescribed by the Secretary of State.

(b) The ballot designation worksheet shall be filed with the elections official at the same time that the candidate files his or her declaration of candidacy.

(c) In the event that a candidate fails to file a ballot designation worksheet in accordance with subdivision (a), no designation shall appear under the candidate's name on the ballot.

(Amended by Stats. 2009, Ch. 547, Sec. 3. Effective January 1, 2010.)

# Secretary of State - Ballot Designation Regulations

The following are regulations proposed by the Secretary of State and approved by the Office of Administrative Law that went into effect in December 2009. The regulations apply only to state and federal candidates. To be consistent with the state regulations, however, the Santa Cruz County Elections Department will apply these same regulations to candidates running for county, special district and school district offices.

## Chapter 7. Ballot Designations

### 20710. General Provisions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Authority: Section 12172.5, Government Code

Reference: Section 13107, Elections Code

### § 20711. Ballot Designation Worksheet

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

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

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

- (1) The candidate's name, home, business and mailing addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail address, if available, and fax number;
- (2) A designation of the office for which the candidate is seeking election;
- (3) The name, home, business and mailing addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail address, if available, and fax number of the attorney representing the candidate or for any other person to be contacted in the event the Secretary of State requires further information regarding the proposed ballot designation;
- (4) The proposed ballot designation submitted by the candidate;
- (5) The candidate may submit one or more proposed alternate ballot designations ranked in order of the candidate's preference;
- (6) A brief statement identifying the factual basis upon which the candidate claims the proposed ballot designation and each proposed alternate ballot designation, including the following:
  - (A) If the candidate holds elected office and is submitting his or her proposed ballot designation pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivisions (a)(1) or (a)(2), the candidate shall indicate the elective office he or she currently occupies and may attach a copy of his or her Certificate of Election;
  - (B) If the candidate is a judicial officer and is submitting his or her proposed ballot designation pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivisions (a)(1) or (a)(2), the candidate shall indicate the elective office he or she currently holds and may attach either (A) a copy of his or her Certificate of Election or (B) a copy of his or her commission or certificate of appointment, issued at the time the candidate was appointed to the judicial office which he or she currently occupies;
  - (C) If the candidate submits a ballot designation pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3), the candidate shall indicate:
    - (i) The title of the position or positions which he or she claims supports the proposed ballot designation;
    - (ii) The dates during which the candidate held such position;
    - (iii) A description of the work he or she performs in the position;
    - (iv) The name of the candidate's business or employer;
    - (v) The name and telephone number of a person or persons who could verify such information; and
    - (vi) A statement that the professions, vocations or occupations relied upon to support the proposed ballot designation constitute the primary, main or leading professions, vocations or occupations of the candidate, in accordance with the definition of the term "principal" as set forth at § 20714, subdivision (b).
  - (D) If the candidate submits a ballot designation pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(4), the candidate shall indicate the date on which he or she was appointed to the office for which he or she is an appointed incumbent.
- (d) The candidate may attach or append any supporting documents or other exhibits to his or her Ballot Designation Worksheet which he or she believes support his or her proposed ballot designation. Such attached documents or other exhibits shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference as part of the candidate's Ballot Designation Worksheet and shall be considered as such by the Secretary of State.
- (e) If a candidate requests a change of his or her ballot designation pursuant to Elections Code § 13107(e), that request shall be accompanied by a Ballot Designation Worksheet.

Note: Authority cited: Section 12172.5, Government Code  
 Reference: Sections 13107, 13107.3, Elections Code

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Proposed ballot designations indicating a position of legislative leadership or leadership in another elected body, such as "Majority Leader of the California Senate," "Minority Leader of the California State Assembly," "Speaker of the California State Assembly," "President Pro Tempore of the California State Senate," "City of Orange Mayor Pro Tem," and the like, are not elective offices described in Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(1). Such ballot designations are improper, pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(1). They may, however, subject to the three-word limit, be considered under the provisions of § 13107(a)(3). Examples of acceptable ballot designations under this section include, but are not limited to, "Assembly Minority Leader," "California Assembly Speaker," and "Mayor Pro Tem."

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

Note: Authority: Section 12172.5, Government Code

Reference: Section 13107, Elections Code

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Authority Cited: Section 12172.5, Government Code

Reference: Section 13107, Elections Code

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

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

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

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

(2) "Vocation" means a trade, a religious calling, or the work upon which a person, in most but not all

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

designation must comply with the following provisions:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Authority Cited: Section 12172.5, Government Code  
Reference: Sections 9, 13107, Elections Code

### **§ 20714.5. “Community Volunteer”**

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

- (1) A charitable, educational, or religious organization as defined by the United States Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3);
- (2) A governmental agency; or
- (3) An educational institution.

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

Note: Authority Cited: Section 12172.5, Government Code; Section 13107.5(b), Elections Code  
Reference: Section 13107 and 13107.5, Elections Code; Section 501 (c)(3), United States Internal Revenue Code Elections Code

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

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

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

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

Note: Authority cited: Section 12172.5, Government Code  
Reference: Section 13107, Elections Code

### **§ 20716. Unacceptable Ballot Designations**

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

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

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

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

host or hostess and the like.

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

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

(d) A ballot designation may not comprise or include commercial identification information, such as a trademark, service mark, trade name, or the specific name of a business, partnership, corporation, company, foundation, or organization. Examples of an improper use of commercial identification information include, but are not limited to, "Acme Company President," "Universal Widget Inventor," "Director, Smith Foundation," "UCLA Professor," and the like.

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

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

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

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

(2) In evaluating a proposed ballot designation including the word "retired," the Secretary of State will consider the following factors in making a determination as to the propriety of the use of the term "retired":

(A) Prior to retiring from his or her principal profession, vocation or occupation, the candidate worked in such profession, vocation or occupation for more than 5 years;

(B) The candidate is collecting, or eligible to collect, retirement benefits or other type of vested pension;

- (C) The candidate has reached at least the age of 55 years;
- (D) The candidate voluntarily left his or her last professional, vocational or occupational position; and,
- (E) The candidate's retirement benefits are providing him or her with a principal source of income.

(3) If a candidate is requesting a ballot designation that he or she is a retired public official, the candidate must have previously voluntarily retired from public office, not have been involuntarily removed from office, not have been recalled by voters, and not have surrendered the office to seek another office or failed to win reelection to the office. If such a candidate did not voluntarily retire from public office, he or she may not use the word "retired" in his or her ballot designation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Authority cited: Section 12172.5, Government Code.

Reference: Section 13107, Elections Code

### **§ 20717. Requests for Supporting Documentation**

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

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

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

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

Note: Authority cited: Section 12172.5, Government Code

Reference: Section 13107, 13107.3, Elections Code

## **§ 20718. Communication of Decisions Regarding Ballot Designations**

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

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

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

Note: Authority: Section 12172.5, Government Code

Reference: Section 13107, Elections Code

## **§ 20719. Service of Legal Process Regarding Ballot Designations**

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

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

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

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

Note: Authority cited: Section 12172.5, Government Code

Reference: Section 13107, 13314, Elections Code

# Write-In Candidacy for Nonpartisan Office

**Filing Period: September 7 – October 20 (E-57 to E-14)**

## **Write-In Procedure - Elections Code §8600 – 8606**

Persons who did not file a Declaration of Candidacy and fulfill their nomination requirements to place their name on the ballot may run for office as a write-in candidate. Write-in votes will be counted and certified in the Statement of Vote only for **qualified write-in candidates** who file the required forms with the Elections Department no later than 14 days prior to Election Day.

Voters may write-in any person they wish for any office regardless of whether the person has qualified or not. However, the votes will only be tabulated for qualified write-in candidates.

To qualify as a write-in candidate, a person must file with the County Clerk/Elections Department the following documents:

- A “Statement of Write-in Candidacy” which shall contain the candidate's name, residence address, a declaration stating that he or she is a write-in candidate, the title of the office for which he or she is running and the date of the election.
- A “Nomination Paper” with the required number of signers for the office sought. In November, the offices include County Supervisor and City Council.

Signers of nomination papers for write-in candidates shall be voters in the district or political subdivision in which the candidate is to be voted on. §8603

**No filing fee or charge shall be required of a write-in candidate.**

## **Conditions for write-ins from June to be placed on the November ballot**

No person whose name has been written in upon a ballot for an office at the direct primary may have his or her name placed upon the ballot as a candidate for that office for the ensuing general election unless one of the following is applicable:

(a) At that direct primary he or she received, for a partisan office, votes equal in number to 1 percent of all votes cast for the office at the last preceding general election at which the office was filled. In the case of an office that has not appeared on the ballot since its creation, the requisite number of votes shall equal 1 percent of the number of all votes cast for the office that had the least number of votes in the most recent general election in the jurisdiction in which the write-in candidate is seeking office.

(b) He or she is an independent nominee for a partisan office pursuant to Part 2 (commencing with Section 8300).

(c) At that direct primary he or she received for a voter-nominated office the highest number of votes cast for that office or the second highest number of votes cast for that office, except as provided by subdivision (b) of Section 8142 or Section 8807. § 8605

Write-in candidates are subject to the same requirements as other candidates with regard to disclosure of economic interests and campaign disclosure. Gov. Code §82007; §305

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person may not be a write-in candidate at the general election for a voter-nominated office. §8606

**The Elections Department will provide polling places with a list of qualified write-in candidates.**

## **Offices Omitted From Ballot**

Prospective write-in candidates should note that write-in candidacy is possible only if the office appears on the ballot. (2 CCR § 20102)

In November, write-ins are not allowed for the following offices: US Congress, State Senate, State Assembly. Elections Code § 8606

If there is an insufficient number of nominees for a school or special district, the contest will not appear on the ballot.

Unopposed Superior Court Judges will not appear on the November ballot. However, there is provision in the law to require that the office be placed on the ballot by means of a petition procedure. Elections Code § 8203

# Candidate Statement of Qualifications

## Do Not Refer to Another Candidate in Your Statement - Elections Code § 13308

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

## Candidate Statements for Legislative Candidates

Legislative candidates who choose to keep their campaign spending under specified dollar limits, may buy space in the voter information portion of the county sample ballot for a 250-word candidate statement. (Government Code section 85601(c)). The deadline to file legislative candidate statements for the November 3, 2026 Election is Friday, August 7, 2026 (E-88).

## Overview

- Each candidate for nonpartisan elective office in any local agency, including any city, county, or district as well as candidates for state legislative office who qualify under Proposition 34 may prepare a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications.
- Candidates running for the U.S. House of Representatives may buy space in the county voter information pamphlet for a 250-word candidate statement. (§ 13307.5)
- All Candidates eligible to file a statement must file a "Candidate's Statement Agreement" along with their statement.
- The Candidate's Statement is designed to acquaint voters with the candidate's qualifications for the office he or she is seeking.
- Statements must be printed in English. (§ 7)
- Candidates may pay to have their statement translated into one or more of the following languages: **Japanese, Spanish, and Thai**. All statements must be submitted in English. Bilingual or multilingual statements, including English combined with Japanese, Spanish, or Thai will not be accepted.

## Statements Printed & Online or Online only

- **Printed & Online:** If the candidate pays for a printed statement, it will be included in the County Voter Information Guide produced by the Santa Cruz County Elections Department and mailed to all registered voters in the district. The statement will also be posted on our website.
- County Voter Information Guides will only be mailed to voters who are registered to vote 29 days before the election. The voters who submit voter registration cards after this date, but by the 15-day registration deadline, will **NOT** receive a County Voter Information Guide, only a notice advising the late registrant where to vote and that he/she will not receive a County Voter Information Guide. (§ 9094, 13303)
- **Online Only:** If the candidate opts for an electronic statement only, it will be posted on our website, but it will not be printed in the County Voter Information Guide.

# Candidate's Statement – Filing Information

<b>Period for Filing:</b>	<p><b>July 13 – August 7 by 5pm.</b> The statement must be paid for and filed with the Declaration of Candidacy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§§ 13307(a)(2), 13307(d)</p>
<b>Extended Period:</b>	<p>If the Nomination filing period is extended, then all persons, other than the incumbent, have until <b>August 12 by 5pm</b> in which to file their Candidate's Statement along with their Declaration of Candidacy.</p>
<b>Where:</b>	<p>County Clerk/Elections Department, 701 Ocean Street, Room 310, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, 831-454-2060. Regular office hours – 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Candidate Statements cannot be filed by FAX pursuant to Secretary of State Guidelines.</p>
<b>Contents:</b>	<p>The statement contains the candidate's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• name</li> <li>• age (optional)</li> <li>• occupation (optional), and</li> <li>• a brief description of no more than 200 words (unless 400 has been authorized by the governing board) or 250 for Congress, State Senate and State Assembly candidates, of the candidate's education and qualifications expressed by the candidate. Candidates are advised to write in the first person using "I" pronouns instead of "he/she"</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 13307(a)(1)</p>
<b>Restrictions:</b>	<p>The candidate's statement shall not include the party affiliation of the candidate nor membership or activity in partisan political organizations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 13307(a) (1)</p>
<b>Confidentiality:</b>	<p>Statements remain confidential until 5pm on the last day to file.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 13311</p>
<b>Withdrawal:</b>	<p>Statements <i>may not</i> be changed but may be withdrawn no later than 5pm on <b>August 10</b>. If there is an extended filing time, no later than 5pm on <b>August 13</b>.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 13307(a)(3)</p>
<b>Payment:</b>	<p>Estimated cost for printing a candidate's statement in the County Voter Information Guide or posting online shall be paid at the time of filing the statement with the Declaration of Candidacy. Checks are made payable to the County Clerk.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">§ 13307(d)</p>

# Candidate's Statement – Content, Size & Format

## Content

- Be accurate. Proof your statement! **Documents will be printed as submitted.** Spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors will **not** be corrected by the Elections Department.
- Please **type** your candidate statement. **DO NOT USE ALL CAPS.** Statements will be rejected if they are typed in all capital letters or if the statement is not readable.
- In addition to filing a hard copy, Santa Cruz County requires candidates to submit their statements in a readable electronic format, otherwise the candidate will be charged an extra \$100. If there is a discrepancy between the content of the hard copy and the content in the electronic format, **the hard copy content will prevail.**
- Candidates for nonpartisan offices shall not include the party affiliation of the candidate nor membership or activity in partisan political organizations. §13307(a)(1)
- No statement shall contain any false, slanderous or libelous statements. §13307(e)
- In addition to the restrictions set forth in Section 13307, any candidate's statement submitted pursuant to Section 13307 shall be limited to a recitation of the candidate's own personal background and qualifications, and shall not in any way make reference to other candidates for that office or to another candidate's qualifications, character, or activities. The elections official shall not cause to be printed, posted on an Internet website, or circulated any statement that the elections official determines is not so limited or that includes any reference prohibited by this section. §13308
- The heading includes the candidate's name, followed by a line for additional candidate information. These are standardized headings and are included in the quarter page space provided. The words, however, do not count toward the number of words allowed for the statement.
- Subheadings and deviations from the standardized heading will not be accepted.
- If a candidate provides an occupation in the Candidate Info line, candidates are advised that it should be similar to the ballot designation provided for the ballot. However, it is not governed by the laws and regulations pertaining to the ballot designation.

## Size

- Candidates for Superior Court Judge, County Offices, County Supervisor, Special Districts and School Districts are limited to **200 words.**
- Candidates for U. S. Representative, State Senate and State Assembly are limited to **250 words.**
- See guidelines on "How to Count Words" on page 63.

## Format

- Candidates are encouraged to limit your statement to 3 paragraphs.
- All text will be formatted flush left – no indents will be allowed.
- On the line below the candidate's name, candidates may provide their occupation, phone number, email, website address, and/or age, if it fits on one line.
- Statements are printed in the county Voter Information Guide in type of uniform size, darkness and spacing. Santa Cruz County uses 9-point ClearViewADA font.
- **Bolding**, CAPITALIZING, underlining, bullets and centering text are not permitted. If the statement contains any bolding, capitalizing (other than abbreviations or acronyms), underlining, and centering of text, the text will be converted to normal text without these attributes.
- Limited use of *italics* is permitted.

# The Printed Candidate's Statement

Below is an example of a 200-word Candidate's Statement of Qualifications, as it will appear in the county Voter Information Guide and online at [votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov](http://votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov)

## Chris Candidate

Teacher                      831-454-2060                      [info@vote4Chris.com](mailto:info@vote4Chris.com)                      [www.vote4Chris.com](http://www.vote4Chris.com)                      Age: 42

I can bring to the office a diversity of viewpoints and experience. Born and raised in the Monterey Bay Area, with my family still farming, I can appreciate the concerns of the environmentalist. On the other hand, having been in business since my undergraduate days at UCSC, and with my experience in the rental and real estate fields, I appreciate the practical housing requirements of our community.

My credentials include: Graduate of local high schools, UCSC graduate with a B.S. and MBA; US Air Force sergeant; married and parent of 2; small business owner; homeowner. In addition, I have either served or am serving in the following clubs and organizations: Rotary; Chamber of Commerce; Sierra Club; PTA; Arts Council; Rock the Vote; and League of Women Voters. If elected to this office, I will do my best to continue to serve as a leader and role model for our community and children. Vote for Chris Candidate.

## Chris Candidate

Profesor                      831-454-2060                      [info@vote4Chris.com](mailto:info@vote4Chris.com)                      [www.vote4Chris.com](http://www.vote4Chris.com)                      Edad: 42

Puedo traer a la oficina una diversidad de puntos de vista y experiencia. Nacido y criado en el área de la Bahía de Monterey, con mi familia todavía en la agricultura, puedo apreciar las preocupaciones del ambientalista. Por otro lado, habiendo estado en el negocio desde mis días de estudiante en UCSC, y con mi experiencia en los campos de alquiler e inmobiliario, aprecio los requisitos prácticos de vivienda de nuestra comunidad.

Mis credenciales incluyen: Graduado de escuelas secundarias locales, graduado de UCSC con un B.S. y MBA; Sargento de la Fuerza Aérea de los Estados Unidos; casado y padre de 2; propietario de un pequeño negocio; dueño de casa. Además, he servido o estoy sirviendo en los siguientes clubes y organizaciones: Rotary; Cámara de Comercio; Sierra Club; PTA; Consejo de las Artes; Rock el voto; y League of Women Voters. Si soy elegido para esta oficina, haré todo lo posible para continuar sirviendo como líder y modelo a seguir para nuestra comunidad y nuestros niños.

# The Online Candidate's Statement

## Chris Candidate

Teacher                      831-454-2060                      [info@vote4Chris.com](mailto:info@vote4Chris.com)                      [www.vote4Chris.com](http://www.vote4Chris.com)                      Age: 42

I can bring to the office a diversity of viewpoints and experience. Born and raised in the Monterey Bay Area, with my family still farming, I can appreciate the concerns of the environmentalist. On the other hand, having been in business since my undergraduate days at UCSC, and with my experience in the rental and real estate fields, I appreciate the practical housing requirements of our community.

My credentials include: Graduate of local high schools, UCSC graduate with a B.S. and MBA; US Air Force sergeant; married and parent of 2; small business owner; homeowner. In addition, I have either served or am serving in the following clubs and organizations: Rotary; Chamber of Commerce; Sierra Club; PTA; Arts Council; Rock the Vote; and League of Women Voters. If elected to this office, I will do my best to continue to serve as a leader and role model for our community and children. Vote for Chris Candidate.

## Chris Candidate

Profesor                      831-454-2060                      [info@vote4Chris.com](mailto:info@vote4Chris.com)                      [www.vote4Chris.com](http://www.vote4Chris.com)                      Edad: 42

Puedo traer a la oficina una diversidad de puntos de vista y experiencia. Nacido y criado en el área de la Bahía de Monterey, con mi familia todavía en la agricultura, puedo apreciar las preocupaciones del ambientalista. Por otro lado, habiendo estado en el negocio desde mis días de estudiante en UCSC, y con mi experiencia en los campos de alquiler e inmobiliario, aprecio los requisitos prácticos de vivienda de nuestra comunidad.

Mis credenciales incluyen: Graduado de escuelas secundarias locales, graduado de UCSC con un B.S. y MBA; Sargento de la Fuerza Aérea de los Estados Unidos; casado y padre de 2; propietario de un pequeño negocio; dueño de casa. Además, he servido o estoy sirviendo en los siguientes clubes y organizaciones: Rotary; Cámara de Comercio; Sierra Club; PTA; Consejo de las Artes; Rock el voto; y League of Women Voters. Si soy elegido para esta oficina, haré todo lo posible para continuar sirviendo como líder y modelo a seguir para nuestra comunidad y nuestros niños. Vote por Chris Candidate.

# Cost of the Candidate's Statement

## Candidate statements must be submitted in an electronic format, or pay \$100 extra!!

The Elections Department encourages candidates to submit their statements on a memory disk or send via e-mail to [tricia.webber@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:tricia.webber@santacruzcountyca.gov)

- ONE signed hard copy must be filed by the deadline.
- Format all text flush left and execute and save italics within the file.
- Santa Cruz County requires candidates to submit their statement in a readable electronic format, otherwise the candidate will be charged an extra \$100.

**Payment:** The statement may be paid for by check made payable to the County Clerk or cash if the candidate is using personal funds and will not be reimbursed through the committee. The fee shall be paid at the time candidates file their Declarations of Candidacy if the candidate wants to have a statement printed in the county Voter Information Guide.

If the Candidate's Statement is withdrawn by 5pm on August 10 (or by August 13 if there is an extension) the fee will be refunded in full.

**Printing in Japanese, Spanish, or Thai:** Santa Cruz County is **not** required to print statements in Japanese, Spanish, or Thai; therefore, any candidate wishing their statement to be printed in Japanese, Spanish or Thai in Santa Cruz County's Voter Information Guide will be required to pay \$150 additional for Spanish, \$450 additional for Japanese and \$450 additional for Thai.

Statements must be printed in English. Elections Code §7

A facsimile copy of the ballot with the ballot measures and ballot instructions printed in Japanese, Spanish and Thai will be available at each polling place on Election Day and upon request by voters at no additional expense to the candidate. (§ 14201)

### Overlapping Districts

**Important notice to candidates in districts that encompass more than one county.** Procedures, requirements, fees, formats, and public examination periods for candidates' 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. Candidates' statements shall be filed in each county by the candidate.

Candidates' statements submitted in accordance with § 13307 shall be filed with the county elections official, who shall cause the county Voter Information Guide, if any is required, to be mailed. § 10540

**U. S. Representative, State Legislative and County Offices** – 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.

***It is strongly recommended that the candidate file the statement personally.*** 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.

**Cost Formula:** The cost of the Candidate’s Statement is based on a quarter page for 200-word statements or half page for 250-word statements.

- For a 200-word statement printed in the county Voter Information Guide and posted online, the fee is \$320, plus \$.03 per voter in the district for printing and mailing the voter guide.
- For a 250-word statement printed in the county Voter Information Guide and posted online, the fee is \$320, plus \$.03 per voter in the district for printing and mailing the voter guide.
- Candidates who do not submit their statement in a readable electronic format will pay \$100 extra.
- The optional Spanish statement will be \$150 extra.
- The optional statement in Japanese will be \$450 extra.
- The optional statement in Thai will be \$450 extra.

Registration figures are based on the Apr 8, 2026 registration report. If candidates are authorized by the jurisdiction to submit statements containing 400 words, the cost will be double.

**Estimated costs!** The costs listed on pages 56 to 62 are estimates only. Per Elections Code 13307(d), the Elections Department will compute the actual costs for printing, handling, mailing, translating (if applicable) and distributing each Candidate’s Statement by December 3, 2026 (E+30). Each candidate will receive an invoice for the balance due or a refund of the overpayment.

**Online statements only:** For nonpartisan offices ONLY, the governing body may authorize candidates to submit a statement to be posted online for \$320. Online statements are not printed in the county Voter Information Guide. The guide will contain a statement that will alert voters that additional statements are available on the Elections Department’s website at [www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov](http://www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov)

**Public Examination:** Candidate statements are available for public examination in the county elections official’s office for a period of 10 calendar days immediately following the filing deadline for submission of those documents. During this period any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is to be held, or the county election 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. § 13313

## Congressional Offices

District	Registered Voters (4/2026)	Cost of Statement (250 words)
U. S. Representative in Congress, 18th District (Includes Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, Fresno & Kings counties)	31,756	\$1,273
U. S. Representative in Congress, 19th District (Includes Monterey, San Luis Obispo & Santa Clara counties)	141,719	\$4,572

## State Legislative Offices

District	Registered Voters (4/2026)	Cost of Statement (250 words)
State Assembly, 28 <sup>th</sup> District (includes Santa Clara County)	83,432	\$2,823
State Assembly, 29th District (Includes San Benito, Monterey, & Santa Clara counties)	36,169	\$1,405
State Assembly, 30th District (Includes San Luis Obispo & Monterey counties)	53,874	\$1,936

## County Offices

District	Registered Voters (4/2026)	Cost of Statement (200 words)	Cost of Online only (200 words)
County Board of Supervisors, District 4	25,118	\$1,074	\$320

## Board of Education & Community College

District	Registered Voters (4/2026)	Cost of Statement (200 words)	Cost of Online only (200 words)
Santa Cruz County Board of Ed., TA 1	29,539	\$1,206	\$320
Santa Cruz County Board of Ed., TA 2	26,694	\$1,121	\$320
Santa Cruz County Board of Ed., TA 4	27,906	\$1,157	\$320
Santa Cruz County Board of Ed., TA 7	17,010	\$830	\$320
Santa Clara County Board of Ed., TA 2 <sup>1</sup>	3,774	\$433	\$320
Cabrillo Community College, TA 1	29,785	\$1,214	\$320
Cabrillo Community College, TA 2	27,388	\$1,142	\$320
Cabrillo Community College, TA 5	16,900	\$827	\$320
Cabrillo Community College, TA 6	29,980	\$1,219	\$320
West-Valley Mission Community College, TA 5 <sup>1</sup>	1,604	\$368	\$320
West-Valley Mission Community College, TA 7 <sup>1</sup>	2,132	\$384	\$320

<sup>1</sup> Santa Clara is the lead county. Includes registered voters in Santa Cruz County.

## Unified/High School Districts

District	Registered Voters (4/2026)	Cost of Statement (200 words)	Cost of Online only (200 words)
Aromas-San Juan Unified School – TA 3 <sup>2</sup>	93	\$323	\$320
Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School—TA 3 <sup>1</sup>	3,797	\$434	\$320
Pajaro Valley Unified School –TA 1	12,373	\$691	\$320
Pajaro Valley Unified School –TA 4	6,438	\$513	\$320
Pajaro Valley Unified School –TA 5	7,270	\$538	\$320
Pajaro Valley Unified School –TA 7	11,763	\$673	\$320
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School – TA 1 <sup>3</sup>	18,340	\$870	\$320
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School – TA 2 <sup>3</sup>			
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School – TA 4 <sup>3</sup>			
Santa Cruz City School – TA 1	8,248	\$567	\$320
Santa Cruz City School – TA 2	10,407	\$632	\$320
Santa Cruz City School – TA 4	13,239	\$717	\$320
Santa Cruz City School – TA 5	12,771	\$703	\$320
Santa Cruz City School – TA 6	11,486	\$665	\$320
Scotts Valley Unified School	14,087	\$743	\$320

<sup>2</sup> San Benito is the lead county. Includes San Benito and Monterey counties

<sup>3</sup> Filed by Trustee Area, elected at large. Total number of registered voters in the San Lorenzo Valley USD

## Elementary School Districts

District	Registered Voters (4/2026)	Cost of Statement (200 words)	Cost of Online only (200 words)
Bonny Doon Union Elementary School	2,237	\$387	\$320
Happy Valley Elementary School	1,241	\$357	\$320
Lakeside Joint Elementary	886	\$347	\$320
Live Oak School	15,014	\$770	\$320
Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School	2,911	\$407	\$320
Mountain Elementary School	1,133	\$354	\$320
Pacific School	415	\$332	\$320
Soquel Union Elementary School – TA 3	4,059	\$442	\$320
Soquel Union Elementary School – TA 4	4,051	\$442	\$320

## Fire Protection Districts

District	Registered Voters (4/2026)	Cost of Statement (200 words)	Cost of Online only (200 words)
Aromas Tri-County Fire <sup>4</sup>	93	\$323	\$320
Ben Lomond Fire	3,936	\$438	\$320
Boulder Creek Fire	6,794	\$524	\$320
Central Fire – Division 4	10,738	\$642	\$320
Central Fire – Division 5	11,673	\$670	\$320
Felton Fire	4,669	\$460	\$320
Pajaro Valley Fire	9,222	\$597	\$320
Scotts Valley Fire	16,279	\$808	\$320
Zayante Fire	2,636	\$399	\$320

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<sup>4</sup> Monterey is lead county. Includes voters in Monterey and San Benito counties

## Water Districts

District	Registered Voters (4/2026)	Cost of Statement (200 words)	Cost of Online only (200 words)
Central Water	2,338	\$390	\$320
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency – Division A	12,618	\$699	\$320
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency – Division C	10,324	\$630	\$320
San Lorenzo Valley Water	17,953	\$859	\$320
Scotts Valley Water	7,959	\$559	\$320
Soquel Creek Water	29,122	\$1,194	\$320

## Miscellaneous Districts

District	Registered Voters (4/2026)	Cost of Statement (200 words)	Cost of Online only (200 words)
Santa Cruz Port District – District 4	11,822	\$675	\$320
Santa Cruz Port District – District 5	13,620	\$729	\$320
Boulder Creek Recreation & Park District	6,746	\$522	\$320
La Selva Beach Recreation District	1,343	\$360	\$320
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District <sup>5</sup> – Ward 6	4	\$320	\$320
Pajaro Dunes Geologic Hazard Abatement	TBD	TBD	\$320
Pajaro Valley Health Care District	44,636	\$1,659	\$320
Pajaro Valley Health Care District – Zone 1	TBD		\$320
Pajaro Valley Health Care District – Zone 3	TBD		\$320
Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District	Appointed by Board of Supervisors. Res. No. 96-05-01	N/A	N/A

<sup>5</sup> This district has wards in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Only Ward 6 includes Santa Cruz County.

## Cities

District	Registered Voters (4/2026)	Cost of Statement (200 words)	Cost of Online only (200 words)
Capitola	7,069	\$532	\$320
Scotts Valley	9,090	\$593	\$320
Watsonville – District 3	3,799	\$434	\$320
Watsonville – District 4	3,550	\$427	\$320
Watsonville – District 5	3,045	\$411	\$320
Watsonville – District 7	4,406	\$452	\$320

# How to Count Words

Elections Code § 9 shall not apply to counting words for ballot designations.

## Each word is counted as one word except:

**Punctuation:** Punctuation is not counted.

**Required Titles:** Words used in the title of arguments, rebuttals, and analyses, such as "Argument in Favor of Measure A" are not counted. All words used in the 75-word ballot question are counted except for the letter designating the measure. Words used in the heading of a candidate's statement, including the office title, candidate's name, occupation and age are not counted.

**Proper Nouns & Geographical names:** All proper nouns, including geographical names, shall be counted as one word. For example, "Pajaro Valley Unified School District" shall be counted as one word.

**Abbreviations:** Each abbreviation for a word, phrase, or expression shall be counted as one word.

**Hyphenations:** Hyphenated words that appear in any generally available dictionary shall be considered as one word. Each part of all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word.

**Dates:** Dates shall be counted as one word regardless of how they are written (1/1/2024 or January 1, 2024).

**Numbers:** Any number consisting of a digit or digits shall be considered as one word. Any number that is spelled, shall be considered as a separate word. "100" shall be counted as one word, whereas "one hundred" shall be counted as two words.

**Phone & Internet:** Web site addresses and telephone numbers shall be counted as one word.

**Percent Signs (%), Number Signs (#), etc.:** It is department policy to count numbers consisting of a digit or digits used with a dollar sign (\$), cent sign (¢), percentage sign (%), or number sign (#) as one word.

# Registration and Election Data

## Confidential Voter File

Pursuant to Elections Code Sections 2187, 2188 and 2194, voter registration information is available to persons or groups for election, scholarly, journalistic or political purposes, or governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State. Each written request to view, purchase, or use voter registration information must be submitted in person and with identification on an application available at the Santa Cruz County Elections Department.

## Permissible Usage

The California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 7, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 19003, specifies permissible uses for any data obtained from voter registration files.

(a) Voter registration information obtained from a source agency shall be used solely for the following purposes:

(1) Election: for any person to communicate with voters in connection with an election by means that shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

(A) Communicating with voters for or against any candidate or ballot measure in any election;

(B) Communicating with voters regarding the circulation or support of, or opposition to, any recall, initiative, or referendum petition;

(C) Surveying voters in connection with any specific election campaign or specific potential election campaign in which any voter registered to vote may vote;

(D) Surveying voters in connection with an election-related exploratory committee;

(E) Soliciting contributions or services as part of any election campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office or any political party or in support of or opposition to any ballot measure, initiative, or referendum petition.

(2) Scholarly: students working on theses, professors researching voting patterns, and other academics involved in research related to political or election activities.

(3) Journalistic: members of the press for any purpose related to political or election activities.

(4) Political: for any person to communicate with voters to influence public opinion related to political or election activities. The content of such communications shall include, but shall not be limited to: news and opinions of candidates, elections, education related to political matters, political party developments, ballot measures, initiatives, referendum positions, and related political matters.

(5) Governmental: Any request from a governmental agency or for a use related to a governmental function by means including, but not limited to:

(A) Encouraging participation in the United States Census;

(B) Conducting any survey of opinions of voters by any government agency or its contractors;

(C) Any official use by any local, state, or federal governmental agency, which shall include use in connection with any judicial proceeding or investigation involving or being conducted by any local, state, or federal governmental agency.

(6) Record review: For any person to conduct an audit of voter registration lists for election, scholarly, journalistic, political, or governmental purposes. Record review includes, but California Secretary of State – Proposed Regulatory Action Access to Voter Registration Information: Final Regulation Text Page 3 of 9 is not limited to, detecting voter registration fraud, evaluating voter registration

information accuracy, and evaluating compliance with applicable Federal and California laws.

(7) Vendor: By any vendor to compile and/or organize voter registration information for another person's use consistent with this Article.

b) Requests for voter registration information for a purpose not specifically listed in subdivision (a), and not prohibited by section 19004, shall be evaluated for compliance with the Elections Code by the source agency.

(c) A source agency shall review each application for compliance with the Elections Code and this Article independent of decisions made on other applications.

Note: Authority cited: Section 2188.2, Elections Code; Sections 6254.4 and 12172.5, Government Code. Reference: Sections 2188 and 2194, Elections Code.

## **Prohibited Usage**

(a) Using voter registration information in a manner contrary to the authorized uses specified in Elections Code section 2194 is impermissible. Impermissible uses include, but shall not be limited to:

(1) Any communication for any personal, private, or commercial purpose other than for those purposes permitted by Section 19003.

(2) Solicitation of contributions or services for any personal, private, or commercial purpose.

(3) Conducting any survey of opinions of voters other than for those purposes permitted by Section 19003, subdivision (a).

(4) Using the voter registration information to harass any voter or the voter's household, including, but not limited to, any conduct prohibited by Elections Code sections 18540 and 18543.

(b) Voter registration information shall not be sent outside of the United States, as specified in Elections Code section 2188.5.

(c) Notwithstanding section 19003, a source agency may reject a request for voter registration information based on a reasonable belief or determination that it is being requested for use in a manner prohibited by law, including, but not limited to, uses contrary to the prohibitions or authorized uses specified in Elections Code sections 2188.5 and 2194 or that is contrary to Elections Code section 10. An impermissible purpose may include requests for voter registration information for an impermissible purpose submitted for fraudulent purposes or in bad faith or for the purpose of harassing or defrauding a person or entity. In such instances, the source agency shall provide the applicant its reasons for refusal. An applicant whose application is rejected shall not be prohibited from filing a new application.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 2188.2 and 2188.5, Elections Code; Sections 6254.4 and 12172.5, Government Code. Reference: Sections 2188 and 2194, Elections Code.

California Elections Code § 18109 states:

(a) It is a misdemeanor for a person in possession of information identified in Section 2138.5, or obtained pursuant to Article 5 (commencing with Section 2183) of Chapter 2 of Division 2 of this code or Section 7924.000 of the Government Code, knowingly to use or permit the use of all or any part of that information for any purpose other than as permitted by law.

(b) It is a misdemeanor for a person knowingly to acquire possession or use of voter registration information from the Secretary of State or a county elections official without first complying with Section 2188.

# Election Data for Sale



**You Want It When?** Orders will be completed within 2 working days except for vote-by-mail voter information if previously requested to be received daily.

## \$\$Payment must be made in advance of any purchase.

Customers may set up an account with the Elections Department by writing a check for a specific dollar amount. The check will be deposited the next business day. Purchases will then be subtracted from that amount until the cap is reached. If total purchases are less than the amount of the original check, candidates will be reimbursed for the difference.

Item	Unit	Cost
<b>Walking Lists</b> These lists are by consolidated voting precinct, in alphabetical order by street. (Elections Code §2184)	Per 1,000 names	50 cents
<b>Printed Voter Indexes by Street or Alpha</b> Special order computer jobs (other than the 54 or 29-day indexes) can be requested at any time. Indexes can be sorted by street or alphabetical by voter's name.	First 15,000 names	\$50
	15,001 – 50,000 names	\$100
	50,001 + names	\$150
<b>Voter Lists on CD</b> Special order computer jobs, including vote-by-mail voters, can be requested at any time. Indexes can be sorted by street or alphabetical by voter's name, and may include voter history.	Under 50,000 records	\$50
	50,000 to 100,000 records	\$100
	100,000 records or more	\$150
<b>Mailing Labels of Voters or Households</b>	Please check with the Elections Department for pricing and availability.	

<p><b>Maps</b></p> <p>The county GIS Department produces computer-generated maps. Maps are available for purchase or viewing in the Elections Department during regular office hours. For precinct and district maps, please visit our website at <a href="http://www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov">www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov</a></p> <p><u>Individual precinct maps:</u> These maps are 8 1/2" x 11" with one general registration precinct per page. Maps cost 75¢ each and 390 maps comprise Santa Cruz County.</p>	Each map	\$1
<p><u>Supervisorial maps:</u> 11" x 17" map of each supervisorial district.</p>	Each map	\$5
<p><u>Countywide and district maps:</u> Various other wall-size maps of districts and the county are also available. Maps measure approximately 33" x 43".</p> <p>If the map you want is not available, contact GIS at 831-454-3125.</p>	Each map	\$56
<p><b>Vote-by-Mail Voter Printout</b></p> <p>A daily list of who has requested, issued and then returned a vote-by-mail ballot may be purchased.</p>	First page	\$10
	Each additional page	\$2.50
<p><b>Photocopying</b></p> <p>Copies of candidate's campaign reporting documents (Forms 410, 460, etc.) are available.</p> <p>An additional \$5 retrieval fee is charged if the item requested is more than five (5) years old. (Gov. Code §81008)</p>	Each page	10 cents
<p>Photocopying of all other items:</p>	Each of the first five (5) pages	\$1
	Each additional page	10 cents
<p><b>Research Fee</b></p>	Per Hour	\$50

# Voter Registration

## Online Voter Registration

Voters can register to vote online at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>. The website is accessible and available in nine languages plus English.

The deadline to register or re-register to vote for any election is 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time on the 15th calendar day before that election. If voters submit an application after this time, they will need to follow procedures for voting after the deadline (see Conditional Voter Registration).

To register to vote online, voters will need:

- Their California driver license or California identification card number,
- The last four digits of their social security number and
- Their date of birth.

The voter's information will be provided to the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to retrieve a copy of their DMV signature.

If they do not have a California driver license or California identification card, voters can still use the online form to apply to register to vote by completing the online interview by 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time on the 15th calendar day before an election.

## Conditional Voter Registration

Voters who missed the voter registration deadline can still register and vote - up to and including Election Day at the Santa Cruz County Elections Office, Watsonville City Clerk's Office, and other locations designated by the County Clerk. Check [votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov](http://votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov) for a list of the locations in Santa Cruz County.

It's a simple, two-step process:

1. Voters will fill out a paper or online voter registration form.
2. Voters then vote, seal their ballot in a special envelope, and sign the envelope.

Ballots will be counted after the elections official verifies the voter's registration and confirms that they have not already voted in the election.

## Voter Registration Drives

Candidates and/or committees wishing to distribute voter registration cards may obtain cards in English/Spanish from the Elections Department during regular office hours.

For any quantity of 50 or more, the individual requesting the cards must fill out an application for distribution and obtain a "Guide to Registering Voters" from elections staff in the Elections Department. For quantities of 2,000 or more, the application for distribution form is transmitted to the Secretary of State's Office. (California Administrative Code § 20001g)

**Citizens or organizations which distribute voter registration cards shall give a voter registration card to any person requesting it.**

Completed cards must be returned to the Elections Department within 3 business days or by close of registration. Failure to do so is a misdemeanor.

## Registering to vote at E-29 versus E-15

The law allows voters to register up until the 15th day before the election – October 19, 2026. Voters who submit their voter registration cards by the 29th day before the election, **October 5, 2026**, (postmark **not acceptable**) will be added to the rolls, and the voters will receive the County Voter Information Guide.

Voters who submit cards after this date will **NOT** receive a County Voter Information Guide, only a notice advising the late registrant that he/she will not receive the County Guide. The notice will also inform the voters of where they can vote on Election Day. (Elections Code §§ 2102, 13303)

# Provisional Voting

Provisional ballots are issued to voters whose voting eligibility cannot be established quickly and easily at the time the voter has shown up to vote.

Please be advised that poll workers in Santa Cruz County are directed to **“ALWAYS LET THE VOTER VOTE.”** If eligibility cannot be determined, the voter must vote provisionally.

Provisional voters must vote their ballot in person at the Elections Department, satellite office, or polling place. Provisional ballots cannot be mailed. As time allows, election officials will hand deliver provisional ballots to homebound voters.

## Examples of situations where a voter will vote provisionally:

1. Voter applied for a vote-by-mail ballot and now, for whatever reason, wants to vote in person and does not have his/her ballot to surrender.
2. Voter cannot be found in the voter file but claims to have properly registered to vote. Any proof the voter may have, such as registration receipt, will be attached to the provisional ballot.
3. Voter moved and did not re-register to vote.
4. Voter is required to show photo identification because the voter registered to vote by mail and did not provide a driver's license or last 4 digits of his/her social security number so elections officials could validate the voter through the statewide system. If the voter has identification, he/she will vote on a regular ballot. If the voter does not have photo identification, the voter is required to vote provisionally.
5. Any other reason where the voter's eligibility cannot be determined instantly.

Provisional ballots are distinguished from regular ballots because they are placed in a pink envelope for election officials to research and resolve during the official canvass. The federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 requires elections officials to give voters who vote provisionally a receipt that advises the voter that:

1. The voter has the Right to Cast a Provisional Ballot
2. The voter has the right to find out whether your provisional ballot was counted, and, if not, why not.

In Santa Cruz County, voters may do one of the following after Election Day to find out the status of their provisional vote.

1. Call Toll-Free: 1-866-282-5900
2. Call the regular office line: 831-454-2060
3. Call TDD: 831-454-2123
4. Or send an e-mail to: [info@votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:info@votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov)

Typically, provisional ballots are processed between 14 - 28 days following the election. Elections Code Section 14310(c) says provisional ballots are counted during the official canvass only if: (I) the elections official establishes the voter's right to vote the ballot. (II) the provisional ballot has been cast and included in the canvass pursuant to Article 4.5 (commencing with section 2170) of Chapter 2 of Division 2. (III) a superior court orders the ballot to be counted. A voter may seek a court order to require his or her ballot to be counted but must do so before the official canvass period ends. Judicial action involving provisional ballots has priority over other civil matters.

# “Same Day” Registration vs Provisional Voting

During the 14 days up to and including Election Day, voters may go to the Elections Office or satellite office to register and vote. Voters can call the Santa Cruz Elections Office at 831-454-2060 or check our website at [www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov](http://www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov) for a list of locations.

If voters are registered to vote, and have moved within the county, they can go to their polling place and vote a provisional ballot.

If a voter:	The voter can go to:	How the voter will vote:
Is not registered to vote	The county elections office or designated satellite office	Complete a voter registration form  Vote a CVR provisional ballot
Is registered in another county	The county elections office where the voter now lives or designated satellite office	Complete a voter registration form  Vote a CVR provisional ballot
Has moved within the county where the voter is registered to vote	The polling place for the voter’s new address or the county elections office	Complete a voter registration form  Vote a provisional ballot

## “Same Day” Conditional voter registration (CVR) laws

2170. (a) “Conditional voter registration” means a properly executed affidavit of registration that is delivered by the registrant to the county elections official during the 14 days immediately preceding an election or on election day and which may be deemed effective pursuant to this article after the elections official processes the affidavit, determines the registrant’s eligibility to register, and validates the registrant’s information, as specified in subdivision (c).

(b) In addition to other methods of voter registration provided by this code, an elector who is otherwise qualified to register to vote under this code and Section 2 of Article II of the California Constitution may complete a conditional voter registration and cast a provisional ballot during the 14 days immediately preceding an election or on election day pursuant to this article.

(c)(1) A conditional voter registration shall be deemed effective if the county elections official is able to determine before or during the canvass period for the election that the registrant is eligible to register to vote and that the information provided by the registrant on the registration affidavit matches information contained in a database maintained by the Department of Motor Vehicles or the federal Social Security Administration.

(2) If the information provided by the registrant on the registration affidavit cannot be verified pursuant to paragraph (1) but the registrant is otherwise eligible to vote, the registrant shall be issued a unique identification number pursuant to Section 2150 and the conditional voter registration shall be deemed effective.

(d) The county elections official shall offer conditional voter registration and provisional voting pursuant to this article, in accordance with all of the following procedures:

(1) The elections official shall provide conditional voter registration and provisional voting pursuant to this article at all permanent offices of the county elections official in the county.

(2) The elections official shall advise registrants that a conditional voter registration will be effective only if the registrant is determined to be eligible to register to vote for the election and the information provided by the registrant on the registration affidavit is verified pursuant to subdivision (c).

(3) The elections official shall conduct the receipt and handling of each conditional voter registration and offer and receive a corresponding provisional ballot in a manner that protects the secrecy of the ballot and allows the elections official to process the registration, determine the registrant's eligibility to register, and validate the registrant's information before counting or rejecting the corresponding provisional ballot.

(4) After receiving a conditional voter registration, the elections official shall process the registration, determine the registrant's eligibility to register, and attempt to validate the registrant's information.

(5) If a conditional registration is deemed effective, the elections official shall include the corresponding provisional ballot in the official canvass.

(e) The county elections official may offer conditional voter registration and provisional voting pursuant to this article at satellite offices of the county elections office, in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraphs (2) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (d).

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 565, Sec. 1.5 (SB 72) Effective January 1, 2020.)*

2171. (a) A conditional voter registration accepted under this article shall include the information required by Article 4 (commencing with Section 2150).

(b) A conditional voter registration accepted under this article shall be processed in accordance with general voter registration procedures provided in this chapter and established by regulations adopted by the Secretary of State.

(c) A provisional ballot cast under this article shall be subject to the requirements for provisional voting in Article 5 (commencing with Section 14310) of Chapter 3 of Division 14.

*(Added by Stats. 2012, Ch. 497, Sec. 2. Effective January 1, 2013. Operative January 1, 2017, by Stats. 2012, Ch. 497, by Sec. 6, pursuant to the certification issued by the Secretary of State on September 26, 2016.)*

2172. (a) The elections official shall cancel any duplicate voter registrations that may exist as a result of a conditional registration deemed effective and shall cancel the duplicate registrations in accordance with Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 2200).

(b) If it appears that a registrant may have committed fraud within the meaning of Section 18560, the elections official shall immediately notify in writing both the district attorney and the Secretary of State.

*(Added by Stats. 2012, Ch. 497, Sec. 2. Effective January 1, 2013. Operative January 1, 2017, by Stats. 2012, Ch. 497, by Sec. 6, pursuant to the certification issued by the Secretary of State on September 26, 2016.)*

2173. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a person who commits fraud in the execution of a conditional voter registration pursuant to this article shall be punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for up

to one year, or a fine up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(b) In addition to the criminal penalties prescribed in subdivision (a), a person who commits fraud in the execution of a conditional voter registration pursuant to this article shall be subject to a civil fine of an amount up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). An action for a civil penalty under this subdivision may be brought by the Secretary of State or any public prosecutor with jurisdiction.

(c) Nothing in this section shall preclude the prosecution of a person under any other applicable provision of law.

*(Added by Stats. 2012, Ch. 497, Sec. 2. Effective January 1, 2013. Operative January 1, 2017, by Stats. 2012, Ch. 497, by Sec. 6, pursuant to the certification issued by the Secretary of State on September 26, 2016.)*

## **Provisional Voting Laws**

### **Voting a Provisional Ballot; Handling of ballot. § 14310.**

(a) At all elections, a voter claiming to be properly registered, but whose qualification or entitlement to vote cannot be immediately established upon examination of the roster for the precinct or upon examination of the records on file with the county elections official, shall be entitled to vote a provisional ballot as follows:

(1) An elections official shall advise the voter of the voter's right to cast a provisional ballot.

(2) The voter shall be provided a provisional ballot, written instructions regarding the process and procedures for casting the ballot, and a written affirmation regarding the voter's registration and eligibility to vote. The written instructions shall include the information set forth in subdivisions (c) and (d).

(3) The voter shall be required to execute, in the presence of an elections official, the written affirmation stating that the voter is eligible to vote and registered in the county where the voter desires to vote.

(b) Once voted, the voter's ballot shall be sealed in a provisional ballot envelope, and the ballot in its envelope shall be deposited in the ballot box. All provisional ballots voted shall remain sealed in their envelopes for return to the elections official in accordance with the elections official's instructions. The provisional ballot envelopes specified in this subdivision shall be of a color different than the color of, but printed substantially similar to, the envelopes used for vote by mail ballots, and shall be completed in the same manner as vote by mail envelopes.

(c) (1) During the official canvass, the elections official shall examine the records with respect to all provisional ballots cast. Using the procedures that apply to the comparison of signatures on vote by mail ballots pursuant to Section 3019, the elections official shall compare the signature on each provisional ballot envelope with the signature on the voter's affidavit of registration or other signature in the voter's registration record. If the signatures do not compare or the provisional ballot envelope is not signed, the ballot shall be rejected. A variation of the signature caused by the substitution of initials for the first or middle name, or both, shall not invalidate the ballot.

(2) (A) Provisional ballots shall not be included in any semiofficial or official canvass, except under one or more of the following conditions:

(i) The elections official establishes prior to the completion of the official canvass, from the records in his or her office, the claimant's right to vote.

(ii) The provisional ballot has been cast and included in the canvass pursuant to Article 4.5 (commencing with Section 2170) of Chapter 2 of Division 2.

(iii) Upon the order of a superior court in the county of the voter's residence.

(B) A voter may seek the court order specified in this paragraph regarding his or her own ballot at any time prior to completion of the official canvass. Any judicial action or appeal shall have priority over all other civil matters. A fee shall not be charged to the claimant by the clerk of the court for services rendered in an action under this section.

(3) The provisional ballot of a voter who is otherwise entitled to vote shall not be rejected because the voter did not cast his or her ballot in the precinct to which he or she was assigned by the elections official.

(A) If the ballot cast by the voter contains the same candidates and measures on which the voter would have been entitled to vote in his or her assigned precinct, the elections official shall count the votes for the entire ballot.

(B) If the ballot cast by the voter contains candidates or measures on which the voter would not have been entitled to vote in his or her assigned precinct, the elections official shall count only the votes for the candidates and measures on which the voter was entitled to vote in his or her assigned precinct.

(d) The Secretary of State shall establish a free access system that any voter who casts a provisional ballot may access to discover whether the voter's provisional ballot was counted and, if not, the reason why it was not counted.

(e) The Secretary of State may adopt appropriate regulations for the purpose of ensuring the uniform application of this section.

(f) This section shall apply to any vote by mail voter described by Section 3015 who is unable to surrender his or her unvoted vote by mail voter's ballot.

(g) Any existing supply of envelopes marked "special challenged ballot" may be used until the supply is exhausted.

*(Amended by Stats. 2017, Ch. 806, Sec. 64. (SB 286) Effective January 1, 2018.*

### **Provisional Voting for Voters who Moved within the Same County § 14311**

(a) A voter who has moved from one address to another within the same county and who has not reregistered to vote at that new address may, at his or her option, vote on the day of the election at the polling place at which he or she is entitled to vote based on his or her current residence address, or at the office of the county elections official or other central location designated by that elections official. The voter shall be reregistered at the place of voting for future elections.

(b) Voters casting ballots under this section shall be required to vote by provisional ballot, as provided in Section 14310. (Amended by Statutes of 2003)

### **Liberal Constructions § 14312**

This article shall be liberally construed in favor of the provisional voter. (Added by Statutes of 2003)

# Vote-By-Mail

October 5, 2026 is the first day vote-by-mail ballots may be issued for the November 3, 2026 election. Ballots will also be available at the Elections Department, the South County Government Center and at the Watsonville City Clerk's Office beginning October 5.

## Returning Vote-by-Mail Ballots

Postage is paid on all vote-by-mail ballots. Voters may return their ballot in one of the following ways:

- Mail it so it is received on time
- Drop it off at one of our 24-hour drop boxes.
  - **Aptos** Cabrillo College parking lot L, by the stadium
  - **Ben Lomond** Highlands Park, 8500 Highway 9
  - **Boulder Creek** Community Church, 12465 Highway 9
  - **Capitola** City Hall parking lot at 420 Capitola Ave.
  - **Felton** Covered Bridge Park at Graham Hill & Mt. Hermon Rd.
  - **Los Gatos** Summit Store, 24197 Summit Rd.
  - **Santa Cruz** In front of the County building at 701 Ocean St.
  - **Santa Cruz** UC Santa Cruz Quarry Plaza
  - **Scotts Valley** City Hall parking lot at 1 Civic Center Dr.
  - **Watsonville** Municipal public parking lot 14 at 316 Rodriguez St.
  - Additional drop box locations for the November 2026 election will be listed in the Voter Information Guide and posted online at [www.votescount.santacruzcountca.gov](http://www.votescount.santacruzcountca.gov)
- Return it in person before and including Election Day at the County Elections Office or any of the City Clerks' Offices
- Return it to a polling place on Election Day

If a vote-by-mail voter would rather vote at the polls, he/she must surrender their vote-by-mail ballot at their assigned polling place. If they do not have their ballot to surrender, they may vote a provisional ballot. The vote's ballot will count once the elections official confirms that they did not mail a ballot in as well.

**Postmark + 7** *\*Subject to change pending Supreme Court Ruling expected June/July 2026.*

Vote-by-mail ballots that are postmarked on or before Election Day or is time stamped or date stamped by a bona fide private mail delivery company on or before Election Day and received by the county elections official by the 7<sup>th</sup> day after the election shall be considered received on time.

If the ballot has no postmark, a postmark with no date, or an illegible postmark, the vote by mail ballot identification envelope must be signed and dated by the voter pursuant to Section 3011 on or before Election Day to be considered received on time. (Elections Code § 3020)

## Cure for unsigned ballot envelopes or non-comparing signatures

Voters who failed to sign their vote-by-mail ballot envelope or have a signature that does not compare to what is on file will have until 2 days prior to the certification of the election to provide a signature on a Signature Statement to the County Elections Department. The Signature Statement may be returned to the County Elections Official by mail, FAX, email, hand-delivered, or dropped off at a polling place or drop box. (Elections Code § 3019)

# Campaign Practices

## Use of Public Resources

### **(Gov. Code § 8314 (a))**

It is unlawful for any elected state or local officer, including any state or local appointee, employee, or consultant, to use or permit others to use public resources for a campaign activity, or personal or other purposes which are not authorized by law.

(b) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Personal purpose" means those activities the purpose of which is for personal enjoyment, private gain or advantage, or an outside endeavor not related to state business. "Personal purpose" does not include the incidental and minimal use of public resources, such as equipment or office space, for personal purposes, including an occasional telephone call.

(2) "Campaign activity" means an activity constituting a contribution as defined in Section 82015 or an expenditure as defined in Section 82025. "Campaign activity" does not include the incidental and minimal use of public resources, such as equipment or office space, for campaign purposes, including the referral of unsolicited political mail, telephone calls, and visitors to private political entities.

(3) "Public resources" means any property or asset owned by the state or any local agency, including, but not limited to, land, buildings, facilities, funds, equipment, supplies, telephones, computers, vehicles, travel, and state-compensated time.

(4) "Use" means a use of public resources which is substantial enough to result in a gain or advantage to the user or a loss to the state or any local agency for which a monetary value may be estimated.

(c) (1) Any person who intentionally or negligently violates this section is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each day on which a violation occurs, plus three times the value of the unlawful use of public resources. The penalty shall be assessed and recovered in a civil action brought in the name of the people of the State of California by the Attorney General or by any district attorney or any city attorney of a city having a population in excess of 750,000. If two or more persons are responsible for any violation, they shall be jointly and severally liable for the penalty.

(2) If the action is brought by the Attorney General, the moneys recovered shall be paid into the General Fund. If the action is brought by a district attorney, the moneys recovered shall be paid to the treasurer of the county in which the judgment was entered. If the action is brought by a city attorney, the moneys recovered shall be paid to the treasurer of that city.

(3) No civil action alleging a violation of this section may be commenced more than four years after the date the alleged violation occurred.

(d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the use of public resources for providing information to the public about the possible effects of any bond issue or other ballot measure on state activities, operations, or policies, provided that (1) the informational activities are otherwise authorized by the constitution or laws of this state, and (2) the information provided constitutes a fair and impartial presentation of relevant facts to aid the electorate in reaching an informed judgment regarding the bond issue or ballot measure.

(e) The incidental and minimal use of public resources by an elected state or local officer, including any state or local appointee, employee, or consultant, pursuant to this section shall not be subject to prosecution under Section 424 of the Penal Code.

## **Mass Mailing**

### **Mass mailing; requirements (Gov. Code § 84305)**

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

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

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

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

(2) A committee, other than a candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate or a political party committee, shall not send a mass electronic mailing that is not required to include a disclosure pursuant to 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.

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

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

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

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

(3) To "pay for" a share of the cost of a mass mailing means to make, to promise to make, or to incur an obligation to make, any payment: (A) to any person for the design, printing, postage, materials, or

other costs of the mailing, including salaries, fees, or commissions, or (B) as a fee or other consideration for an endorsement or, in the case of a ballot measure, support or opposition, in the mailing.

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

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 558, Sec. 1. (AB 864) Effective January 1, 2020. Note: This section was added on June 4, 1974, by initiative Prop. 9.)*

### **Mass mailing definition (Gov. Code § 82041.5)**

"Mass Mailing" means over two hundred substantially similar pieces of mail, but does not include a form letter or other mail that is sent in response to an unsolicited request, letter or other inquiry.

### **Mass mailing by incumbents (Gov. Code § 89001)**

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

## **Slate Mailers**

### **Slate mailer definition (Gov. Code § 82048.3)**

"Slate Mailer" means a mass mailing that supports or opposes a total of four or more candidates or ballot measures.

### **Slate mailer organization (Gov. Code § 82048.4)**

- a) "Slate mailer organization" means, except as provided in subdivision (b), any person who, directly or indirectly, does all of the following:
- 1) Is involved in the production of one or more slate mailers and exercises control over the selection of the candidates and measures to be supported or opposed in slate mailers.
  - 2) Receives or is promised payments totaling \$500 or more in a calendar year for the production of one or more slate mailers.
- b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a slate mailer organization shall not include any of the following:
- 1) A candidate or officeholder or a candidate's or officeholder's-controlled committee.
  - 2) An official committee of any political party.
  - 3) A legislative caucus committee.
  - 4) A committee primarily formed to support or oppose a candidate, officeholder, or ballot measure.
- c) The production and distribution of slate mailers by a slate mailer organization shall not be considered making contributions or expenditures for purposes of subdivision (b) or (c) of § 82013. If a slate mailer organization makes contributions or expenditures other than by producing or distributing slate mailers, and it reports those contributions and expenditures pursuant to §§ 84218 and 84219, no additional campaign reports shall be required of the slate mailer organization pursuant to §§ 84200 or 84200.5.

### **Slate mailer requirements (Gov. Code § 84305.5)**

- a) No slate mailer organization or committee primarily formed to support or oppose one or more ballot measures shall send a slate mailer unless:
- 1) The name, street address, and city of the slate mailer organization or committee primarily

formed to support or oppose one or more ballot measures are shown on the outside of each piece of slate mail and on at least one of the inserts included with each piece of slate mail in no less than 8-point Roman type which shall be in color or print which 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 street address of the slate mailer organization or the committee primarily formed to support or oppose one or more ballot measures is a matter of public record with the Secretary of State's Political Reform Division.

- 2) At the top or bottom of the front side or surface of at least one insert or at the top or bottom of one side or surface of a postcard or other self-mailer, there is a notice in at least 8-point Roman, boldface type, which shall be in a color or print which contrasts with the background so as to be easily legible, and in a printed or drawn box and set apart from any other printed matter. The notice shall consist of the following statement:

**NOTICE TO VOTERS**

**THIS DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED BY** (insert name of slate mailer organization or committee primarily formed to support or oppose one or more ballot measures), **NOT AN OFFICIAL POLITICAL PARTY ORGANIZATION.** Appearance in this mailer does not necessarily imply endorsement of others appearing in this mailer, nor does it imply endorsement of, or opposition to, any issues set forth in this mailer. Appearance is paid for and authorized by each candidate and ballot measure which is designated by an \*.

- 3) The name, street address, and city of the slate mailer organization or committee primarily formed to support or oppose one or more ballot measures as required by paragraph (1) and the notice required by paragraph (2) may appear on the same side or surface of an insert.
  - 4) Each candidate and each ballot measure that has paid to appear in the slate mailer is designated by an \*. Any candidate or ballot measure that has not paid to appear in the slate mailer is not designated by \*. The \* required by this subdivision shall be of the same type size, type style, color or contrast, and legibility as is used for the name of the candidate or the ballot measure name or number and position advocated to which the \* designation applies except that in no case shall the \* be required to be larger than 10-point boldface type. The designation shall immediately follow the name of the candidate, or the name or number and position advocated on the ballot measure where the designation appears in the slate of candidates and measures. If there is no slate listing, the designation shall appear at least once in at least 8-point boldface type, immediately following the name of the candidate, or the name or number and position advocated on the ballot measure.
  - 5) The name of any candidate appearing in the slate mailer who is a member of a political party differing from the political party which the mailer appears by representation or indicia to represent is accompanied, immediately below the name, by the party designation of the candidate, in no less than 9-point roman type which shall be in a color or print that contrasts with the background so as to be easily legible. The designation shall not be required in the case of candidates for nonpartisan office.
- b) For purposes of the designations required by paragraph (4) of subdivision (a), the payment of any sum made reportable by subdivision (c) of Section 84219 by or at the behest of a candidate or committee, whose name or position appears in the mailer, to the slate mailer organization or committee primarily formed to support or oppose one or more ballot measures, shall constitute a payment to appear, requiring the \* designation. The payment shall also be deemed to constitute authorization to appear in the mailer.

(See the [Campaign Disclosure Manual](#) issued by the Fair Political Practices Commission for campaign disclosure reporting requirements in connection with slate mailers.)

## **Nominations**

### **Fictitious name to nomination petition (Elections Code § 18200)**

Every person who subscribes to any nomination petition a fictitious name, or who intentionally subscribes thereto the name of another, or who causes another to subscribe a fictitious name to a nomination petition, is guilty of a felony and is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months or two or three years.

### **Defacing or destroying a nomination paper (Elections Code § 18201)**

Any person who falsely makes or fraudulently defaces or destroys all or any part of a nomination paper, is punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or by imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months or two or three years or by both the fine and imprisonment.

### **Deliberate failure to file nomination paper (Elections Code § 18202)**

Every person acting on behalf of a candidate is guilty of a misdemeanor who deliberately fails to file at the proper time and the proper place any nomination paper or declaration of candidacy in his or her possession that is entitled to be filed under the provisions of this code.

### **False declaration of candidacy (Elections Code § 18203)**

Any person who files or submits for filing a nomination paper or declaration of candidacy knowing that it or any part of it has been made falsely is punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or by imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months or two or three years or by both such fine and imprisonment.

### **Suppression of nomination paper (Elections Code § 18204)**

Any person who willfully suppresses all or any part of a nomination paper or declaration of candidacy either before or after filing is punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or by imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months or two or three years or by both the fine and imprisonment.

### **Paying candidates to withdraw (Elections Code § 18205)**

A person shall not directly or through any other person advance, pay, solicit, or receive or cause to be advanced, paid, solicited, or received any money or other valuable consideration to or for the use of any person in order to induce a person not to become or to withdraw as a candidate for public office. Violation of this section shall be punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months or two or three years.

## **Campaign Literature**

### **Use of Seal in Campaign Literature (Elections Code § 18304)**

(a) Any person who uses or allows to be used any reproduction or facsimile of the seal of the county or the seal of a local government agency in any campaign literature or mass mailing, as defined in Section 82041.5 of the Government Code, with intent to deceive the voters, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) For purposes of this section, the use of a reproduction or facsimile of a seal in a manner that

creates a misleading, erroneous, or false impression that the document is authorized by a public official is evidence of intent to deceive.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term "local government agency" means a school district, special or other district, or any other board, commission, or agency of local jurisdiction.

## **Code of Fair Campaign Practices**

Chapter 855, Statutes of 1982, established a Code of Fair Campaign Practices that could be voluntarily subscribed to by candidates for public office.

The County Clerk is required to provide each individual who files nomination papers or other papers evidencing intentions to become a candidate for public office with a copy of the provisions of the Chapter and a form on which to subscribe to the code.

**Subscription to the code is voluntary.** Completed forms are to be filed with the County Clerk and shall be retained for public inspection until 30 days after the election. (Elections Code §§ 20400 - 20444)

## **Misrepresentation by Candidates**

### **Misleading of voters; incumbency; public officer (Elections Code § 18350)**

(a) A person is guilty of a misdemeanor who, with intent to mislead the voters in connection with his or her campaign for nomination or election to a public office, or in connection with the campaign of another person for nomination or election to a public office, does either of the following acts:

(1) Assumes, pretends, or implies, by his or her statements, conduct, or campaign materials, that he or she is the incumbent of a public office when that is not the case.

(2) Assumes, pretends, or implies, by his or her statements, conduct, or campaign materials, that he or she is or has been acting in the capacity of a public officer when that is not the case.

(b) A violation of this section may be enjoined in a civil action brought by a candidate for the public office involved.

*(Amended by Stats. 2015, Ch. 105, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2016.)*

### **False statements in candidate statement; fine (Elections Code § 18351)**

Any candidate in an election or incumbent in a recall election who knowingly makes a false statement of a material fact in a candidate's statement prepared pursuant to §11327 or 13307, with the intent to mislead the voters in connection with his or her campaign for nomination or election to a nonpartisan office is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.

### **Representation requirements (Elections Code § 20007)**

No candidate or committee in his or her behalf shall represent in connection with an election campaign either orally or in campaign material, that the candidate has the support of a committee or organization that includes as part of its name the name or any variation upon the name of a qualified political party with which the candidate is not affiliated, together with the words "county committee," "central committee," "county," or any other term that might tend to mislead the voters into believing that the candidate has the support of that party's county central committee or state central committee, when that is not the case.

This section shall not be construed to prevent a candidate or committee from representing that the candidate has the support of a committee or group of voters affiliated with another political party, which committee or group is identified by the name of that party, where the name of the committee or group also includes the name of the candidate.

Any member of a central committee or state central committee may commence an action in the superior court to enjoin misrepresentation by a candidate or committee in his or her behalf, in the manner prohibited by this section, to the effect that the candidate has the support of the state or county central committee involved.

## **Deceptive Online Activities**

### **“Political cyberfraud” defined (Elections Code § 18320)**

(a) This act shall be known and may be cited as the "California Political Cyberfraud Abatement Act."

(b) It is unlawful for a person, with intent to mislead, deceive, or defraud, to commit an act of political cyberfraud.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) "Political cyberfraud" means a knowing and willful act concerning a political Web site that is committed with the intent to deny a person access to a political Web site, deny a person the opportunity to register a domain name for a political Web site, or cause a person reasonably to believe that a political Web site has been posted by a person other than the person who posted the Website, and would cause a reasonable person, after reading the Website, to believe the site actually represents the views of the proponent or opponent of a ballot measure. Political cyberfraud includes, but is not limited to, any of the following acts:

(A) Intentionally diverting or redirecting access to a political Web site to another person's Web site by the use of a similar domain name, meta-tags, or other electronic measures.

(B) Intentionally preventing or denying exit from a political Web site by the use of frames, hyperlinks, mousetrapping, popup screens, or other electronic measures.

(C) Registering a domain name that is similar to another domain name for a political Web site.

(D) Intentionally preventing the use of a domain name for a political Web site by registering and holding the domain name or by reselling it to another with the intent of preventing its use, or both.

(2) "Domain name" means any alphanumeric designation that is registered with or assigned by any domain name registrar, domain name registry, or other domain registration authority as part of an electronic address on the Internet.

(3) "Political Web site" means a Web site that urges or appears to urge the support or opposition of a ballot measure.

## **Political Advertising**

### **Political advertisement requirements (Elections Code § 20008)**

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 of lettering of the advertisement or in 10-point Roman type, whichever is larger, the words "Paid Political Advertisement." Such 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.

### **False or forged campaign materials (Penal Code § 115.2)**

(a) No person shall publish or cause to be published, with actual knowledge, and intent to deceive,

any campaign advertisement containing false or fraudulent depictions, or false or fraudulent representations, of official public documents or purported official public documents.

(b) For purposes of this section, “campaign advertisement” means any communication directed to voters by means of a mass mailing as defined in § 82041.5 of the Government Code, a paid newspaper advertisement, an outdoor advertisement, or any other printed matter, if the expenditures for that communication are required to be reported by Chapter 4 (commencing with § 84100) of Title 9 of the Government Code.

(c) Any violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail, or by a fine not to exceed \$50,000, or both.

## **Simulated Ballots**

### **Printing of Simulated Sample Ballots (Elections Code § 18301)**

In addition to any other penalty, any person who prints or otherwise duplicates, or causes to be printed or duplicated, a simulated ballot or simulated sample ballot which does not contain the statement required by Section 20009 or which uses an official seal or insignia in violation thereof, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

### **Simulated ballot requirements (Elections Code § 20009)**

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 an 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 a 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.

*(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 422, Sec. 84. Effective January 1, 2017.)*

## **Pictures in Campaign Mail**

### **No Pictures of Candidates in Campaign Material (Elections Code § 20010)**

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a person, committee, as defined in Section 82013 of the Government Code, or other entity shall not, within 60 days of an election at which a candidate for elective office will appear on the ballot, distribute, with actual malice, materially deceptive audio or visual media, as defined in subdivision (e), of the candidate with the intent to injure the candidate’s reputation or to deceive a voter into voting for or against the candidate.

(b) (1) The prohibition in subdivision (a) does not apply if the audio or visual media includes a disclosure stating: "This \_\_\_\_\_ has been manipulated."

(2) The blank in the disclosure required by paragraph (1) shall be filled with whichever of the following terms most accurately describes the media:

(A) Image.

(B) Video.

(C) Audio.

(3) (A) For visual media, the text of the disclosure shall appear in a size that is easily readable by the average viewer and no smaller than the largest font size of other text appearing in the visual media. If the visual media does not include any other text, the disclosure shall appear in a size that is easily readable by the average viewer. For visual media that is video, the disclosure shall appear for the duration of the video.

(B) If the media consists of audio only, the disclosure shall be read in a clearly spoken manner and in a pitch that can be easily heard by the average listener, at the beginning of the audio, at the end of the audio, and, if the audio is greater than two minutes in length, interspersed within the audio at intervals of not greater than two minutes each.

(c) (1) A candidate for elective office whose voice or likeness appears in a materially deceptive audio or visual media distributed in violation of this section may seek injunctive or other equitable relief prohibiting the distribution of audio or visual media in violation of this section. An action under this paragraph shall be entitled to precedence in accordance with Section 35 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(2) A candidate for elective office whose voice or likeness appears in a materially deceptive audio or visual media distributed in violation of this section may bring an action for general or special damages against the person, committee, or other entity that distributed the materially deceptive audio or visual media. The court may also award a prevailing party reasonable attorney's fees and costs. This subdivision shall not be construed to limit or preclude a plaintiff from securing or recovering any other available remedy.

(3) In any civil action alleging a violation of this section, the plaintiff shall bear the burden of establishing the violation through clear and convincing evidence.

(d) (1) This section shall not be construed to alter or negate any rights, obligations, or immunities of an interactive service provider under Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code.

(2) This section does not apply to a radio or television broadcasting station, including a cable or satellite television operator, programmer, or producer, that broadcasts materially deceptive audio or visual media prohibited by this section as part of a bona fide newscast, news interview, news documentary, or on-the-spot coverage of bona fide news events, if the broadcast clearly acknowledges through content or a disclosure, in a manner that can be easily heard or read by the average listener or viewer, that there are questions about the authenticity of the materially deceptive audio or visual media.

(3) This section does not apply to a radio or television broadcasting station, including a cable or satellite television operator, programmer, or producer, when it is paid to broadcast materially deceptive audio or visual media.

(4) This section does not apply to an internet website, or a regularly published newspaper, magazine, or other periodical of general circulation, including an internet or electronic publication, that routinely carries news and commentary of general interest, and that publishes materially deceptive audio or

visual media prohibited by this section, if the publication clearly states that the materially deceptive audio or visual media does not accurately represent the speech or conduct of the candidate.

(5) This section does not apply to materially deceptive audio or visual media that constitutes satire or parody.

(e) As used in this section, “materially deceptive audio or visual media” means an image or an audio or video recording of a candidate’s appearance, speech, or conduct that has been intentionally manipulated in a manner such that both of the following conditions are met:

(1) The image or audio or video recording would falsely appear to a reasonable person to be authentic.

(2) The image or audio or video recording would cause a reasonable person to have a fundamentally different understanding or impression of the expressive content of the image or audio or video recording than that person would have if the person were hearing or seeing the unaltered, original version of the image or audio or video recording.

(f) The provisions of this section are severable. If any provision of this section or its application is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

(g) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2027, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2027, deletes or extends that date.

## **Corruption of the Voting Process**

### **Fraud in Connection with Vote Cast (Elections Code § 18500)**

Any person who commits fraud or attempts to commit fraud, and any person who aids or abets fraud or attempts to aid or abet fraud, in connection with any vote cast, to be cast, or attempted to be cast, is guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment for 16 months or two or three years.

### **Public Official who Knowingly Allows Fraud Shall Forever be Disqualified From Holding Office (Elections Code § 18501)**

Any public official who knowingly violates any of the provisions of this chapter, and thereby aids in any way the illegal casting or attempting to cast a vote, or who connives to nullify any of the provisions of this chapter in order that fraud may be perpetrated, shall forever be disqualified from holding office in this state and upon conviction shall be sentenced to a state prison for 16 months or two or three years.

### **Interference with Election Officers (Elections Code § 18502)**

(a) Any person who in any manner interferes with the officers holding an election or conducting a canvass, as to prevent the election or canvass from being fairly held and lawfully conducted, or with the voters lawfully exercising their rights of voting at an election, is punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years.

(b) For purposes of this section, “officers holding an election or conducting a canvass” include, but are not limited to, the Secretary of State as the chief elections officer, and their staff, as it relates to performance of any of their duties related to administering the provisions of the Elections Code, and elections officials and their staff, including temporary workers and poll workers, and members of a precinct board, in their performance of any duty related to assisting with holding an election or conducting a canvass.

(c) For purposes of this section, “holding an election or conducting a canvass” includes, but is not limited to, the election observation process governed by the Elections Code and applicable regulations adopted by the Secretary of State.

(d) For purposes of this section, “voting at an election” includes, but is not limited to, voting in person at a polling place, the office of the elections official, and satellite locations, and voting by mail and returning a voted ballot pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 3017.

## **Vandalism at Polling Places**

### **Vandalism (Elections Code § 18380)**

No person, during any election, shall do any of the following:

(1) Remove or destroy any of the supplies or other conveniences placed in the voting booths or compartments for the purpose of enabling the voter to prepare his or her ballot.

(2) Remove, tear down, or deface the cards printed for the instruction of voters.

(3) Remove, tear, mark or otherwise deface any voter index with the intent to falsify or prevent others from readily ascertaining the name, address, or political affiliation of any voter, or the fact that a voter has or has not voted.

(4) Remove, tear down, or deface the signs identifying the location of a polling place or identifying areas within 100 feet of a polling place.

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

## **Corruption of Voters**

### **Fine for Solicitation Requesting Voter Disclosure of His or Her Ballot (Elections Code § 18403)**

Any person other than an elections official or a member of the precinct board who receives a voted ballot from a voter or who examines or solicits the voter to show his or her voted ballot is punishable by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years, or in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment. This section shall not apply to persons returning a vote by mail ballot pursuant to Sections 3017 and 3021 or persons assisting a voter pursuant to Section 14282.

### **Promise of Employment (Elections Code § 18520)**

A person shall not directly or through another person give, offer, or promise any office, place, or employment, or promise to procure or endeavor to procure any office, place, or employment to or for any voter, or to or for any other person, in order to induce that voter at any election to:

- a) Refrain from voting.
- b) Vote for any particular person.
- c) Refrain from voting for any particular person.

A violation of any of the provisions of this section shall be punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years.

### **Consideration for Voting (Elections Code § 18521)**

A person shall not directly or through any other person receive, agree, or contract for, before, during or after an election, any money, gift, loan, or other valuable consideration, office, place, or employment for himself or any other person because he or any other person:

- a) Voted, agreed to vote, refrained from voting, or agreed to refrain from voting for any particular person or measure.
- b) Remained away from the polls.
- c) Refrained or agreed to refrain from voting.
- d) Induced any other person to:
  - 1) Remain away from the polls.
  - 2) Refrain from voting.
  - 3) Vote or refrain from voting for any particular person or measure.

Any person violating this section is punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years.

### **Consideration for Voting (Elections Code § 18522)**

Neither a person nor a controlled committee shall directly or through any other person or controlled committee pay, lend, or contribute, or offer or promise to pay, lend, or contribute, any money or other valuable consideration to or for any voter or to or for any other person to:

- a) Induce any voter to:
  - 1) Refrain from voting at any election.
  - 2) Vote or refrain from voting at an election for any particular person or measure.
  - 3) Remain away from the polls at an election.
- b) Reward any voter for having:
  - 1) Refrained from voting.
  - 2) Voted for any particular person or measure.
  - 3) Refrained from voting for any particular person or measure.
  - 4) Remained away from the polls at an election.

Any person or candidate violating this section is punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years.

### **Bribery at Election (Elections Code § 18523)**

A person shall not directly or through any other person advance or pay, or cause to be paid, any money or other valuable thing to or for the use of any other person, with the intent that it, or any part thereof, shall be used in bribery at any election, or knowingly pay or cause to be paid any money or other valuable thing to any person in discharge or repayment of any money, wholly or in part, expended in bribery at any election.

Any person violating this section is punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years.

### **Payment for Securing Vote (Elections Code § 18524)**

A person shall not directly or through any other person advance or pay, or cause to be paid, any money or other valuable thing to or for the use of any other person, with the intent that it, or any part thereof, will be used for boarding, lodging, or maintaining a person at any place or domicile in any election precinct, ward, or district, with intent to secure the vote of that person or to induce that person to vote for any particular person or measure.

Any person violating this section is punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of

Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years.

### **Federal Law: 42 U.S.C. §1973i(c). Incentives for registering to vote**

Makes it unlawful in an election in which a federal candidate is on the ballot, to knowingly and willfully pay, offer to pay, or accept payment for registering to vote or for voting. Violations are punishable by imprisonment for up to five years.

### **Intimidation of Voters**

#### **Compelling Another in Voting (Elections Code § 18540)**

- a) Every person who makes use of or threatens to make use of any force, violence, or tactic of coercion or intimidation, to induce or compel any other person to vote or refrain from voting at any election or to vote or refrain from voting for any particular person or measure at any election, or because any person voted or refrained from voting at any election or voted or refrained from voting for any particular person or measure at any election is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years.
- b) Every person who hires or arranges for any other person to make use of or threaten to make use of any force, violence, or tactic of coercion or intimidation, to induce or compel any other person to vote or refrain from voting at any election or to vote or refrain from voting for any particular person or measure at any election, or because any person voted or refrained from voting at any election or voted or refrained from voting for any particular person or measure at any election is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years.
- c) For purposes of this section, “voting at any election” includes, but is not limited to, voting in person at a polling place or at the office of the elections official, including satellite locations pursuant to Section 3018, and voting by mail and returning a voted ballot pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 3017.

#### **Solicitation Dissuading Persons From Voting (Elections Code § 18541)**

- a) A person shall not, with the intent of dissuading another person from voting, within the 100 foot limit specified in subdivision (b), do any of the following:
  - (1) Solicit a vote or speak to a voter on the subject of marking the voter's ballot.
  - (2) Place a sign relating to voters' qualifications or speak to a voter on the subject of the voter's qualifications except as provided in [Section 14240](#).
  - (3) Photograph, video record, or otherwise record a voter entering or exiting a polling place.
  - (4) Obstruct ingress, egress, or parking.
- b) The activities described in subdivision (a) are prohibited within 100 feet of either of the following:
  - (1) The entrance to a building that contains a polling place as defined by [Section 338.5](#), an elections official's office, or a satellite location specified in [Section 3018](#).
  - (2) An outdoor site, including a curbside voting area, at which a voter may cast or drop off a ballot.
- c) A person shall not, with the intent of dissuading another person from voting, do any of the

following within the immediate vicinity of a voter in line to cast a ballot or drop off a ballot:

- (1) Solicit a vote.
- (2) Speak to a voter about marking the voter's ballot.
- (3) Disseminate visible or audible electioneering information.

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

### **Pay Envelopes May Not Contain Political Material (Elections Code § 18542)**

Every employer, whether a corporation or natural person, or any other person who employs, is guilty of a misdemeanor if, in paying his or her employees the salary or wages due them, encloses their pay in pay envelopes upon which or in which there is written or printed the name of any candidate or any political mottoes, devices, or arguments containing threats, express or implied, intended or calculated to influence the political opinions or actions of the employees.

### **Challenge Without Probable Cause (Elections Code § 18543)**

- a) Every person who knowingly challenges a person's right to vote without probable cause or on fraudulent or spurious grounds, or who engages in mass, indiscriminate, and groundless challenging of voters solely for the purpose of preventing voters from voting or to delay the process of voting, or who fraudulently advises any person that he or she is not eligible to vote or is not registered to vote when in fact that person is eligible or is registered, or who violates Section 14240, is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 12 months or in the state prison.
- b) Every person who conspires to violate subdivision (a) is guilty of a felony.

### **Fine for Person in Possession of Firearm or Unauthorized Uniformed Personnel (Elections Code § 18544)**

- a) Any person in possession of a firearm or any uniformed peace officer, private guard, or security personnel or any person who is wearing a uniform of a peace officer, guard, or security personnel, who is stationed in the immediate vicinity of, or posted at, a polling place without written authorization of the appropriate city or county elections official is punishable by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years, or in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.
- b) This section shall not apply to any of the following:
  - 1) An unarmed uniformed guard or security personnel who is at the polling place to cast his or her vote.
  - 2) A peace officer who is conducting official business in the course of his or her public employment or who is at the polling place to cast his or her vote.
  - 3) A private guard or security personnel hired or arranged for by a city or county elections official.
  - 4) A private guard or security personnel hired or arranged for by the owner or manager of the facility or property in which the polling place is located if the guard or security personnel is not hired or arranged solely for the day on which an election is held.

## **Fine for Hiring of Person in Possession of Firearm or Uniformed Personnel (Elections Code § 18545)**

a) Any person who hires or arranges for any other person in possession of a firearm or any uniformed law enforcement officer, private guard, or security personnel or any person who is wearing a uniform of a law enforcement officer, guard, or security personnel, to be stationed in the immediate vicinity of, or posted at, a polling place or a county elections office without written authorization of the appropriate elections official or written authorization by a federal court order is punishable imprisonment in a county jail for a period not to exceed one year, by a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment, or by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code and by a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

b) This section does not apply to the owner or manager of the facility or property in which the polling place is located if the private guard or security personnel is not hired or arranged solely for the day on which the election is held.

c) For purposes of this section, "law enforcement officer" means either of the following:

(1) A peace officer as defined in Section 830 of the Penal Code.

(2) An officer or agent of a federal law enforcement agency or any person acting on behalf of a federal law enforcement agency.

## **Definition of Elections Official and Immediate Vicinity (Elections Code § 18546)**

As used in this article:

a) "Elections official" means the county elections official, registrar of voters, or city clerk.

b) "Immediate vicinity" means the area within a distance of 100 feet from the room or rooms in which the voters are signing the roster and casting ballots.

## **Polling Place Information**

### **Campaign Literature Containing Polling Place (Elections Code § 18302)**

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

(b) A person is guilty of a misdemeanor who, with actual knowledge and intent to deceive, causes to be distributed or distributes, including distribution by mail, radio or television broadcast, telephone call, text message, email, or any other electronic means, including over the Internet, literature or any other form of communication to a voter that includes any of the following:

(1) The incorrect location of a vote center, office of an elections official, satellite office of an elections official where voting is permitted, vote by mail ballot drop box, or vote by mail ballot drop-off location.

(2) False or misleading information regarding the qualifications to vote or to register to vote.

(3) False or misleading information regarding the date of an election or the days, dates, or times voting may occur at a place described in paragraph (1).

## **Political Signs**

### **Outdoor Political Advertising – State Law**

Section 5405.3 of the State Outdoor Advertising Act (Business & Professions Code) authorizes the placing of "temporary political signs" separate and apart from the normal outdoor advertising controls. No political sign may be placed within the right-of-way of any highway or within 660 feet of the edge of and visible from the right-of-way of a landscaped freeway.

Temporary political signs are those that meet the following criteria:

- Encourages a particular vote in a scheduled election;
- Is placed not sooner than 90 days prior to the scheduled election and is removed within 10 days after the election;
- Is no larger than 32 square feet;
- Has had a "Statement of Responsibility" filed with the State Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Operations, Outdoor Advertising Program, P.O. Box 942874, MS-36, Sacramento, CA 94274-0001, certifying a person who will be responsible for removing the signs. Forms are available at the Santa Cruz County Elections Department. Call (916) 654-4790 for more information.

The law directs the Department of Transportation to remove signs that do not comply with the regulations before an election and to bill the responsible party for removal costs after the election.

Penal Code Sections 556, 556.1 and 556.3 provide that it is a misdemeanor for any person to place a sign to advertise on public or private property (without consent); and that it shall be considered a public nuisance.

Pursuant to a County Counsel opinion dated April 18, 1994, utility poles are the property of the private utility company and the posting of political signs on them may be prosecuted as a misdemeanor. Furthermore, the Public Utility Commission may impose a fine for such unauthorized posting.

### **Outdoor Political Advertising -- Santa Cruz County Code**

Santa Cruz County Code, Section 13.10.583 states that temporary or political signs shall not be placed so as to constitute a traffic hazard. On January 12, 1993, the Board of Supervisors approved the following Public Works criteria for removal of signs as they might affect roadside safety:

Signs may be removed by authorized Public Works staff if they:

1. Block the sight distance on county roads at intersections of county roads, private roads or driveways.
2. Restrict the use of the highway or otherwise clearly cause problems for the traveling public.
3. Obscure fire hydrants, traffic signs, traffic signals or other traffic control devices.
4. Are attached to or distract the attention of drivers from any traffic control device.
5. Interfere with normal maintenance efforts.
6. Are identified as other traffic hazards by the Director of Public Works consistent with the content of this policy.

Action to remove signs under categories 1 through 4 above generally requires immediate attention.

For those matters covered under categories 5 and 6, Public Works staff will make reasonable effort to contact the responsible party, to relocate or remove the signs within 24 hours.

Pursuant to Section 1480.5 of the Streets and Highways Code, the Director of Public Works may immediately remove an encroachment that constitutes a traffic hazard or an encroachment that is an advertising sign or device of any description. In keeping with the provisions of Section 1480.5(d) any such sign removed by the Public Works Department that is of more than nominal value shall be held at a County maintenance yard for a reasonable period of time to allow the owner of the sign to retrieve it. The return of the sign may be conditioned upon payment of an amount sufficient to reimburse the Public Works Department for the expense of removal.

### **Outdoor Political Advertising - City Ordinances**

Each city in Santa Cruz County has rules and regulations regarding outdoor political advertising. Contact the city clerk in Santa Cruz (831-420-5030), Capitola (831-475-7300), Scotts Valley (831-440-5602) or Watsonville (831-768-3040) for more information.

### **Removal of Political Signs**

If the political signs are not removed within 10 days after the election, an enforcement action could be pursued in accordance with the enforcement provisions of Chapter 13.10 of the Santa Cruz County Code (County Counsel opinion dated April 18, 1994).

# California State Contribution Limits

From the Fair Political Practices Commission's [website](#).

Candidates seeking a state office and committees that make contributions to state candidates are subject to contribution limits from a single source. Effective January 1, 2021 a state campaign contribution limit will by default apply to city and county candidates when the city or county does not have laws addressing a contribution limit on such candidates. (Sections 85301 - 85303.) Contributions from affiliated entities are aggregated for purposes of the limits. (Regulation 18215.1.) The chart below shows the current limits per contributor for state offices and city and county candidates when the city or county does not have laws addressing a contribution limit on such candidates. The primary, general, special, and special run-off elections are considered separate elections. Contribution limits to candidates apply to each election. Contribution limits to officeholders and other committees apply on a calendar year basis. Contact your city or county about contribution limits for local offices. The state campaign contribution limit will by default apply to city and county candidates when the city or county does not have laws addressing a contribution limit on such candidates.

## Per-election Limits on Contributions to State Candidates

(Effective January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2026)

### Contribution Limits to State and Local Candidates Per Election

Candidate or Officeholder	Contributor Sources		
	Person (individual, business, entity, committee/PAC)	Small Contributor Committee (definition on next page)	Political Party
City and County Candidates subject to Section 85301 (d)	\$5,900	\$5,900	\$5,900
Senate and Assembly	\$5,900	\$11,800	No Limit
CalPERS/CalSTRS	\$5,900	\$11,800	No Limit
Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, Controller, Supt. Of Public Instruction, Insurance Commissioner, and Board of Equalization	\$9,800	\$19,600	No Limit
Governor	\$39,200	\$39,200	No Limit

\*State campaign contribution limit will by default apply to city and county candidates when the city or county does not have laws addressing a contribution limit on such candidates.

### Contributions to Other State Committees Per Calendar Year

Committee	Contributor Sources
	Person (individual, business entity, committee/PAC)
Committee (Not Political Party) that Contributes to State Candidates (PAC)	\$9,800
Political Party Account for State Candidates	\$49,000
Small Contributor Committee	\$200
Committee Account NOT for State Candidates (Ballot Measure, PAC, Political Party)	No Limit*

\*State committees (including political parties and PACs) may receive contributions in excess of the limits identified above as long as the contributions are NOT used for state candidate contributions. (Regulation 18534)

### Contributions to State Officeholder Committees Per Calendar Year

Committee	Contributor Sources	
	Any Source (Person, Small Contributor Committee or Political Party)	Aggregate From All Sources
Senate and Assembly	\$4,900	\$81,400
CalPERS/CalSTRS	\$4,900	\$81,400
Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, Controller, Supt. Of Public Instruction, Insurance Commissioner, and Board of Equalization	\$8,100	\$162,900
Governor	\$32,600	\$325,700

# California Fair Political Practices Commission

## California State Contribution Limits

(Effective January 1, 2025—December 31, 2026)

*The contribution limits are effective for elections held between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2026. (Regulation 18545.) These limits do not apply to contributions made to elections in previous years. Such contributions are subject to the limits in place for that year; see previous charts.*

### Legal Defense Funds

Contributions raised for a legal defense fund are not subject to contribution limits or the voluntary expenditure ceiling. However, a candidate or officeholder may raise, in total, no more than is reasonably necessary to cover attorney's fees and other legal costs related to the proceeding for which the fund is created. (Section 85304; Regulation 18530.4.)

### Recall Elections

A state officeholder and city or county officeholder subject to Section 85301 (d) who is the subject of a recall may set up a separate committee to oppose the qualification of the recall measure and, if the recall petition qualifies, the recall election. Neither contribution limits nor voluntary expenditure ceilings apply to the committee to oppose the recall that is controlled by the officeholder who is the target of the recall attempt. Candidates running to replace an officeholder who is the target of a recall are subject to the contribution limits and the expenditure limits applicable to the election for that office. (Section 85315; Regulation 18531.5.)

### Ballot Measure Committees

Contributions to ballot measure committees controlled by a candidate for elective state office or a candidate for elective city or county office subject to Section 85301 (d) are not limited.

### Contributions from State Candidates and Officeholders subject to Section 85301 (d)

A state candidate or candidate for elective city or county office subject to Section 85301 (d) may not contribute more than \$5,900 to a committee controlled by another state candidate or candidate for elective city or county office subject to Section 85301 (d). This limit applies on a per election basis and includes, in the aggregate, contributions made from the candidate's personal funds and from campaign funds. (Section 85305; Regulation 18535.) This limit does not apply to a committee controlled by a state candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate for elective city or county office subject to Section 85301 (d) to oppose their recall or their contributions made to a legal defense fund established by a candidate for elective state office or candidate for elective city or county office subject to Section 85301(d). It also does not apply to contributions made by a candidate for elective state office or a candidate for elective city or county office subject to Section 85301 (d) to a ballot measure committee controlled by another state candidate or candidate for elective city or county office subject to Section 85301 (d). Please note there are certain rules applicable to use of funds held by state officeholder committees (See Regulation 18531.62.)

### Communications Identifying State Candidates

Any committee that makes a payment or a promise of payment totaling \$50,000 or more for a communication that:

1. Clearly identifies a state candidate; but
2. Does not expressly advocate the election or defeat of the candidate; and

3. Is disseminated, broadcast, or otherwise published within 45 days of an election, may not receive a contribution from any single source of more than \$49,000 in a calendar year if the communication is made at the behest of the candidate featured in the communication. (Section 85310.)

### Officeholder Committees

Officeholder contributions must be cumulated (in full) with any other contributions from the same contributor(s) for any other future elective state office or elective city or county office subject to Section 85301 (d) for which the officeholder maintains a controlled committee during the term of office in which the contribution is received. Contributions to candidates for future elections and to their officeholder account are cumulated for purposes of contribution limits. (Regulation 18531.62.)

### Contributions from State Lobbyists

A state lobbyist may not contribute to a state officeholder's or candidate's committee if the lobbyist is registered to lobby the agency of the elected officer or the agency to which the candidate is seeking election. The lobbyist also may not contribute to a local committee controlled by any such state candidate. (Section 85702; Regulation 18572.) In addition, effective January 1, 2015, lobbyists and lobbying firms may no longer take advantage of the \$500 or less home/office fundraiser exception that is available to other individuals and entities. (Section 82015(f).)

### Local Elections

Many cities and counties have local contribution limits and other election rules. The FPPC posts local campaign ordinances that are provided to the FPPC on its website. Always check with your city or county about contribution limits for local elections and for the most up-to-date information. A state campaign contribution limit applies by default to city and county candidates when the city or county has not already enacted a law addressing a local contribution limit on such candidates.

### Definitions

**Person:** An individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, company, corporation, limited liability company, association, committee, and any other organization or group of persons acting in concert. (Section 82047.)

**Small Contributor Committee:** Any committee that meets all of the following criteria:

- (a) The committee has been in existence for at least six months.
- (b) The committee receives contributions from 100 or more persons.
- (c) No one person has contributed to the committee more than \$200 per calendar year.
- (d) The committee makes contributions to five or more candidates. (Section 85203; Regulation 18503.)

**Political Party Committee:** The state central committee or county central committee of an organization that meets the requirements for recognition as a political party under Elections Code Section 5100. (Section 85205.)

# Santa Cruz County Ordinance: Election Campaign Contribution Control

As of January 1, 2026, the campaign contribution limit for County candidates is \$575.

Excerpt from the County Code:

## **8.04.040 Campaign contribution limitations.**

(A) County Candidates. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person shall make, and no County candidate or treasurer of any controlled committee of any County candidate shall solicit or accept, any contributions which would cause the total amount contributed by such person to such candidate or to their controlled committee to exceed \$500.00 during any election cycle for any County office. No contributions shall be accepted by any candidate before the beginning of the election cycle related to the election for which the person is a candidate. Contributions accepted for campaign expenses and for officeholder expenses shall be aggregated for purposes of the limitation set forth in this section.

(B) Elective County Officers with Outstanding Debt from Prior Election. No person shall make, and no elective County officer or any controlled committee of any elective County officer, shall solicit or accept any contributions for the purpose of retiring outstanding debt from a prior County election which would cause the total amount contributed by such person to such elective County officer or to their controlled committee to exceed \$500.00 for the election in which the outstanding debt was incurred, regardless of when the contributions are made or received. This restriction shall not apply to indebted former candidates who are not elected officers.

(C) Recall Elections. The contribution limitations set forth in subsection (A) of this section shall also apply to any committee which collects contributions for the purpose of making expenditures in support of or opposition to the recall of an elective County officer, and to contributions received by such elective County officer.

(D) Candidate's Personal Funds. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a County candidate's contribution of their personal funds to their own controlled committee. Contributions by the spouse of a County candidate from such spouse's separate property shall be subject to the contribution limitations set forth in subsection (A) of this section.

(E) Escalator. Contribution limits shall be increased by \$25.00 every two years, with the first escalation to take place on January 1, 2022. [Ord. 5303 § 1, 2019; Ord. 5045 § 1, 2009; Ord. 4493 § 2, 1998; Ord. 4468 § 2, 1997; Ord. 4045 § 2, 1990].

Santa Cruz County Code:

<https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaCruzCounty/#!/SantaCruzCounty08/SantaCruzCounty0804.html#8.04>

If you have any questions regarding the County Ordinance, please seek guidance from counsel.

For city campaign contribution limits, contact Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, or Watsonville City Clerk's office for more information.

# California Fair Political Practices Commission

## Voluntary Expenditure Ceilings for State Candidates

(Effective January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2026)

State candidates may voluntarily accept expenditure limits for elections. They must declare on the Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501) whether they accept the voluntary expenditure ceiling established for each election. Candidates who accept the ceiling are designated in either the state ballot pamphlet (statewide candidates) or the voter information portion of the sample ballot (Senate and Assembly candidates) and may purchase space in the sample ballot to place a 250-word statement. The voluntary expenditure ceilings are effective for elections held between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2026. (Regulation 18545.)

<b>Office</b>	<b>Primary/Special Election</b>	<b>General/Special Runoff Election</b>
Assembly	\$784,000	\$1,373,000
Senate	\$1,177,000	\$1,765,000
Board of Equalization	\$1,961,000	\$2,942,000
Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, Controller, Secretary of State, Supt. Of Public Instruction, Treasurer	\$7,844,000	\$11,767,000
Governor	\$11,767,000	\$19,611,000

From the Fair Political Practices Commission's [website](#).

# Campaign Disclosure Requirements

All candidates for state and local office are required to file campaign disclosure statements. Additionally, any committee formed to support or oppose a candidate or ballot measure is required to file campaign disclosure statements.

## Campaign Disclosure Information Manuals

The Fair Political Practices Committee (FPPC) prepares [campaign disclosure information manuals](#) that provide information on who must file, when campaign statements must be filed, where statements are to be filed, etc. Current manuals are available at the Elections Department. Candidates or committees must check to be sure they are using the correct manual and addendum, if any.

- Manual 1 - Information for State Candidates
- Manual 2 - Information for Local Candidates, Superior Court Judges
- Manual 3 - Information for Ballot Measure Committees
- Manual 4 - Information for General Purpose Committees
- Manual 5 - Information for Major Donor Committees
- Manual 6 - Information for Independent Expenditure Committees
- Manual 7 - Information for Slate Mailer Organizations

## Candidate Intention Statement (501)

A candidate for state or local office must file this form for each election, including reelection to the same office. The Form 501 does not apply to Political Action Committees (PACS), Independent Political Committees, or Broad Based Political Committees. The form is available from the County Elections Department or on the internet at [www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov](http://www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov). Once filed, the Form 501 is public information.

Form	Description	Where to File
501	<p><b>Candidate Intention Statement.</b> A candidate must file this form prior to the solicitation or receipt of any contribution, including the solicitation or receipt of contributions to pay off debts from a previous election, or to pay the current office holder expenses. A form 501 must be filed for each election, including runoff elections.</p> <p>Candidates must file a separate Form 501 for each election, including reelection to the same office.</p> <p>Part 2 of the Form 501 is where candidates for state offices either accept or do not accept expenditure limits pursuant to Proposition 34 (11/00)</p>	<p>Secretary of State</p> <p>Candidates for county offices must also file with the Elections Department within 24 hours of opening the campaign account.</p> <p>8.04.060(c)</p>

# Campaign Disclosure Forms

Below is a partial list of the most used Fair Political Practices Commission campaign disclosure forms and a brief explanation of the appropriate usage.

Form	Description	Who files	Number needed/Where to file
410	<p><b>Statement of Organization &amp; Termination.</b> For use by all recipient committees which receive contributions of \$2,000 or more – including personal funds – during a calendar year. Must be filed within 10 days of receiving \$2,000 or more and may be filed prior to receiving \$2,000. Must be filed within 24 hours if qualifying within 16 days of the election. Pay fee of \$50 to the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Upon receipt, the Secretary of State will issue an identification number that must be included on all campaign disclosure forms. The committee’s FPPC ID number will be posted at <a href="http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov">cal-access.sos.ca.gov</a></p> <p>Every committee which seeks or intends to influence the outcome of any <u>County election</u> shall file with the County Clerk a copy of the Form 410 within 10 days after the committee has qualified as a committee or when more than \$1,000 has been received or expended. (County Code § 8.04.070)</p> <p><b>Candidate Controlled Committees.</b> The name for all state and local committees must include the <b>candidate’s last name, office sought and year of the election.</b> This is required even if the committee was formed before the amendment to Regulation 18402 became effective. The district number or name of the city or county is not required. Examples of committee names are “Jones for Council 2026” and “Smith for Assembly 2026”</p> <p>(See FPPC Regulation 18402)</p>	Candidates for County Offices, Supervisors, Judges	<p>File original with the SOS &amp; 1 copy with local filing officer who will receive the original disclosure statements.</p> <p>Access the CA SOS <a href="#">website</a> for detailed instructions to submit the form with a verified digital signature.</p>
		State Legislative	File original with SOS.

Form	Description	Who files	Number needed/Where to file
450	<p><b>Recipient Committee Campaign Disclosure Statement – Short Form.</b> For use by non-controlled recipient committees formed to support or oppose candidates or measures. File if you have not received a contribution of \$100 or more from a single source; have not received any other payment of \$100 or more; have no outstanding loans made or received and have no unpaid bills.</p>	<p>Committees not controlled by a candidate</p> <p>State Committees</p>	<p>File original &amp; 1 copy with Elections; 2 copies with home county if different.</p> <p>File original with SOS.</p>
470	<p><b>Officeholder &amp; Candidate Campaign Statement – Short Form.</b> Officeholders &amp; candidates who do not have a controlled committee and do not anticipate spending or receiving \$2,000 or more (including personal funds).</p>	<p>Candidates for local office</p> <p>State Legislative</p>	<p>File original &amp; 1 copy with Elections; 2 copies w/county w/most voters (if local multi-county agency); 2 copies w/home county, if different.</p> <p>File original and 1 copy with SOS; 2 copies w/county w/most voters; 2 copies w/home county if different.</p>
470 Supplement	<p><b>Officeholder, Candidate &amp; Controlled Committee Campaign Statement – Supplement.</b> An officeholder or candidate who has filed Form 470 in connection with an election and subsequently receives contributions totaling \$2,000 or more is required to send written notification. The Form 470 Supplement may be used or personal written notification following similar format.</p>	<p>Applies to all candidates</p>	<p>Must be filed within 48 hours of reaching \$2,000 limit with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Secretary of State,</li> <li>• the local filing officer with whom the candidate is required to file originals of his/her campaign statements, and</li> <li>• each candidate seeking the same office.</li> </ul> <p>The notice must be sent by guaranteed overnight delivery service, personal delivery, fax, or email.</p> <p><b>Regular mail may not be used.</b></p>

Form	Description	Who files	Number needed/Where to file
460	<p><b>Recipient Committee Campaign Statement.</b> Form 460 is used by state and local recipient committees, including: candidates, officeholders, and their controlled committees; ballot measure committees; primarily formed candidate/officeholder committees; and general purpose committees who have filed a Form 410 and have raised or spent \$2,000 or more in a calendar year.</p>	County Offices, Supervisors	<p>File original &amp; 1 copy with County Clerk; 1 copy w/home county if different; File original and 1 copy w/county w/most voters with a copy to home county.</p>
		State Legislative; Judges	<p>File original and 1 copy with SOS; 1 copy w/home county if different.</p>
496	<p><b>24-Hour Independent Expenditure Report.</b> Independent expenditures that total in the aggregate \$1,000 or more to support or oppose a single candidate for elective state or local office or a single state or local ballot measure must be reported as 24-hour independent expenditures during the 90 days immediately preceding the election in which the candidate or measure will be voted on.</p> <p><b>File within 24 hours of making expenditure.</b></p>	Local Committees	<p>File original &amp; 1 copy with Elections; 1 copy with county of domicile, if different. File Form 496 by fax, guaranteed overnight delivery, or personal delivery. Regular mail may not be used.</p>
		State Committees	<p>File form 496 electronically with the Secretary of State</p>
497	<p><b>24-Hour Contribution Report.</b> State and local committees making or receiving contribution(s) that total in the aggregate \$1,000 or more in the 90 days before an election.</p> <p>Committees reporting contributions of \$5,000 or more in connection with a state ballot measure.</p> <p>State candidates and state ballot measure committees that receive \$5,000 or more at any time other than a 90-day election cycle.</p> <p><b>File within 24 hours of making contribution.</b></p>	Local Committees	<p>File with Elections; File where a primarily formed committee for a local measure is required to file. Regular mail may not be used.</p>
		State Committees	<p>File electronically with SOS; File where a primarily formed committee for a local measure is required to file. The form 497 must be filed by fax, guaranteed overnight delivery service, or personal delivery.</p>

## Campaign Disclosures for Federal Candidates

Provisions of the Political Reform Act do not apply to elections for federal offices, including U.S. Senate and U.S. Representative in Congress. Candidates for federal offices and committees that participate in federal campaigns are subject to federal disclosure requirements. Assistance for federal candidates and committees may be obtained from the:

**Federal Election Commission**  
**999 E Street, N.W.**  
**Washington, D.C. 20463**  
**800-424-9530**

## Filing is the Responsibility of the Candidate and/or Committee

It is the responsibility of candidates and/or committees to be aware of and to file the required campaign disclosure statements in a correct and timely manner.

## Late Filings

There are no provisions for granting “extensions” of the filing deadlines.

If a candidate, officeholder, or committee is required to file a statement and has failed to do so by the deadline, the Santa Cruz County Elections Department staff will:

1. Provide written notice that statement must be filed within 10 days (5 days for 2<sup>nd</sup> Pre-Election Statement) noting that a fine of \$10 per day beginning the day after the filing deadline until the date the statement is filed will be assessed unless waived by the Elections Official. The **maximum** penalty is \$100 or the total amount of contributions received or the total amount of expenditures made (whichever is greater) during the period covered by the late statement.

Fines may not be waived if statement is not filed within 10 days after specific notice is sent by the elections official (or 5 days for 2<sup>nd</sup> Pre-Election Statements).

Failure to file a statement after appropriate notice will be referred to an enforcement official and can result in substantial criminal, civil and administrative penalties.

## Multiple Committee Filing Requirements

Whenever a candidate or officeholder has more than one committee, whether the committees are formed for the same office, or a different office in the same jurisdiction, all committees must file statements each time a committee statement is due.

Whenever an elected officeholder in one jurisdiction runs for an elected office in another jurisdiction, the officeholder and all committees he/she controls must file campaign disclosure statements with the filing officer in the jurisdiction in which the officeholder holds office **AND** in which the officeholder is seeking office.

# Local Campaign Financial Reporting

## Netfile

The Filer Access Portal is a free, web-based, data entry filing system that allows candidates and campaign committees to file disclosure reports mandated by Santa Cruz County and California's Political Reform Act.

A **county committee** is defined as:

A committee that makes more than 70% of its contributions or expenditures to support or oppose candidates or measures voted on in a single county, or in more than one jurisdiction within one county. This includes contributions to other general purpose committees in the same county.

A **city committee** is defined as:

A committee that makes more than 70% of its contributions or expenditures to support or oppose candidates or measures voted on in a single city, or in one consolidated city and county. This includes contributions to other city general purpose committees in the same city.

## The Santa Cruz County Filer Access Portal

The County Elections department will set up a Netfile account in our admin system after receiving an FPPC campaign committee form. After an account is created, an e-mail will be sent via Netfile that will include a welcome letter with instructions on how to create a user log in and how to link to the account.

After you have successfully linked your account, you will be able to electronically file your disclosure reports.

Netfile technical support can be reached via email at [filerhelp@netfile.com](mailto:filerhelp@netfile.com)

## For City Council candidates and committees:

Contact the City Clerk of the respective City.

## For more information on Campaign Financial Reporting please visit:

<https://votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov/Home/CampaignReporting.aspx>

# Campaign Filing Schedule for Local Office - November 3, 2026

<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>July 31, 2026</b> <i>Semi-Annual</i>	*- 6/30/2026	<a href="#">460</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>460: All committees must file Form 460.</li> </ul>
<b>Within 24 Hours</b> <i>Election Cycle Reports</i>	8/5/2026 – 11/3/2026	<a href="#">497</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is received from a single source.</li> <li>File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is made to or in connection with <i>another</i> candidate or measure listed on the November 3, 2026 ballot.</li> <li>The recipient of a non-monetary contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate must file a Form 497 within 48 hours from the time the contribution is received.</li> <li>File by personal delivery, e-mail, guaranteed overnight service, or fax. The committee may also file online, if available.</li> </ul>
<b>Sept 24, 2026</b> <i>1st Pre-Election</i>	7/1/2026 – 9/19/2026	<a href="#">460</a> or <a href="#">470</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each candidate listed on the ballot must file Form 460 or Form 470 (see below).</li> </ul>
<b>Oct 22, 2026</b> <i>2nd Pre-Election</i>	9/20/2026 – 10/17/2026	<a href="#">460</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All committees must file this statement.</li> <li>File by personal delivery, guaranteed overnight service or online, if available.</li> </ul>
<b>Oct 30, 2026</b> <i>3rd Pre-Election</i>	10/18/2026 – 10/29/2026	<a href="#">460</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For County Candidates ONLY. This pre-election statement is required by County ordinance.</li> </ul>
<b>Feb 1, 2027</b> <i>Semi-Annual</i>	10/18/2026 – 12/31/2026	<a href="#">460</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Committees must file Form 460 unless the committee filed termination Forms 410 and 460 before December 31, 2026.</li> <li>The January 31 deadline falls on a Sunday, so the deadline is extended to the next business day.</li> </ul>

## Additional Notes:

- **\*Period Covered:** The period covered by any statement begins on the day after the closing date of the last statement filed, January 1, if no previous statement has been filed.
- **Local Ordinance:** Always check whether additional local rules apply.
- **Deadline Extensions:** Deadlines are extended when they fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or an official state holiday. This extension **does not apply** to a 24- Hour/10-Day Contribution Report (Form 497) that is due the weekend before the election, and this extension never applies to any 24-Hour/10-Day Independent Expenditure Report (Form 496). Such reports must be filed within 24 hours, regardless of the day of the week.

- **Method of Delivery:** Unless otherwise noted, all paper filings may be filed by first-class mail. A paper copy of a statement may not be required if a local agency requires online filing pursuant to a local ordinance.
- **Form 501:** All candidates must file Form 501 (Candidate Intention Statement) before soliciting/receiving contributions.
- **Form 460:** Candidates who have raised/spent \$2,000 or more file Form 460. The Form 410 (Statement of Organization) must also be filed once \$2,000 or more has been raised/spent.
- **Form 470:** Candidates who do not raise or spend \$2,000 or more (or anticipate raising or spending \$2,000 or more) in 2026 and do not have an open committee may file Form 470 on or before September 24, 2026. If the candidate raises or spends \$2,000 or more, later during the calendar year, a Form 470 Supplement and a Form 410 must be filed.
- **Independent Expenditures:** Committees making independent expenditures totaling \$1,000 or more to support or oppose other candidates or ballot measures also file:
  - **Form 496:** This form is due within 24 hours if made in the 90-day, 24-hour reporting period of the candidate's or measure's election. Refer to the applicable filing schedule. Form 496 is filed with the filing officer in the jurisdiction of the affected candidate or measure.
  - **Form 462:** This verification form must be e-mailed to the FPPC within 10 days.
- **After the Election:** Reporting requirements will depend on whether the candidate is successful and whether a campaign committee is open. See [Campaign Disclosure Manual](#) 2 for additional information.
- **Public Documents:** All statements and reports are public documents.
- **Resources:** Campaign manuals and other instructional materials are available on the [Campaign Rules](#) page. Or visit <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/> Learn > Campaign Rules.

Filing schedules are available online at: <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/campaign-rules/when-and-where-to-file-campaign-statements/state-and-local-filing-schedules/>

# How to Get Help from the FPPC

## **Assistance by Email (informal advice)**

<https://www.fppc.ca.gov/advice/get-advice.html>

Email communications are public documents and may be provided to others under the California Public Records Act.

Email advice is best suited for straightforward questions such as: When does a local ballot measure committee file its Form 410?; After assuming my new position as mayor how many days do I have to file the Form 700?

Email advice is not the forum for complex conflict-of-interest questions, questions that include incomplete or complicated facts, or questions that require substantial legal analysis.

### **Email directions:**

- Identify yourself, contact phone and position
- List the agency that is related to your question
- Write your question with as much specificity as possible
- If you have a question on a Form 700 disclosure include your disclosure category.
- For Gift and Travel Questions we need the following Information:
  - Identify source of gift or travel and whether the source is a governmental agency or a 501(c)(3) organization.
  - If the source of the gift or travel is reimbursed, provide details on who is making the reimbursement.
  - Date(s) gift received or date(s) of travel.
  - Describe gift (i.e. meal, sports or entertainment event tickets) or travel (i.e. airfare, other transportation, meals, lodging)
  - Include facts on whether the public official is making a speech or performing a ceremonial role.
  - Describe how the travel is reasonably related to a legislative or governmental purpose, or to an issue of state, national, or international public policy.

Please Note: Third party, hypothetical questions and enforcement related matters are not addressed.

Send your Email Question Here: [advice@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:advice@fppc.ca.gov)

Certain questions may take 2-3 days for a response.

## **Assistance by Telephone (informal advice)**

Toll-Free: 1-866-ASK-FPPC (1-866-275-3772X2) or 1-916-322-5660

**Telephone advice is available Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 11:30am.**

Call the numbers listed above and press 2 to speak to a political reform consultant in the Technical Assistance Division.

## **Assistance by Mail (formal advice)**

Fair Political Practices Commission  
1102 Q Street, Suite 3000  
Sacramento, CA 95811

You may also request formal advice by submitting your inquiry in writing to [advice@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:advice@fppc.ca.gov)

## **Informal Telephone and Email Advice**

This advice is considered informal assistance, and conservative responses are provided. In most instances, email advice will link you to the appropriate reference material posted on the FPPC website.

Both Telephone and Email Advice provide guidance based on facts provided through the inquiry. Advice does not provide immunity under Government Code Section 83114 and does not constitute legal advice or alter any legal right or liability. Political Reform Consultants will respond to your request for guidance, but the response is not a rule, regulation or statement binding or a final decision of the FPPC. Advice is only applicable to the specific person submitting the question and to the specific question asked.

### **Notes:**

- Answers to questions on past conduct or hypothetical situations are not provided.
- Advice regarding a person's duty is only provided to that person or their authorized representative.
- The FPPC does not provide guidance on laws other than the Political Reform Act (e.g. the Elections Code, the Brown Act, Federal or local laws.).
- The FPPC does not confirm in writing telephone advice.

## **Formal Written Advice**

Under Government Code Section 83114(b) and Commission regulations, any individual or entity (or their authorized representative) may request formal written advice from the Commission staff concerning their duties under the Political Reform Act. The request must be in writing, provide specified information about the requestor, and contain sufficient information on which the Commission staff can do a complete legal analysis. If the request meets these criteria, the Commission must provide formal written advice within 21 working days.

Formal written advice provides the requestor with immunity from prosecution by the Commission and provides evidence of good faith conduct in any relevant civil or criminal proceeding brought by another person, so long as the facts presented by the requestor are accurate and the requestor acts within the confines of the formal advice provided. Formal written advice does not provide immunity to people other than the requestor, although it may be used as guidance for questions based on similar facts.

The Commission may provide an informal written reply with general guidance in response to written requests for advice that do not meet the criteria for formal written advice. Since formal and informal written advice is provided by Commission staff, neither constitutes a formal opinion by the Commission under Government Code Section 83114(a) or a statement of Commission policy. More details about the written advice process can be found in Section 18329 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations.

## **Commission Opinions**

Under Government Code Section 83114(a) and Commission regulations, any individual or entity (or their authorized representative) may request a formal opinion from the Commission concerning their duties under the Political Reform Act. The Commission's Executive Director must accept or reject a request for formal opinion within 14 days. A request will normally be rejected if the question can be answered under existing statutes or regulations or does not otherwise present a significant policy issue.

In addition, since the process requires formal action by the Commission, if the request is accepted, it normally takes several months after the question is submitted before a formal opinion may issue from the Commission. A formal opinion issued by the Commission provides the requestor with immunity from civil or criminal prosecution under the Political Reform Act so long as the facts presented by the requestor are accurate and the requestor acts within the confines of the opinion. More details about the formal opinion process can be found in Sections 18320 through 18326 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations.

### **Enforcement Complaints**

To report a violation of the Act, contact the Enforcement Division:

- [complaint@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:complaint@fppc.ca.gov) or
- 1-866-ASK-FPPC (1-866-275-3772)

# Campaign Finance Prohibitions

State law provides for the following prohibitions regarding campaign funds:

- No contribution of one hundred dollars (\$100) or more shall be made or received in cash. If a cash contribution is made, it shall not be deemed received if it is refunded within 72 hours of receipt or in the case of a late contribution, within 48 hours of receipt.
- No expenditure of one hundred dollars (\$100) or more shall be made in cash.
- The value of all in-kind contributions of one hundred dollars (\$100) or more shall be reported in writing to the recipient upon the request in writing of the recipient. (Govt. Code § 84300)
- No contribution shall be made, directly or indirectly, by any person in a name other than the name by which such person is identified for legal purposes. (Govt. Code § 84301)
- No person shall make an anonymous contribution or contributions to a candidate, committee or any other person totaling one hundred dollars (\$100) or more in a calendar year. An anonymous contribution of one hundred dollars (\$100) or more shall not be kept by the intended recipient but instead shall be promptly paid to the Secretary of State for deposit in the General Fund of the state. (Govt. Code § 84304)
- No contribution shall be commingled with personal funds of the recipient or any other person. (Govt. Code § 84307)
- Contributions made by a husband and wife may not be aggregated. A contribution made by a child under 18 years of age is presumed to be a contribution from the parent or guardian of the child. (Gov. Code § 85308)
- No newsletter or other mass mailing shall be sent at public expense. (Govt. Code § 89001)
- Every person who contrives, prepares, sets up, proposes, or draws any lottery or raffle, is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Penal Code §§ 319, 320)

# Mistakes Others Have Made

*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. (Gov. 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. Candidates for county offices (excludes judges, school boards and special district boards) must file a Form 410 prior to the acceptance of any campaign contribution totaling \$1000 or more or the making of any expenditure intended to influence the outcome of any election. (Co. Code 8.04.070)
- Officeholders and candidates who receive contributions or make expenditures must establish a campaign checking account in California and report it on Form 410.
- Loans to a candidate are considered contributions unless the loan is from a financial institution. The Federal Election Campaign Act (2 U.S.C. §442b & e) prohibits contributions from national banks, national corporations, and foreign nationals in connection with any local, state, or federal election to political office.
- 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. (Gov. Code § 85200)
- Otherwise, campaign disclosure laws require that expenditures of \$100 or more be made by written instrument containing the names of both the payee and payer. (Gov. Code § 84300) The candidate may reimburse himself with committee funds and list it as a campaign expenditure on Schedule E.
- Candidates for County Offices are prohibited from receiving contributions from business entities or labor unions. However, if the business or labor committee is created for or sponsored by a corporation, partnership or labor union or other business entity for the sole purpose of using voluntary donations of its individual members or employees for political purposes may make contributions up to \$1000 in support of or in opposition to a candidate or recall. (Co. Code Section 8.04.050)
- Never accept or spend \$100 or more in cash.
- For contributions of \$100 or more, including loans, and in-kind contributions, you must disclose the contributor's name, address, occupation and employer. 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. (Gov. Code § 84300)

- Maintain details on contributions and expenditures of \$25 or more, even if you are spending less than \$2,000. Refer to recordkeeping guidelines in Manuals 1 and 2.
- Make copies of all contributor checks.
- Itemize expenditures of \$500 or more made by an agent or campaign consultant.
- No candidate or committee shall 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 which shall be in a color or print which 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 organization's address is a matter of public record with the Secretary of State. (GC § 84305(a))
- Candidates must disclose employer information for all contributors and keep all records of occupation and employer information.
- **NO PERSONAL USE OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS.** Use campaign funds only for political, legislative, or governmental purposes.
- 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.
- As long as the committee is in existence, a Semi-Annual Campaign Statement must be filed. If the candidate has filed a long form (460) previously in the calendar year, a 460 must be filed as the Semi-Annual Statement even if there is no activity. If a 470 has been filed previously in the year, another 470 must be filed as the Semi-Annual Statement.
- Payee addresses must be disclosed on the campaign statements for expenditures made.
- If the committee changes its treasurer, an amendment to the Form 410 Statement of Organization must be filed.
- If \$1,000 or more is received from one contributor during the last 90 days before the election, disclose receipt within 24 hours, even if the contribution is from your personal funds.

# Form 700: Disclosure of Economic Interests

## Who Must File

State law (the Political Reform Act of 1974) requires candidates for school and special districts to disclose their interests in real property and income within the past 12 months in a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) to be filed with the Declaration of Candidacy and candidates appointed to an office file within 30 days after assuming office. (Gov. Code § 87200, et. seq.)

Candidates for city council are required to file with the City Clerk a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) with their Declaration of Candidacy.

**EXCEPTION:** This statement is not required of a candidate who has filed a statement for the same jurisdiction as an officeholder within sixty (60) days prior to assuming office or filing the Declaration of Candidacy. (Gov. Code §§ 87201, 87202)

Candidates for federal offices file under federal rather than state disclosure laws. For information, candidates for U.S. Representatives should write to: Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, 1036 Longworth House Office Building, Washington D.C., 20515 202-224-3121.

*Every person who is elected to an office specified in Section 87200 shall, within 30 days after assuming the office, file a statement disclosing his or her investments and his or her interests in real property held on the date of **Assuming Office**, and income received during the 12 months before **Assuming Office**. (Gov. Code § 87202(a))*

## What Must be Disclosed

Under state law, persons filing economic interests statements as candidates are required to disclose investments and interests in real property and income within the past 12 months. (Gov. Code §§ 87201, 87203)

## When and Where to File

Candidates who file must obtain forms and instructions from the Santa Cruz County Elections Department. [The Form 700](#) must be filed with the Elections Department with their Declaration of Candidacy. The Declaration of Candidacy is filed between July 13 and August 7.

**If the statement is filed after the deadline, candidates may be penalized up to \$10 per day up to a maximum of \$100.** Late filing penalties can be reduced or waived under certain circumstances. Santa Cruz County filers should obtain a copy of the “Late Filing Policy” from the County Elections Department. (Gov. Code §§ 87201, 87500)

## Statements Are a Public Record

Statements of Economic Interests are a public record. They may be inspected by anyone and copies may be purchased from the filing officer for 10 cents per page. (Gov. Code § 81008)

## What's New

### Gift Limit Increase

The gift limit increased to **\$630** for calendar years **2025** and **2026**.

The gift limit in calendar year 2024 was \$590.

### Required Electronic Filing for FPPC (Section 87500) Filers

Certain candidates and officials specified in Section 87500 are now required to file their Form 700 electronically using the FPPC's e-filing system. Filers for the offices listed under Section 87500 should contact the FPPC at [form700@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:form700@fppc.ca.gov) to obtain their login and password information.

#### Where to file:

#### Code Filers — State and Local Officials, Employees, and Consultants Designated in a Conflict of Interest Code:

File with your agency, board, or commission unless otherwise specified in your agency's code (e.g., Legislative staff files directly with FPPC). In most cases, the agency, board, or commission will retain the statements.

#### Members of Newly Created Boards and Commissions:

File with your agency or with your agency's code reviewing body pursuant to Regulation 18754.

**Employees in Newly Created Positions of Existing Agencies:** File with your agency or with your agency's code reviewing body. (See Reference Pamphlet, page 3.)

**Multi-County Agencies, Boards, Commissions:** File with your agency, board, or commission unless otherwise specified in your agency's code. Please review your agency's conflict of interest code as some multi-county offices are required to file electronically with the FPPC. In most cases, the agency, board, or commission will retain the statements.

**87200 State Filers, for offices not specified in Section 87500, file as follows:** File with your agency, board, or commission unless otherwise specified in your agency's code. Please review your agency's conflict of interest code as some 87200 state offices are required to file electronically with the FPPC. In most cases, the agency, board, or commission will retain the statements.

**87200.5 Filers — Groundwater Sustainability Agency:** Members of the Board of Directors and Executives (e.g., Executive Director, General Manager, or other equivalent position) file electronically with the FPPC.

#### Officials and Candidates Specified in Section 87500, FPPC Filers:

The Act requires that the following officeholders and candidates for the positions listed below file electronically using the FPPC's e-filing system.

- Statewide elected officers and candidates for statewide elective office. (For a complete list of statewide elected officers please see Reference Pamphlet, Page 6.)
- Members and candidates for the Legislature and State Board of Equalization
- Designated employees of the Legislature directed to

file with the FPPC by the house of the Legislature by which they are employed

- Members of the Public Utilities Commission, State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, or California Coastal Commission
- Members of a state licensing or regulatory board, bureau, or commission
- Members of the Fair Political Practices Commission
- Appointed members to a state board, commission, or similar multimember body of the state if the FPPC has been designated as the filing officer in the conflict of interest code of the respective board, commission, or body. (Please contact your agency for a copy of your agency's conflict of interest code.)
- Designated employees of more than one joint powers insurance agency who elect to file a multiagency statement pursuant to Section 87350
- Judges (Supreme, Appellate, Superior Court), Retired Judges, Pro Tem Judges, court commissioners, or candidates for judge
- Officeholder or candidate for the office of district attorney, county counsel, county treasurer, or county board of supervisors
- Officeholder or candidate for the office of city council member, city treasurer, city attorney, or mayor
- County chief administrative officer, city manager, or if there is no city manager, the chief administrative officer
- County or city planning commissioner
- Head of a local government agency or member of a local government board or commission, if the FPPC has been designated as the filing officer in the conflict of interest code of the respective agency, board, or commission. (Please contact your agency for a copy of your agency's conflict of interest code.)
- A public official who manages public investments.

#### Candidates, for offices not listed in Section 87500 above, file as follows:

- County offices (e.g., candidates running for local elective office that are designated in a conflict of interest code): File with your county elections official.
- City offices (e.g., candidates running for local elective office that are designated in a conflict of interest code): File with your City Clerk.
- Multi-county offices: File with your county elections official with whom you file your declaration of candidacy.

FPPC Form 700 (2025/2026) [advice@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:advice@fppc.ca.gov) •  
866-275-3772 • [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov)

# Electioneering

## **100 Feet Rule**

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, a satellite location under Section 3018, 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.

(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 defined by Section 319.5.

As used in this section, "100 feet of a polling place, a satellite location under Section 3018, 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)

## **Electioneering During Vote-by-mail**

### **Voting**

Pursuant to Elections Code § 18371 no candidate or representative of a candidate, and no proponent, opponent, or representative of a proponent or opponent, of an initiative, referendum, or recall measure, or of a charter amendment, shall solicit the vote of a vote-by-mail voter, or do any electioneering, while in the residence or in the immediate presence of the voter, and during the time he or she knows the vote-by-mail voter is voting.

Any person who knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

This section shall not be construed to conflict with any provision of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, nor to preclude electioneering by mail or telephone or in public places, except as prohibited by Section 18370, or by any other provision of law.

## **Poll Watchers**

Poll watchers are allowed at the polling place if they obey the law and election procedures.

Persons observing the polls may:

- Inspect the Roster of Voters. Any such inspection, however, must be done without impeding, interfering or interrupting the normal process of voting and counting.
- Inspect the Public's Alpha Index updated regularly by the precinct workers. The index may not be removed from the polling place.
- Observe all activities at the polling place, including activities after the polls close, providing they do not interfere with the normal processing of voters.

## **Exit Polling**

The Secretary of State and Attorney General have reviewed the Electioneering provisions and have determined that these provisions do not apply to the Press and Media conducting "Exit Polls." However, no one may interfere with the conduct of the election. Therefore, news media have been advised to remain at least 25 feet from the entrance to the polls. The media may take pictures or run a television camera inside the polling place providing they respect the voters' privacy and do not interfere with voting. They may not speak to voters regarding how they are voting within 25 feet of the entrance to the polling place.

# Election Night Results

## Where

Ballots are counted at the Elections Department:

701 Ocean St., Room 310  
Santa Cruz, CA

## Contacts

Tricia Webber, County Clerk  
Rita Sanchez, Assistant County Clerk

## Results

The first report will be released around 8:30pm on Tuesday, November 3. Since we are not waiting for ballots from the polls, we will process mail ballots election night until 11pm and post semi-official election night results before we leave for the night.

## Results on the Internet

Results will be posted online at [www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov](http://www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov)

## Results by Phone

Telephones will be staffed until all the ballots are counted election night for callers to phone in and obtain results.

### Call 831-454-2060

Election results by contest are simple to provide over the phone. However, if you are interested in obtaining more specific voting result information, we encourage you to be present at the Elections Department.

## Election night results are not final

Once the last ballot is counted, an Election Night Summary Vote Report will be available from the Elections Department. It will also be posted on our website. Ballots will be added to the election night count during the canvass. Vote totals will change as more qualified ballots are added to the count. Winners cannot be declared until all votes in the jurisdiction are certified.

## Precinct-by-precinct numbers

In addition to posting precinct results at each voting precinct, a report showing votes by precinct based on ballots counted Election Night will be posted on our website Wednesday, November 6.

## Final Results

The official canvass of ballots will begin no later than Thursday, November 5. The law gives us 30 days to complete the canvass and certify the final vote totals. Please call to verify when the final count will occur.

# The Canvass

The official canvass of votes cast at the November 3, 2026, Presidential General election may begin no later than Thursday, November 5, 2026 pursuant to Elections Code §§ 15301, 15372.

All post-election manual tally requirements must be completed within the canvass period established by Elections Code § 10262 and § 15372.

**Periodic updates of results before final certification:** The Elections Department will do periodic updates of the vote count. Once all provisional ballots and vote-by-mail ballots are processed and precinct supplies are sorted through to ensure all ballots are accounted for, a final count of ballots will take place. The time and date of any update and the final count will be posted on our website.

**Vote-By-Mail ballot numbers provided by district:** Vote-by-Mail ballots may be dropped off at any polling place on Election Day. In addition, numerous vote-by-mail ballots are received in the mail or our drop box in front of the county building in the final days before the election and are stored in trays until after Election Day when there is adequate time to process these ballots. Ballots postmarked by Election Day and received in the mail by the Friday after the election will be added to the count if the voter is qualified.

On election night, the Elections Department will be able to provide an **estimate** of the number of vote-by-mail ballots received that remain to be counted during the canvass.

Once all the vote-by-mail ballots are keyed into the computer system and flagged as returned, we will be able to provide a count of vote-by-mail ballots left to be processed. A report can be run that will show how many remain in each ballot type.

***Usually, this report is available a week after the election.***

**Vote-By-Mail Ballot Processing:** On election night all the vote-by-mail ballots that have been received and processed prior to Election Day are counted. The law allows elections officials to begin to process vote-by-mail ballots 7 working days prior to the election. For a vote-by-mail ballot to be ready to be counted, the following has to occur:

- a) flag returned vote-by-mail ballots on computer system;
- b) compare signature of voter on vote-by-mail ballot envelope to the signature on computer from the voter's registration affidavit, if there is a discrepancy, the ballot is separated for review by a supervisor;
- c) sort vote-by-mail ballots by consolidated voting precinct;
- d) open vote-by-mail ballot identification envelopes within each sorted group. Identification envelopes are placed signature side down and the voted ballot is removed. An envelope returned empty without a ballot is noted. Empty identification envelopes are removed from the table. The number of opened vote-by-mail ballot identification envelopes are counted and the number of voted ballots are counted. If numbers do not match, research is done until the numbers are reconciled;
- e) voted ballots are then inspected for damage or marks that would affect the accuracy of counting the ballot. Ballots are corrected pursuant to Elections Code § 15210 or duplicated if necessary, by the canvassing board.
- f) vote-by-mail ballots issued on the day before or the day of the election are verified against the precinct rosters prior to processing to ensure against voting twice. Lists of vote-by-mail voters who

are issued ballots prior to the day before the election are delivered to the precinct inspectors who mark the names in the Alpha Index as having already received a ballot.

g) ballots are then prepared for tallying final election results.

***It typically takes approximately 10 days to process the outstanding Vote-by-Mail ballots.***

**Provisional Ballot Numbers & Processing:** The number of provisional ballots voted at each precinct is available on election night. However, the number of provisional ballots voted at the Elections office or central location are not tallied. Therefore, an official number of provisional ballots to be processed will not be available until the ballot envelopes are researched and keyed into the computer.

The Elections Department does not provide a breakdown of the numbers of provisional ballots by district but can provide the list of those turned in by precinct and a list of precincts in each district.

Provisional voters include:

- registered voters who move within the same county but fail to re-register to vote, who vote at their new polling place, the Elections Department or central location;
- voters who are not listed on the Alpha Index at the polling place;
- voters who have been issued a vote-by-mail ballot, show up at the polling place to vote, but fail to surrender their vote-by-mail ballot;
- any other voter whose eligibility to vote was questioned by the precinct officer.

Provisional ballots are investigated by the Canvass Board once all the vote-by-mail ballots have been keyed in as returned. When there is a question of the voter's right to vote, the supervisor investigates. All valid provisional ballots are then prepared for the official count.

***The provisional ballot process takes 5 to 10 days following completion of the Vote-by-mail ballot processing.***

**Reconciliation - Precinct Ballots:** The Canvass Board reviews Ballot Statements for accuracy and compares numbers of ballots counted by the computer to the number recorded by the Precinct Board. The Canvass Board verifies the number of Vote-by-Mail and Provisional ballots reported turned in by the Precinct Board with the number received by the Receiving Board on Election night. Differences are computed and discrepancies are investigated. Ballots which were not tallied on election night because they were damaged or rejected by the scanners are remade for the final ballot count. The Canvass Board also examines each roster for completion of all Certificates, Oaths and Declarations. Irregularities are noted and investigated. Payroll forms are forwarded to the Precinct Recruitment Officer who enters in the appropriate information on the computer database and forwards the payroll data to the Auditor.

***This procedure takes 3 to 5 days.***

**Write-In Votes:** Votes for qualified write-in candidates are manually counted by precinct. A summary of the votes cast for qualified write-in candidates is printed in the certified statement of vote. A copy is available upon the final tally of the votes cast. Votes are not tallied for write-in candidates that did not file as a qualified write-in candidate.

***This procedure takes 3 to 5 days depending on the number of write-in candidates.***

**1% Manual Recount (§ 15360):** (a) During the official canvass of every election in which a voting system is used, the official conducting the election shall conduct a public manual tally of the ballots tabulated by those devices, including vote by mail ballots, using either of the following methods:

(1) (A) A public manual tally of the ballots, including vote by mail ballots, cast in 1 percent of the precincts chosen at random by the elections official. If 1 percent of the precincts is less than one whole precinct, the tally shall be conducted in one precinct chosen at random by the elections official.

(B) (i) In addition to the 1 percent manual tally, the elections official shall, for each race not included in the initial group of precincts, count one additional precinct. The manual tally shall apply only to the race not previously counted.

(ii) Additional precincts for the manual tally may be selected at the discretion of the elections official.

(2) A two-part public manual tally, which includes both of the following:

(A) A public manual tally of the ballots, not including vote by mail ballots, cast in 1 percent of the precincts chosen at random by the elections official and conducted pursuant to paragraph (1).

(B) (i) A public manual tally of not less than 1 percent of the vote by mail ballots cast in the election. Batches of vote by mail ballots shall be chosen at random by the elections official.

(ii) For the purposes of this section, a “batch” means a set of ballots tabulated by the voting system devices, for which the voting system can produce a report of the votes cast.

(iii) (I) In addition to the 1 percent manual tally of the vote by mail ballots, the elections official shall, for each race not included in the initial 1 percent manual tally of vote by mail ballots, count one additional batch of vote by mail ballots. The manual tally shall apply only to the race not previously counted.

(II) Additional batches for the manual tally may be selected at the discretion of the elections official.

(b) If vote by mail ballots are cast on a direct recording electronic voting system at the office of an elections official or at a satellite location of the office of an elections official pursuant to Section 3018, the official conducting the election shall either include those ballots in the manual tally conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of subdivision (a) or conduct a public manual tally of those ballots cast on no fewer than 1 percent of all the direct recording electronic voting machines used in that election chosen at random by the elections official.

(c) The elections official shall use either a random number generator or other method specified in regulations that shall be adopted by the Secretary of State to randomly choose the initial precincts, batches of vote by mail ballots, or direct recording electronic voting machines subject to the public manual tally.

(d) The manual tally shall be a public process, with the official conducting the election providing at least a five-day public notice of the time and place of the manual tally and of the time and place of the selection of the precincts, batches, or direct recording electronic voting machines subject to the public manual tally prior to conducting the selection and tally.

(e) The official conducting the election shall include a report on the results of the 1 percent manual tally in the certification of the official canvass of the vote. This report shall identify any discrepancies between the machine count and the manual tally and a description of how each of these discrepancies was resolved. In resolving any discrepancy involving a vote recorded by means of a punchcard voting system or by electronic or electromechanical vote tabulating devices, the voter verified paper audit

trail shall govern if there is a discrepancy between it and the electronic record.

***The 1 percent tally procedure takes approximately 5 to 10 days.***

**Final Official Count:** The Logic and Accuracy Test is run, reviewed, and approved to ensure the card readers are operating correctly. The vote-by-mail, provisional and any remade ballots are then counted by the 400C ballot counter. A final computer print-out summarizing the votes in all races is then made available. Any irregularities and/or discrepancies are investigated and reconciled.

A Statement of the Votes cast includes:

- The total number of ballots cast;
- The number of votes cast at each precinct for each candidate and for and against each measure;
- The total number of votes cast for each candidate and for and against each measure;
- The total number of votes cast in each city, Assembly district, Congressional district, Senatorial district, State Board of Equalization district, supervisorial district for each candidate for the offices of presidential elector and all statewide offices and on each statewide ballot proposition.

***A certified copy of the Statement of Vote is available for purchase within 7 days of the final count and will be available online at [www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov](http://www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov)***

# FAQs

Candidates running for public office must satisfy many requirements set forth in law and regulation. Over the years, certain aspects of the nomination process have been identified as areas where prospective candidates seem to encounter problems. To assist candidates in avoiding these “pitfalls” the following questions and answers have been prepared.

## **Do I need an appointment?**

Services offered in Watsonville at the South County Service Center on Westridge Drive will be by appointment only. There will be an online booking calendar for candidates to book an appointment. All the documents that need to be filed are posted on the website at [www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov](http://www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov), except for the Declaration of Candidacy that you sign during your appointment. *No* appointment is needed for services at the Santa Cruz Elections office.

For city council candidates, contact the city clerk for more information.

## **Is your office open during the lunch hour?**

Yes. Excluding holidays, regular office hours at the Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections are 8am to 5pm, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, and 9am to 5pm, Tuesday. We do remain open between the hours of noon to 1pm. On Election Day we are open from 7am until the last ballot is counted.

Tuesday hours will be 8am to 5pm during the Candidate Declaration of Candidacy filing period.

## **What if I change my mind about being a candidate after filing a Declaration of Candidacy?**

Candidates may withdraw their Declaration of Candidacy prior to the final date for filing. According to Elections Code § 10510, "No candidate shall withdraw his or her declaration of candidacy after 5pm on the 88th day prior to the general district election."

## **May a second party pick up my Declaration of Candidacy for me?**

All forms must be either picked up in person by the candidate or a letter of specific authorization, signed by the candidate, must be presented by the candidate's representative.

## **May a second party file my Declaration of Candidacy or mail them to you?**

Election law does not specifically prohibit another person filing a Declaration of Candidacy for a candidate. However, candidates are urged to file in person. The reasons are twofold:

The oath or affirmation must be administered by a member of the Elections Department or a notary. It is easier for a candidate to file the Declaration of Candidacy in person and have the oath administered at the time the candidate files; and

The signature of the candidate, as well as other data, is required on the Declaration of Candidacy. If through an oversight the candidate's papers are incomplete, the problem can be easily rectified when a candidate files in person.