

CANDIDATE'S HANDBOOK

JUNE 2, 2026 | **STATEWIDE DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION**

ORANGE
COUNTY

CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC



ORANGE COUNTY
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

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**THE 2026 CANDIDATE'S HANDBOOK FOR THE
STATEWIDE DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION IS INTENDED
TO PROVIDE GENERAL INFORMATION FOR
CANDIDATES AND COMMITTEES, AND DOES NOT HAVE
THE FORCE AND EFFECT OF LAW, REGULATION OR
RULE. IT IS DISTRIBUTED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING
THAT THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OF THE COUNTY
OF ORANGE IS NOT RENDERING LEGAL ADVICE.
THEREFORE, THE HANDBOOK IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE
FOR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE INDIVIDUAL,
ORGANIZATION OR CANDIDATE USING IT.**

**THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS STRONGLY
RECOMMENDS THAT ANY PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE
OBTAIN LEGAL ADVICE, TO ASSIST IN COMPLYING
WITH APPLICABLE CALIFORNIA LAWS, INCLUDING
THE CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS CODE AND CALIFORNIA
GOVERNMENT CODE.**

Orange County Registrar of Voters

Mission Statement

“To provide election services for the citizens of Orange County to ensure equal access to the election process, protect the integrity of votes, and maintain a transparent, accurate and fair process.”

Vision Statement

“To ensure excellence in the administration of elections to inspire confidence and trust in the democratic process.”

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Recently, there have been changes and improvements to the Candidate Filing process. Please read the information on the following subjects before continuing through this handbook.

1. Online Candidate Filing Portal
2. Credit card payments not accepted for Federal and State filing fees
3. Candidate Filing Appointments
4. Congressional Redistricting
5. AB1392

ONLINE CANDIDATE FILING PORTAL

A custom online Candidate Filing feature on the Registrar of Voters' website will be available on **December 19, 2025**, at ocvote.gov for candidates wishing to obtain Signatures In-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions, **January 26, 2026** for the judicial Declaration of Intention period, and on **February 9, 2026**, for the Nomination period for all candidates. This portal allows candidates to start the Candidate Filing process and download many of the required documents, prior to filing the documents at the Registrar of Voters' office.

This service will benefit you, the candidate. **Candidate Filing cannot be entirely completed online due to State law**, but it should make your filing process simpler and easier to understand. Benefits to the candidate include:

- Signature-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions and Nomination Papers may be downloaded and circulated prior to candidates filing these documents at the Registrar of Voters' office;
- The filing fee for **local** candidates may be paid online by credit card;
- The Candidate's Statement of Qualifications Fee may be paid online by credit card;
- Draft Candidate's Statements of Qualifications may be electronically submitted, allowing Registrar of Voters' staff to format the statements prior to the candidates coming to the office to sign the final documents; and
- The Ballot Designation Worksheet, Code of Fair Campaign Practices form, and Campaign Finance Reporting forms may be downloaded prior to candidates filing them at the Registrar of Voters' office.



CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS NOT ACCEPTED FOR FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICE CANDIDATES' FILING FEE

The Secretary of State no longer accepts credit card payment to pay the filing fee of Federal and State Offices. Candidates may pay for the filing fee by check, money order or cashier's check, made payable to the Secretary of State.

CANDIDATE FILING APPOINTMENTS

Save time by scheduling an appointment online at ocvote.gov/appointments to **complete** the candidate filing process. Appointments are available in the morning and evening, starting **February 12, 2026**.

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING INFORMATION

What Congressional Redistricting Means to Candidates:

The district numbers and boundaries for the office of Congress have changed. For the June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election, voters will be voting for candidates running for Congress using the new district boundaries as approved by voters on November 4, 2025, at the Statewide Special Election. For this candidate filing period, signers on nomination documents must reside in these new congressional districts. Orange County has tools for candidates and voters to be able to verify the districts in which they reside including an online district verification tool, electronic maps, and printed maps available for purchase.

Information on ordering electronic or printed maps is located in the back of this Handbook.

Online District Verification Tool:

The online district verification tool is available at <http://www.ocvote.gov/findmydistrict>. Using an address or the interactive map, you can verify the districts in which a candidate or voter resides.



PROPOSITION 14: **The Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act** **Passed by the Voters in June of 2010**

This proposition provides for a “voter-nominated Primary Election” for each state elective office and congressional office in California. A voter may vote at the Primary Election for any candidate for congressional or state elective office without regard to the political party preference (formerly known as “party affiliation”) disclosed by either the candidate or the voter.

The top two candidates receiving the two highest vote totals for each office at a Primary Election, regardless of party preference, would then compete for the office at the ensuing General Election.

Voter-Nominated Offices:

For the June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election, voter-nominated offices are: Representative in Congress, State Constitutional Officers -- Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, and Member of the State Board of Equalization-District 4 -- Member of the State Senate, and Member of the State Assembly.

Under the California Constitution, political parties are not entitled to formally nominate candidates for voter-nominated offices at the Primary Election, and a candidate nominated for a voter-nominated office at the Primary Election is not the official nominee of any party for the office in question at the ensuing General Election.

All voters, regardless of the party preference listed on their registration affidavit or their refusal to disclose a party preference, may vote for any candidate for a voter-nominated office, provided they meet the other qualifications required to vote for that office.

The top two vote-getters at the Primary Election advance to the General Election for the voter-nominated office, and both candidates may have specified the same party preference designation. No party is entitled to have a candidate with its party preference designation participate in the General Election unless such candidate is one of the two highest vote-getters at the Primary Election.

A candidate for nomination or election to a voter-nominated office **shall**, however, designate his or her party preference, or lack of party preference, and have that designation reflected on the Primary and General Elections' ballots, **but the party designation so indicated is selected solely by the candidate and is shown for the information of the voter only.** It does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the candidate by the party designated, and no candidate nominated by the qualified voters for any voter-nominated office shall be deemed to be the officially nominated candidate of any political party. The parties may have a list of candidates for voter-nominated offices, who have received the official endorsement of the party, printed in the Voter Information Guide.

A candidate for "voter-nominated" office **must** provide his/her party preference history for the preceding 10 years when he/she files his/her Declaration of Candidacy. Voters may obtain this party preference history on the Secretary of State's and Registrar of Voters' websites.

A voter **may vote** for a qualified write-in candidate for a "voter-nominated" contest in the **Statewide Direct Primary Election**. A voter **may not** write-in a person's name for a voter-nominated office at the **General Election**.

Nonpartisan Offices:

For the June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election, nonpartisan offices are: State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, Member of the Orange County Board of Education, Judge of the Superior Court, and County Offices – Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Clerk-Recorder, County Superintendent of Schools, and County Treasurer-Tax Collector.

Under the California Constitution, political parties are not entitled to nominate candidates for nonpartisan offices at the Primary Election, and a candidate nominated for a nonpartisan office at the Primary Election is not the official nominee of any party for the office in question at the ensuing General Election.

A candidate for nomination or election to a nonpartisan office may NOT designate his or her party preference, or lack of party preference, on the Primary and the General Elections' ballots. If the nonpartisan contest goes to a run-off in the General Election, the top two vote-getters at the Primary Election advance to the General Election. **Proposition 14 does not change how candidates for nonpartisan offices are nominated/elected.**

NEW

AB1392

This bill exempts the residence address, telephone number, and email address of a federal, state, or local elected official or candidate from being disclosed except for journalistic or governmental purposes under specific conditions and makes that elected official or candidate's information confidential. This bill also authorizes an elected official or candidate to opt out of making their residence address, telephone number, and email address confidential.

§§ 2166.9, 2194

JUNE 2, 2026 STATEWIDE DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION
CONTESTS ON BALLOT

**Party-Nominated/
Partisan Offices**

NONE

**Voter-Nominated
Offices**

Representative in
Congress

State Constitutional
Officers:

Governor
Lieutenant Governor
Secretary of State
Controller
State Treasurer
Attorney General
Insurance
Commissioner
Member, State Board
of Equalization,
District 4

Member of the State
Senate

Member of the State
Assembly

**Nonpartisan
Offices**

State Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Member, Orange County
Board of Supervisors

Judge of the Superior
Court

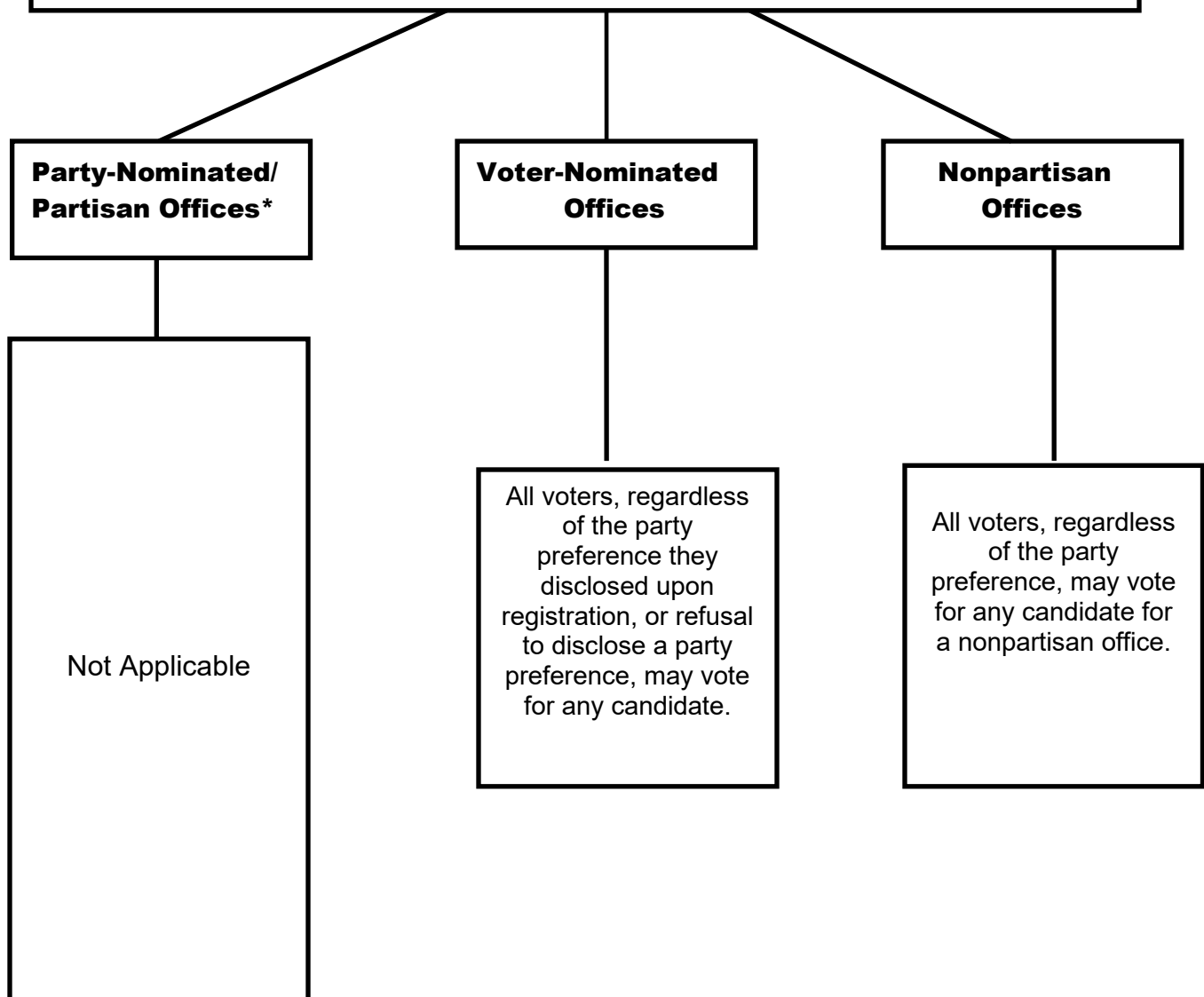
County Officers:

Assessor
Auditor-Controller
Clerk-Recorder
County Treasurer-Tax
Collector
County Superintendent
of Schools

Member, Orange County
Board of Education

JUNE 2, 2026 STATEWIDE DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION

WHO CAN CAST A VOTE FOR THE CONTESTS?



***NO PARTY-NOMINATED/PARTISAN CONTESTS WILL BE ON THE
JUNE 2, 2026 STATEWIDE DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT**

**STATEWIDE DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION CALENDAR
JUNE 2, 2026**

**December 19, 2025
through
February 4, 2026
(E-165 – 118)**

SIGNATURES-IN-LIEU OF FILING FEE PETITIONS:

Period between which candidates for voter-nominated offices and nonpartisan offices may obtain from the Registrar of Voters' office petitions for securing Signatures-in-Lieu of paying for all of, or any part of, the Filing Fee for an office. **§§ 8061, 8105(b), 8106**

Only registered voters who are qualified to vote for the candidate may sign the petition. **No voter shall sign more petitions for candidates than there are offices to be filled.** **§ 8106(b)**

Note: Candidates for Member, Orange County Board of Education **do not** pay a Filing Fee. Therefore, these candidates do not circulate Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions.

The Registrar of Voters' office will issue petitions for obtaining the minimum number of Signatures-in-Lieu of paying the Filing Fee. If the candidate requires an additional quantity of petitions, the candidate may duplicate a blank petition to obtain the desired quantity. **§ 8106(b)**

Signatures on Petitions in-Lieu of Filing Fee may be applied to and combined with the valid number of signatures on Nomination Papers to satisfy the signature requirement for the office. **§ 8061**

For voter-nominated offices, signers shall be registered voters in the district in which the candidate is to be voted on. **Signers do not need to be affiliated with the same party as the candidate or have disclosed a preference for any party on their registration affidavits. For the June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election, voter-nominated offices are: Representative in Congress, State Constitutional Officers, Member of the State Senate, and Member of the State Assembly.** **§ 8068**

For nonpartisan offices, signers shall be registered voters in the district in which the candidate is to be voted on. **Signers do not need to be affiliated with the same party as the candidate or have disclosed a preference for any party on their registration affidavits. For the June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election, nonpartisan offices are: State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Member of the County Board of Supervisors, Judge of the Superior Court, County Member of the Board of Education, and County offices – Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Clerk-Recorder, County Superintendent of Schools, and County Treasurer-Tax Collector.**

**December 19, 2026
through
June 16, 2026
(E-165 – E+14)**

CANDIDATE INTENTION STATEMENT: Prior to the solicitation or receipt of any contribution or loan for a specific office, the individual must file a statement, signed under penalty of perjury, of his or her intention to be a candidate for the specific office. Candidates are not required to file a Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501) for the same office in the connected general election after filing a Form 501 for the Primary Election.
Gov't §§ 85200, 85400, 85401, 85600, 85601

**January 5, 2026
(E-148)**

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION – ISSUANCE: By this date, the Governor shall issue a proclamation calling the Statewide Direct Primary Election and shall state the time of the election and the offices to be filled and transmit a copy of the proclamation to the Board of Supervisors of each county. The Secretary of State will send an informational copy of the proclamation to each county elected official.
§ 12000

**January 22, 2026
through
February 11, 2026
(E-131 – 111)
(Date designated by
Secretary of State)**

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS IN THE STATE VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE: Period in which State Constitutional Office candidates may purchase a space for a 250-word Candidate's Statement in the official State Voter Information Guide. Candidates for State Constitutional Office may purchase space for a Candidate's Statement only if they have filed a Form 501 and have agreed to accept the voluntary expenditure limits.
Gov't § 85601(a)

**January 26, 2026
through
February 4, 2026
(E-127 – 118)**

DECLARATION OF INTENTION (JUDICIAL OFFICES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT ONLY): Dates between which candidates for judicial offices of the Superior Court must file a Declaration of Intention to become a candidate for office.
§ 8023

EXCEPTION: If an incumbent fails to file a Declaration of Intention by **February 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**, persons other than the incumbent have until **February 9, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** to file a Declaration of Intention.
§ 8023(b)

The Filing Fee, or Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition, all or part, must be submitted at the time the Declaration of Intention is filed. **The Filing Fee is non-refundable.** This applies to all candidates who are required to file a Declaration of Intention.
§ 8105(b)

**February 2, 2026
(E-120)
(Per FPPC)**

SEMI-ANNUAL CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS
DUE: Last day to file semi-annual campaign disclosure statements, if required, for all candidates, organizations, committees, and slate mailers for the period ending **December 31, 2025.**
Gov't §§ 84200, 84218

**February 2, 2026
through
March 4, 2026
(E-120 – 90)**

NOTICE OF ELECTION: The Registrar of Voters must publish once in a newspaper of general circulation the Notice of Election. The notice shall contain the date of the election; the offices for which candidates may file; the qualifications for each office; when and where nomination papers may be obtained; and that appointment to each elective office will be made as prescribed by Elections Code Section 10515 in the event there are no nominees or an insufficient number of nominees for such office and a petition for an election is not filed within the time period prescribed by Elections Code Section 10515.
§ 12112(a)

Between these dates, the Registrar of Voters shall issue a general press release which shall set forth the district elective offices to be filled and a telephone number that voters may use to obtain information.
§ 12112(b)

**February 4, 2026
(E-118)**

**LAST DAY TO FILE SIGNATURES-IN-LIEU OF FILING
FEE PETITIONS:** The last day for filing Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions for all candidates, is **February 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**
§§ 8020(b), 8061, 8105, 8106(b)

**February 5, 2026
through
February 9, 2026
(E-117 – 113)**

**EXTENDED FILING PERIOD FOR DECLARATION OF
INTENTION (JUDICIAL OFFICES OF THE SUPERIOR
COURT ONLY):** Extension of period for persons other than the incumbent where the incumbent fails to file a Declaration of Intention by February 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m.
§ 8023(b)

**February 9, 2026
through
March 6, 2026
(E-113 – 88)**

**DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY AND NOMINATION
PAPERS - CANDIDATE FILING (ALL OFFICES,
INCLUDING JUDICIAL OFFICES OF THE SUPERIOR
COURT):** Nomination Papers and Declaration of Candidacy forms for all offices may be obtained from and must be delivered for filing to the Registrar of Voters' office from February 9, 2026 through March 6, 2026, 5:00 p.m. No person shall be considered a legally qualified candidate for any office unless that person has filed a Declaration of Candidacy or Statement of Write-in Candidacy with a wet signature, with the election's official.
§§ 333, 8020, 8040, 8041, 8061 - 8064, 8100, 8105, 8106, 13107.3

EXCEPTION: If an incumbent, (see below regarding Judges of the Superior Court), fails to file Nomination Papers and a Declaration of Candidacy by **March 6, 2026**, the filing period is extended to **March 11, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** for all qualified persons other than the incumbent. However, if the incumbent's failure to file nomination documents is because he/she has already served the maximum number of terms permitted by the California Constitution for that office, there shall be no extension of the period for filing the nomination documents.
§§ 8022, 8024

If an incumbent Judge of the Superior Court files a Declaration of Intention, but fails to qualify for the nomination by **March 6, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** there is a 5-day extension allowed for all qualified persons other than the incumbent to file for such office, notwithstanding that he/she has not filed a written and signed Declaration of Intention to become a candidate for the office. **§ 8204**

For voter-nominated offices, signers shall be registered voters in the district in which the candidate is to be voted on.

Signers do not need to be affiliated with the same party as the candidate or have disclosed a preference for any party on their registration affidavits. For the June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election, voter-nominated offices are: Representative in Congress, State Constitutional Officers, Member of the State Senate, and Member of the State Assembly. §§ 8002.5(c), 8068

For nonpartisan offices, signers shall be registered voters in the district in which the candidate is to be voted on. **Signers do not need to be affiliated with the same party as the candidate or have disclosed a preference for any party on their registration affidavits. For the June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election, nonpartisan offices are: State Superintendent of Public Instruction, County Member of the Board of Supervisors, Judge of the Superior Court, County Member of the Board of Education, and County offices – Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Clerk-Recorder, County Superintendent of Schools, and County Treasurer-Tax Collector.**

For voter-nominated offices, a candidate shall indicate his or her party preference, or lack of party preference, as disclosed upon the candidate's most recent registration affidavit, upon his or her Declaration of Candidacy. A candidate's party preference, or lack of party preference, shall appear on the Primary and General Elections' ballots in conjunction with his/her name. The candidate's designated party preference on the ballot shall not be changed between the Primary and General Elections. **§§ 8002.5, 13105**

A candidate designating a party preference for a voter-nominated office shall not be deemed to be the official nominee of the party designated as preferred by the candidate. The party preference is shown for the information of the voters only. **§ 8002.5**

**February 9, 2026
through
March 6, 2026
(E-113 – 88)**

FILING FEES: Filing Fees must be paid at the time the Nomination Papers are obtained from the Registrar of Voters. This fee is nonrefundable. **(Candidates for judicial offices of the Superior Court pay the Filing Fee at the time of filing the Declaration of Intention to become a candidate.)** Signatures appearing on a filed Petition-in-Lieu of Filing Fee can be counted toward the number of signatures required for the candidate's Nomination Papers. If the candidate's Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition contains the requisite number

of valid signatures required for his/her Nomination Papers, the Registrar of Voters shall not require the candidate to circulate Nomination Papers.

§§ 8105, 8106



Note: The filing fee for Federal and State candidates cannot be paid by credit card. The fee may be paid by check, money order or cashier's check, made payable to the Secretary of State.

Candidates who submit Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions that do not contain the requisite number of signatures for the Nomination Papers are still entitled to file Nomination Papers during the nomination period provided the Filing Fee has been paid. **§§ 8061, 8106**

**February 9, 2026
through
March 6, 2026
(E-113 – 88)**

CANDIDATE PARTY PREFERENCE HISTORY: Under the Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act (Proposition 14) which was approved by California voters in June of 2010, the Secretary of State is required to provide the political party preference history for the preceding 10 years for voter-nominated office candidates. A candidate is responsible for providing his/her party preference history on the Declaration of Candidacy filed by **March 6, 2026.** **§ 8121(b)**

**February 9, 2026
through
March 6, 2026
(E-113 – 88)**

STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS: Every candidate for an office specified in Government Code section 87200, other than a Justice of an Appellate or the Supreme Court, shall file no later than the final filing date for a Declaration of Candidacy, a statement, Form 700, disclosing his/her investments and his/her interests in real property and any income received during the immediately preceding 12 months. Such statement is not required if the candidate has filed, within 60 days prior to the filing of his/her Declaration of Candidacy, a statement for the same jurisdiction.
Gov't §§ 87200, 87201, 87203, 87500

**February 9, 2026
through
March 27, 2026
(E-113 – 67)**

CHALLENGING A BALLOT DESIGNATION: Ballot Designations will be available for public examination as candidates file them. These ballot designations will be available for review at the Registrar of Voters' office on Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will be posted on the Registrar of Voters' website. **§ 13107**

A person may administratively challenge a Ballot Designation of a local candidate in writing to the Registrar of Voters by 5:00 p.m. on one of the following deadlines:

- March 6, 2026 if the candidate filed the Ballot Designation by March 5, 2026
- March 9, 2026 if the candidate filed the Ballot Designation on March 6, 2026
- March 12, 2026 if the candidate filed the Ballot Designation during the Nomination Extension Period

After the administrative challenge deadlines, the public may only challenge a Ballot Designation in court. A person may file a writ of mandate or injunction to require the Ballot Designation to be amended. The Registrar of Voters requests that a Court Order amending a Ballot Designation be issued by March 27, 2026 to ensure election material mailing deadlines are met. **§§ 9163, 13313**

**February 9, 2026
through
March 6, 2026
(E-113 – 88)**

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR

NONPARTISAN OFFICES: Each candidate for a nonpartisan office may prepare a statement on a form provided by the Registrar of Voters' office. The statement may contain no more than 200 words, unless the governing body of the local agency has authorized the statement to contain 400 words. The statement must be filed at the same time the Declaration of Candidacy is filed. **The statement may be withdrawn, but not changed, during the nomination period and until 5:00 p.m. of the next working day after the close of the nomination period.** **§§ 13307, 13307.7**

If the nomination period is extended because an incumbent eligible for reelection failed to file a Declaration of Candidacy, a candidate filing during the extended filing period may file a Candidate's Statement. Candidates for that contest who filed statements during the regular filing period and those who filed statements during the extended timeframe may withdraw their statements. The next working day after the close of the extended filing period for the office is the last day that a Candidate's Statement for the extended contest may be withdrawn. A Candidate's Statement may not be changed.

**February 9, 2026
through
March 6, 2026
(E-113 – 88)**

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR

CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES: All candidates for Congressional offices may prepare a Candidate's Statement, not to exceed 250 words. The statement must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 88th day prior to the election, or in the event the nomination period has been extended, until 5:00 p.m. on the 83rd day prior to the election, whichever is applicable. All statements may be submitted on the form provided by the county elections official of each county in which the candidate wishes to have his/her statement printed. Costs of providing statements to voters shall be paid by the candidates. **Congressional candidates do not need to voluntarily agree to expenditure limits to prepare a Candidate's Statement.** **§§ 13307.5, 13307.7**

**February 9, 2026
through
March 6, 2026
(E-113 – 88)**

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR
LEGISLATIVE OFFICES:

A candidate for State Senate or Assembly who accepts the voluntary expenditure limits set forth in Government Code section 85400 by March 6, 2026, 5:00 p.m., may purchase a space to place a Candidate's Statement in the County Voter Information Guide that does not exceed 250 words. The statement may not make any reference to any opponent of the candidate. The

statement must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 88th day prior to the election, or in the event the nomination period has been extended, until 5:00 p.m. on the 83rd day prior to the election, whichever is applicable. All statements may be submitted on the form provided by the county election official of each county in which the candidate wishes to have his/her statement printed. Costs of providing statements to voters shall be paid by the candidates. **Gov't § 85601(c), § 13307.7**

**February 9, 2026
through
March 6, 2026
(E-113 – 88)**

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

MAY MAKE NO REFERENCE TO ANOTHER CANDIDATE:

In addition to the restrictions set forth in Section 13307, a Candidate's Statement for any office 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 or circulated any statement that the elections official determines is not so limited or that includes any reference prohibited by this section. **§ 13308**

**February 9, 2026
through
March 6, 2026
(E-113 – 88)**

COST OF A CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT: The Registrar of Voters will require each candidate filing a candidate's statement to pay in advance as a condition of having his/her statement included in the County Voter Information Guide. The cost is calculated to recover expenses for translation into the required languages, typesetting, printing and labor in the processing of candidate's statements. **§ 13307**

**February 9, 2026
through
March 6, 2026
(E-113 – 88)**

CONFIDENTIALITY OF CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS:

The Candidate's Statement is confidential until after the expiration of the filing period, **March 6, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**, or in the event that a contest's filing period is extended, **March 11, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** Copies of all Candidates' Statements will be available for public inspection at the Registrar of Voters' office and on its website for 10 days prior to being submitted for printing. **§§ 13311, 13313**

**February 9, 2026
through
March 6, 2026
(E-113 – 88)**

INCOME TAX RETURN DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT

PERIOD: Period during which a candidate for Governor shall submit two copies of each tax return filed within the five most recent taxable years. **§§ 8901, 8902, 8903**

**February 11, 2026
(E-111)**

CANDIDATE INTENTION STATEMENT: Last day for the Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501) to be filed in order for **State Constitutional Office** candidates accepting the voluntary expenditure limits to qualify to purchase space for a 250-word statement in the State Voter Information Guide. **Gov't §§ 85200, 85400, 85401**

**February 11, 2026
(E-111)
(Date designated by
the Secretary of State)**

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS IN THE STATE VOTER

INFORMATION GUIDE DEADLINE: Last day State Constitutional Office candidates may purchase space for a 250-word Candidate's Statement in the official State Voter Information Guide.

Gov't § 85601(a)

**March 4, 2026
through
June 2, 2026
(E-90 – 0)**

LATE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION REPORTING

PERIOD: Contributions received of \$1,000 or more per source must be reported within 24 hours during this period. **Gov't § 84203**

**March 6, 2026
(E-88)**

LAST DAY TO REQUEST CONSOLIDATION OF ELECTION

WITH PRIMARY ELECTION: Resolution requesting consolidation with the Statewide Direct Primary Election must be filed no later than this date by 5:00 p.m. **This includes resolutions to place local measures on the Statewide Direct Primary Election ballot. § 10403**

**March 6, 2026
(E-88)**

DEADLINE TO FILE NOMINATION PAPERS,

DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY, BALLOT DESIGNATION

WORKSHEET, AND CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS: Last day to circulate and to file Nomination Papers, Declarations of Candidacy, and Candidates' Statements with the Registrar of Voters' office by 5:00 p.m. **§§ 8020, 13107.3, 13307**

**March 6, 2026
(E-88)**

CANDIDATE'S WITHDRAWAL: A candidate may withdraw nomination documents for any office **other than a statewide office** that the candidate delivered for filing to the county elections official by delivering a statement of withdrawal to the county elections official by 5:00 p.m. on the 88th day before the primary election. **§ 8020.5**

**March 7, 2026
through
March 11, 2026
(E-87 – 83)**

EXTENSION OF NOMINATION PERIOD IF INCUMBENT

FAILS TO FILE: If any person who currently holds office for voter-nominated offices – Representative in Congress, State Constitutional Officer, Member of the State Senate, and Member of the State Assembly – who is eligible for re-election fails to file their nomination documents, or files then withdraws their nomination documents by **March 6, 2026**, there is a 5-day extension allowed for any qualified person other than the officeholder to file for such office.

§ 8022

Notwithstanding Section 8020 or any other provision of the law, if nomination documents for an incumbent officer of a county are not delivered, or delivered but then withdrawn before **5:00 p.m. on the 88th day** before the Statewide Direct Primary Election, any person other than the person who was the incumbent on the **88th day** shall have until **5:00 p.m. on the 83rd day** before the election to file the documents for the elective office. This section is not applicable where there is no incumbent eligible to be elected. **§ 8024**

If an incumbent Judge of the Superior Court files a Declaration of Intention, but fails to qualify for the nomination by **March 6, 2026**, there is a 5-day extension allowed for all qualified persons other than the incumbent to file for such office, notwithstanding that he/she has not filed a written and signed Declaration of Intention to become a candidate for the office. **NOTE:** There is no extension of the filing period for any office where there is no incumbent eligible to be elected. **§ 8204**

**March 7, 2026
through
March 16, 2026
(E-87 – 78)**

**PUBLIC REVIEW FOR CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS
OF QUALIFICATIONS AND BALLOT DESIGNATIONS:**

During this period, Candidates' Statements of Qualifications and Ballot Designations will be available for public examination. These Candidates' Statements and Ballot Designations will be available at the Registrar of Voters' office on Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and will be posted on the Registrar of Voters' website. During this timeframe, any person may file a writ of mandate or an injunction to require any or all of the material in a Candidate's Statement to be amended or deleted. For candidate names and ballot designations, a writ may also be filed. **§§ 13313, 13314**

Note: If the nomination period is extended for a particular office, the examination period for that office shall be adjusted to March 12 through March 20, 2026.

**March 7, 2026
through
March 16, 2026
(E-87 – 78)**

**PETITION INDICATING WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN WILL BE
CONDUCTED FOR A JUDICIAL OFFICE OF THE**

SUPERIOR COURT: In any county in which **only the incumbent** has filed Nomination Papers for the office of Superior Court Judge, his/her name will not appear on the ballot unless there is filed with the Registrar of Voters' office, within 10 days (**March 7 through March 16, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**) after the final date for filing Nomination Papers for the office, a petition indicating that a write-in campaign will be conducted for the office and signed by at least 0.1 percent 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.

NOTE: If a non-incumbent candidate for the office of Superior Court Judge is the only candidate who filed Nomination Papers, his or her name will appear on the ballot. **§ 8203**

**March 7, 2026
through
March 20, 2026
(E-87 – 74)**

**NOMINATION PERIOD EXTENSION WHEN A
VOTER-NOMINATED OFFICE CANDIDATE DIES:**

If a candidate has filed Nomination Papers for a voter-nominated office at the Primary Election, and that candidate dies after **March 6, 2026 (E-88) and on or before March 11, 2026 (E-83)**, any qualified person may circulate and deliver nomination documents for the office to the Registrar of Voters' office not later than **5:00 p.m. on March 20, 2026.**
§ 8025

**March 7, 2026
through
March 26, 2026
(E-87 – 68)**

**DEATH OF INCUMBENT CANDIDATE – NONPARTISAN,
NON-JUDICIAL OFFICE; NOMINATION PERIOD REOPENS:**

The period for filing Nomination Papers for a nonpartisan office shall be reopened in an election where the incumbent who is a candidate for a nonpartisan office where only one other candidate has filed, excluding any write-in candidates, has qualified and either the challenger or incumbent dies after March 6, 2026 (E-88), but before March 26, 2026 (E-68). Any qualified person may deliver nomination documents for the office to the Registrar of Voters no later than March 26, 2026 (E-68).
§ 8027

**March 11, 2026
(E-83)**

ONLY ONE NOMINEE – COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION:

If by **5:00 p.m. on March 11, 2026**, only one person has been nominated for each trustee area for County Board of Education, or no one has been nominated for the offices, and a petition signed by 10% of the voters or 50 voters, whichever is the smaller number, in the district or trustee area, if elected by trustee area, requesting that an election be held has not been presented to the Registrar of Voters, appointment will be made in lieu of election.
Ed. §§ 5326, 5328

**March 11, 2026
(E-83)**

NOMINATION PERIOD EXTENSION DEADLINE:

Last day for any person, other than an eligible incumbent who did not qualify for nomination by **March 11, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**, to file nomination documents.
§ 8022

**March 11, 2026
(E-83)**

POLITICAL PARTY ENDORSEMENTS:

Last day for a State Chair of a qualified political party to submit to the county elections official a list of all candidates for voter-nominated office who will appear on any ballot in the county in question, and who have been endorsed by the party. The county elections official shall print any such list that is timely received in the official Voter Information Guide.
§ 13302(b)

**March 11, 2026
(E-83)**

DEADLINE TO AMEND OR WITHDRAW A MEASURE:

Last day for the county elections official to receive a resolution from a legislative body requesting to withdraw or amend a measure previously submitted for placement on the ballot.
§ 9605

**March 12, 2026
(11:00 a.m.)
(E-82)
(Secretary of State
and Registrar of
Voters)**

RANDOMIZED ALPHABET DRAWING: On this day, the Secretary of State shall conduct a drawing of the letters of the alphabet, the result of which shall be known as the randomized alphabet, to determine the order in which candidates appear on the Primary Election ballot. The Registrar of Voters shall also conduct a drawing of the letters of the alphabet to determine the ballot order for candidates for State legislative offices when the district includes more than one county. **§§ 13111(i), 13112(b)(1)(B)**

**March 12, 2026
through
March 20, 2026
(E-82 – 74)**

PUBLIC REVIEW FOR CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS AND BALLOT DESIGNATIONS IF NOMINATION PERIOD HAS BEEN EXTENDED: Public review period for Candidates' Statements of Qualifications and Ballot Designations filed during the extended filing period. These documents will be available at the Registrar of Voters' office on Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and will be posted on the Registrar of Voters' website. During this timeframe, any person may file a writ of mandate or an injunction to require any or all of the material in a Candidate's Statement to be amended or deleted. For candidates' names and Ballot Designations, a writ may also be filed. **§ 13313**

**March 16, 2026
(E-78)**

PETITION TO CONDUCT WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN (JUDICIAL OFFICES): Last day to file petitions containing signatures to place a judicial office contest on the ballot when only the incumbent has filed for that office. **§ 8203**

**March 26, 2026
(E-68)
(12:02 a.m.)**

DEATH OF A CANDIDATE FOR A NONPARTISAN OFFICE ON OR AFTER MARCH 26, 2026: If an incumbent is a candidate for a nonpartisan office and only one other candidate, excluding write-in candidates, has qualified to have his or her name placed on the ballot for that office, and either the challenger or the incumbent dies after the hour of 12:01 a.m. on March 26, 2026, an election shall not be conducted, no votes cast for that office shall be counted, and if counted the votes shall be null and void. **§ 8026**

**March 26, 2026
(E-68)**

CERTIFIED LIST OF CANDIDATES AND ROTATION LIST: The last day for the Secretary of State to prepare and send to the Registrar of Voters, a certified list of candidates arranged according to the randomized alphabet drawn on **March 12, 2026**. This list will show the name of every person eligible to receive votes within the county at the Statewide Direct Primary Election, their addresses, their Ballot Designations, and the offices for which each person is a candidate. With respect to candidates for voter-nominated offices, the party preference designation indicated on his/her Declaration of Candidacy shall be listed. **§§ 8120 - 8125**

**March 26, 2026
(E-68)**

DEATH OF CANDIDATE: Last day for Registrar of Voters to remove deceased candidates' names from the Statewide Direct Primary Election ballot. **§ 8809**

**March 27, 2026
(E-67)**

DEADLINE FOR COURT ORDERED CHANGES: By this date, the Registrar of Voters office requests that the Court issue a potential Order to change ballot designations, candidate statements, and measure direct and rebuttal arguments to ensure election material mailing deadlines are met. **§ 9163**

**April 3, 2026
(E-60)**

MILITARY OR OVERSEAS VOTERS' BALLOT

APPLICATIONS: The first day the county elections official may process applications for military or overseas voters' 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.

NOTE: A request for a Vote-By-Mail ballot from a military or overseas voter will be deemed an affidavit of registration.

§§ 300(b), 321, 3102, 3105

**April 3, 2026
through
June 2, 2026
(E-60 – 0)**

LIST OF VOTE-BY-MAIL VOTERS: First day data is available for purchase indicating all voters who have been issued a military or overseas Vote-By-Mail ballot. After **May 4, 2026**, all voters who have been issued a Vote-By-Mail ballot will be available.

**April 6, 2026
through
May 19, 2026
(E-57 – 14)**

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES: First day the Statement of Write-in Candidacy and Nomination Papers are available for a write-in candidate. They must be filed with the Registrar of Voters' office by May 19, 2026, 5:00 p.m. A person seeking a voter-nominated office may become a write-in candidate only for the Statewide Direct Primary Election; there are no write-in candidates for voter-nominated offices on the General Election ballot. **§ 8601**

**April 18, 2026¹
(E-45)
(Date fixed by law)**

MILITARY OR OVERSEAS VOTERS – BALLOTS: Last day for the county elections official to transmit ballots to military or overseas voters who have requested them by this date. If a military or overseas voter ballot application is received after 5 p.m. on this date, the county elections official shall transmit the ballot and balloting materials as practicable. **§ 3114, 52 U.S.C. § 20302 (MOVE Act)**

¹**§ 3114** and the federal MOVE Act require that ballots be sent to military and overseas voters not later than 45 days prior to an election. This date must be adhered to and does not move forward even though the date falls on a Saturday.

**April 23, 2026
(E-40)
(Date fixed by law)**

FIRST PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

STATEMENTS DUE: The last day to file campaign disclosure statements for candidates and committees for the period ending April 18, 2026. **Gov't §§ 84200.5, 84200.8**

**April 23, 2026
through
May 12, 2026
(E-40 – 21)**

STATE AND COUNTY MAILINGS: Between these dates, State Voter Information Guides will be mailed directly to voters by the Secretary of State and the Registrar of Voters will mail County Voter Information Guides. **§§ 9094(a), 13303**

**May 4, 2026
(E-29)**

PROCESSING OF VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS BEGINS:

Processing of Vote-By-Mail ballots may begin on this date. Processing Vote-By-Mail ballots includes signature verification, opening Vote-By-Mail ballot return envelopes, removing ballots, duplicating any damaged ballots, and preparing ballots to be machine read, but under no circumstances may a vote count be accessed or released until 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election. **§ 15101**

**May 4, 2026
through
May 26, 2026
(E-29 – 7)**

VOTE-BY-MAIL MAILING: No later than 29 days before the day of the election, the Registrar of Voters will begin mailing to each registered voter a Vote-By-Mail ballot packet that includes a postage-paid return envelope with instructions for the use and return of the ballot. **§§ 3000.5, 4005(a)(8)(A)&(B)**

**May 18, 2026
(E-15)**

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN STATEWIDE

DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION: Last day to register to vote in the Statewide Direct Primary Election. The Voter Registration Form shall be mailed (postmarked by this date) 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 Department of Motor Vehicles or any National Voter Registration Act designated agency. Last day for military or overseas voters to register to vote, to request a Vote-By-Mail ballot, and to send it to the county elections official.

NOTE: A request for a Vote-By-Mail ballot from a military or overseas voter will be deemed an affidavit of registration and an application for permanent Vote-By-Mail status. When a county elections official receives and approves an application from a military or overseas voter, the official must provide that voter with Vote-By-Mail ballots for each subsequent election in the state unless the voter fails to vote in four consecutive statewide general elections.

52 U.S.C. §§ 20301, 20501; §§ 300(b), 2102, 3102, 3206

**May 19, 2026
through
June 2, 2026
(E-14 – 0)**

CONDITIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION PERIOD: During the period 14 days prior to Election Day and including Election Day, an individual can go to the office of his/her county elections official to conditionally register to vote and vote a provisional ballot. **§§ 2170-2173**

**May 19, 2026
(E-14)**

DEADLINE FOR WRITE-IN CANDIDATES TO FILE:
Last day for a write-in candidate to file a Statement of Write-in Candidacy and a Declaration of Candidacy with the Registrar of Voters by 5:00 p.m. **§ 8601**

**May 21, 2026
(E-12)
(Date fixed by law)**

SECOND PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS DUE: The last day to file campaign disclosure statements for candidates and committees covering the period ending May 16, 2026. **Gov't §§ 84200.5, 84200.8**

**May 23, 2026
(E-10)**

SELECT VOTE CENTERS OPEN: Beginning 10 days before the day of the Election and continuing daily up to Election Day, select Vote Centers are open to the public. **§§ 3108(b), 4005(a)(2)(A)&(4)(A)**

**May 30, 2026
(E-3)**

ADDITIONAL VOTE CENTERS OPEN: Beginning three days before the day of the Election and continuing daily up to Election Day, additional Vote Centers are open to the public. **§§ 3108, 4005(a)(3)(A)**

**June 2, 2026
(E)**

ELECTION DAY: Vote Centers open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ballots will be centrally counted at the Registrar of Voters' office. **§§ 1000(e), 14212**

Voters who have moved from one address to another within the same county and who have not re-registered may update their address and vote at any Vote Center, at the office of the county elections official, or at a central location designated by the county elections official.

**June 2, 2026
(E)**

VOTE-BY-MAIL VOTER BALLOTS RETURNED: Deadline for the Registrar of Voters to receive a Vote-By-Mail ballot in person is **June 2, 2026, 8:00 p.m.** A voter may deliver his/her Vote-By-Mail ballot in person to any Vote Center or ballot drop box in the county by the close of the polls on Election Day. If a voter is unable to return the ballot, he/she may designate another person to return the ballot. **§§ 3017, 3020, 14212**

Last day a military or overseas voter who is living outside of the United States (or is called for military service within the United States on or after **May 26, 2026**), may return his/her ballot by facsimile transmission. To be counted, the ballot returned by facsimile transmission must be received by the elections official no later than Election Day, 8:00 p.m. and must be accompanied by an identification envelope and a signed Oath of Declaration. **§§ 3101(e), 3106, 3110, 3111, 3118, 14212**

IMPORTANT: A mailed, voted ballot will count only if the identification envelope is signed, dated and postmarked no later than Election Day, **June 2, 2026**, and it is received no later than seven (7) days after Election Day, **June 9, 2026**, 8:00 p.m. §§ 3017, 3020

**June 2, 2026
(E)**

SEMIFINAL OFFICIAL CANVASS OF ELECTION RETURNS:

Beginning at 8:00 p.m. and continuously until completed, the Registrar of Voters shall conduct the semi-official canvass of votes and report totals to the Secretary of State at least every two hours.

§§ 15150, 15151

**June 2, 2026
(E)**

MILITARY OR OVERSEAS VOTERS: Any registered military or overseas voter who has returned to his or her county of registration on or before this day, and to whom a Vote-By-Mail ballot has been mailed but not voted, may apply for a replacement Vote-By-Mail ballot. The elections official shall then issue another Vote-By-Mail ballot to the voter or certify to the precinct board that the voter is eligible to vote in the election. § 3109

An unregistered military or overseas voter who was released from service after the close of registration, **May 18, 2026**, and who has returned to his or her county of residence may apply in person to register with the county elections official and vote in the election. Documentary proof of release from service is required.

On or before the day of the election, or the first day a Vote Center opens, the county elections official shall deliver to the precinct board a list of military or overseas voters registered under Elections Code section 3108. §§ 300(b), 3108

A military or overseas voter who returns to the county after **May 26, 2026** may appear before the county elections official and apply for registration, a Vote-By-Mail ballot, or both. The county elections official shall register the voter, if not registered, and shall deliver a Vote-By-Mail ballot which may be voted in, or outside, the county elections official's office on or before the close of the polls on Election Day and returned as are other voted Vote-By-Mail ballots. § 3110

**June 2, 2026
(E)**

VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT APPLICATIONS FOR OUT-OF-

STATE EMERGENCY WORKERS: Last day upon the declaration of an out-of-state emergency by the Governor and the issuance of an executive order authorizing an out-of-state emergency worker to cast a ballot outside of his or her home precinct, an out-of-state emergency worker may request and vote a Vote-By-Mail ballot, which must be delivered to the elections official by mail or by hand, on or before the close of polls on Election Day. §§ 336.7, 3021.5

**June 3, 2026
(E+1)**

COMMENCE OFFICIAL CANVASS OF ELECTION RETURNS:

The Registrar of Voters will begin the official canvass of the precinct returns. **§ 15301**

**June 3, 2026
through
June 16, 2026
(E+1 – E+14)**

AMENDED CANDIDATE INTENTION STATEMENT: If the voluntary expenditure ceiling is rejected in the primary election, but not exceeded during that election, the Candidate Statement of Intention (Form 501) may be amended to accept the expenditure ceiling for the general election. The amended Form 501 must be filed within 14 days following the primary election. **Gov't §§ 85200, 85401**

**June 12, 2026
(E+10)**

PROVISIONAL BALLOTS OF EMERGENCY WORKERS:

On or before **June 12, 2026 (E+10)**, if the Governor declares a State of Emergency, a provisional ballot cast by an emergency worker outside of his or her home precinct must be received by the county elections official where the voter is registered. The elections official shall transmit for processing any ballot cast no later than the close of polls on Election Day by an emergency worker in a declared state of emergency, including any materials necessary to process the ballot, to the elections official in the county where the voter is registered to vote. **§ 14313**

**June 17, 2026
(E+15)**

POST-ELECTION FILING FOR COUNTY OFFICE

CANDIDATES: Last day to file post-filing campaign disclosure statements for all county candidates and committees for the period through June 12, 2026.

**June 24, 2026
(E+22)**

DEADLINE TO CURE NONCOMPARABLE SIGNATURES OR UNSIGNED BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPES:

All voters identified as having a signature on their Vote-By-Mail identification (return) envelope that did not compare or as failing to sign their identification envelope have an opportunity to verify their signature or provide a signature on a cure statement no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 24, 2026 (E+22). The statement may be submitted in person, or by mail, email, fax or mobile application. The elections official must process all cure statements received by this deadline. **§ 3019(d)(1),(f)**

NOTE: The elections official shall send a cure notice by first-class mail to all voters whose signature was challenged or missing not later than June 16, 2026 (E+14). The elections official shall make a second cure notification by telephone call or email to voters who provided a telephone number or email address with their voter registration. Candidates are entitled to purchase a countywide list of all voters whose ballot envelope signature was challenged. The cure list is updated daily. **§ 3019(e)(1), (f)**

**July 2, 2026
(E+30)**

COMPLETE CANVASS OF OFFICIAL RETURNS AND

CERTIFY RESULTS BY THIS DATE: No later than this date, the county elections official must complete the canvass, certify its results, and submit it to the appropriate governing body. **§ 15372**

**July 2, 2026
(E+30)**

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION: Approximately on this date, the elections official shall make and deliver to each person elected or nominated under its jurisdiction, a certificate of election or nomination, signed by the elections official. **§ 15401**

**July 3, 2026
(E+31)**

STATEMENT OF RESULTS TO SECRETARY OF STATE:

By this date, the county elections official shall send to the Secretary of State, in an electronic format, one complete copy of the returns for all candidates voted for at the primary election, including United States House of Representatives, State Constitutional Officers, Members of the State Senate, Members of the State Assembly, and for all statewide ballot measures. **§§ 15374, 15375**

**July 31, 2026
(Dated fixed by law)
(E+59)**

SEMI-ANNUAL CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

DUE: Last day to file semi-annual campaign disclosure statements for candidates and committees for the period **May 17, 2026** through **June 30, 2026**.

Last day for candidates for Orange County Board of Supervisors and County offices, including Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Clerk-Recorder, County Superintendent of Schools, and County Treasurer-Tax Collector to file semi-annual campaign disclosure statements for the period **June 13, 2026** through **June 30, 2026**. **Gov't §§ 84200, 84218**

NOTE: Candidates for federal office should contact the Federal Elections Commission at the address or toll-free telephone number below to obtain information regarding campaign disclosure filing requirements and the forms on which to file.

**Federal Elections Commission
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20463
Phone 800-424-9530; info@fec.gov**

POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS IN ORANGE COUNTY

38th Congressional District	(Portions of Orange and Los Angeles Counties)
40th Congressional District	(Portions of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties)
41st Congressional District	(Portions of Orange and Los Angeles Counties)
42nd Congressional District	(Portions of Orange and Los Angeles Counties)
45th Congressional District	(Portions of Orange and Los Angeles Counties)
46th Congressional District	
47th Congressional District	
49th Congressional District	(Portions of Orange and San Diego Counties)

30th Senatorial District	(Portions of Orange and Los Angeles Counties)
32nd Senatorial District	(Portions of Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties)
34th Senatorial District	(Portions of Orange and Los Angeles Counties)
36th Senatorial District	(Portions of Orange and Los Angeles Counties)
37th Senatorial District	
38th Senatorial District	(Portions of Orange and San Diego Counties)

59th Assembly District	(Portions of Orange and San Bernardino Counties)
64th Assembly District	(Portions of Orange and Los Angeles Counties)
67th Assembly District	(Portions of Orange and Los Angeles Counties)
68th Assembly District	
70th Assembly District	
71st Assembly District	(Portions of Orange and Riverside Counties)
72nd Assembly District	
73rd Assembly District	
74th Assembly District	(Portions of Orange and San Diego Counties)

4th State Board of Equalization District	(Orange, Imperial, Riverside, San Diego, and San Bernardino Counties)
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5 Supervisorial Districts

5 County Board of Education Trustee Areas

124 Judicial Seats

**OFFICES FOR WHICH CANDIDATES ARE TO BE
NOMINATED OR ELECTED**

VOTER-NOMINATED*

OFFICES TO BE FILLED

OFFICE HOLDER

CONGRESSIONAL

Due to new district boundaries, there is no incumbent for these offices

Representative in Congress

38th District

40th District

41st District

42nd District

45th District

46th District

47th District

49th District

STATE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Governor

Lieutenant Governor

Secretary of State

Controller

Treasurer

Attorney General

Insurance Commissioner

Member, State Board of Equalization, 4th District

Gavin Newsom (D)**

Eleni Kounalakis (D)**

Shirley N. Weber (D)

Malia M. Cohen (D)

Fiona Ma (D)**

Rob Bonta (D)

Ricardo Lara (D)**

Mike Schaefer (D)**

STATE SENATE

Member of the Senate

30th District

32nd District

34th District

36th District

38th District

Bob Archuleta (D)

Kelly Seyarto (R)

Thomas J. Umberg

Tony Strickland (R)

Catherine Blakespear (D)

OFFICES TO BE FILLED**OFFICE HOLDER****STATE ASSEMBLY****Member of the Assembly**

59th District

64th District

67th District

68th District

70th District

71st District

72nd District

73rd District

74th District

Phillip Chen (R)

Blanca Pacheco (D)

Sharon Quirk-Silva (D)**

Avelino Valencia (D)

Tri Ta (R)

Kate Sanchez (R)

Diane Dixon (R)

Cottie Petrie-Norris (D)

Laurie Davies (R)

*A political party or party central committee shall not nominate a candidate at a Primary Election for a voter-nominated office. The Primary Election conducted for a voter-nominated office does not serve to determine the nominees of a political party but serves to narrow-down the number of candidates to a final list of two for the General Election. **A candidate's designation of party preference shall not be construed as an endorsement of that candidate by the party designated.** More than one candidate with the same party preference designation may participate in the General Election pursuant to Elections Code § 8141.5.

****Out of office in 2026 due to term limits**

NONPARTISAN

OFFICES TO BE FILLED

OFFICEHOLDER

SCHOOL – STATE

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Tony K. Thurmond**

SCHOOL – COUNTY

County Superintendent of Schools
Member, County Board of Education, Trustee Area 2
Member, County Board of Education, Trustee Area 5

Stefan Bean
Mari Barke
Lisa Sparks

COUNTY SUPERVISORS

Supervisor, 2nd District
Supervisor, 4th District
Supervisor, 5th District

Vicente Sarmiento
Doug Chaffee**
Katrina Foley

COUNTY OFFICERS

Assessor
Auditor-Controller
Clerk-Recorder
Treasurer-Tax Collector

Claude Parrish
Andrew N. Hamilton
Hugh Nguyen
Shari L. Freidenrich

****Out of office in 2026 due to term limits**

NONPARTISAN

JUDICIAL OFFICES FOR WHICH CANDIDATES ARE TO BE NOMINATED OR ELECTED AT THE STATEWIDE DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION

OFFICE

Office No. 1
Office No. 2
Office No. 3
Office No. 4
Office No. 5
Office No. 6
Office No. 7
Office No. 8
Office No. 9
Office No. 10
Office No. 11
Office No. 12
Office No. 13
Office No. 14
Office No. 15
Office No. 16
Office No. 17
Office No. 18
Office No. 19
Office No. 20
Office No. 21
Office No. 22
Office No. 23
Office No. 24
Office No. 25
Office No. 26
Office No. 27
Office No. 28
Office No. 29
Office No. 30
Office No. 31
Office No. 32
Office No. 33
Office No. 34
Office No. 35
Office No. 36
Office No. 37
Office No. 38
Office No. 39
Office No. 40
Office No. 41
Office No. 42
Office No. 43

INCUMBENT

John S. Adams
June Jee An
Benjamin A. Azar
Julianne S. Bancroft
Kimberly A. Carasso
Lewis W. Clapp
Bryan F. Clavecilla
H. Shaina Colover
Scott B. Cooper
Andre De La Cruz
Jeremy D. Dolnick
Patrick H. Donahue
Jeffrey Ferguson
Anthony J. Ferrentino
Jonathan S. Fish
Terri K. Flynn-Peister
Olga Giller
Thomas A. Glazier
Mena T. Guirguis
Kevin J. Haskins
Cynthia M. Herrera
David J. Hesseltine
Stephen T. Hicklin
Sherri L. Honer
Lance P. Jensen
Derek G. Johnson
Richard M. King
Kimberly A. Knill
Robert A. Knox
Randy K. Ladisky
Sandy N. Leal
Katherine E. Lewis
Elizabeth G. Macias
Thomas S. McConville
Kimberly K. Menninger
Elia A. Naqvi
Huy T. Nguyen
Michael E. Perez
Amber L. Poston
Sheila O. Recio
Ami S. Sagel
Mehtab Sandhu
Eileen M. Solis

Continued on next page

NONPARTISAN

**JUDICIAL OFFICES FOR WHICH CANDIDATES ARE TO BE
NOMINATED OR ELECTED AT THE STATEWIDE DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION**

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

OFFICE

Office No. 44
Office No. 45
Office No. 46
Office No. 47
Office No. 48
Office No. 49

INCUMBENT

Nicholas S. Thompson
Antony C. Ufland
Tania R. Vallejo
Nathan Nhan Vu
Brian A. Waite
Kunthavi C. Watson

Judicial Office No. 1 through Judicial Office No. 49 are to be nominated or elected at the June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election. Judicial office will be assigned in alphabetical order by the incumbent's last name by Registrar of Voters' staff. These numbers are assigned only for identification purposes during the election process and are not official office or district numbers.

FILING FEES
THE FILING FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE

<u>FEDERAL OFFICES</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>% OF ANNUAL SALARY</u>
Representative in Congress	\$1,740.00	1%

STATE OFFICES

Governor	\$4,918.58	2%
Lieutenant Governor	\$3,688.94	2%
Secretary of State	\$3,688.94	2%
Controller	\$3,934.86	2%
Insurance Commissioner	\$3,934.86	2%
Treasurer	\$3,934.86	2%
Attorney General	\$4,272.34	2%
Member, State Board of Equalization District 4	\$1,844.47	1%
Member of the State Senate	\$1,346.94	1%
Member of the Assembly	\$1,346.96	1%
Superintendent of Public Instruction	\$4,272.34	2%

COUNTY OFFICES

Assessor	\$2,369.61	1%
Auditor-Controller	\$2,369.61	1%
Clerk-Recorder	\$2,369.61	1%
Superintendent of Schools	\$3,366.00	1%
Treasurer-Tax Collector	\$2,369.61	1%
Board of Supervisors	\$2,447.27	1%
Judge of the Superior Court	\$2,447.27	1%
County Board of Education	No Filing Fee	

NEW

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS NOT ACCEPTED FOR FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICE CANDIDATES' FILING FEE -- Credit cards will not be accepted to pay the Filing Fee of

Federal and State Offices. Candidates may pay for the filing fee by check, money order or cashier's check, made payable to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, MEMBER OF THE STATE SENATE, AND MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY -- The Filing Fee must be paid at the time Nomination Papers are issued. Check must be made payable to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Filing Fee for **County Offices** can be paid by cash, personal or certified check, credit card (MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and Discover) and postal money order.

MEMBER, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS -- The Filing Fee must be paid at time Nomination Papers are issued. Checks must be made payable to the REGISTRAR OF VOTERS.

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT -- The Filing Fee must be paid at the time the Declaration of Intention is filed. Checks must be made payable to the REGISTRAR OF VOTERS.

§ 8105

NOTE: Any of the above Filing Fees can be paid in whole or in part by Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee.

§§ 8103, 8104, 8105, 8106

NOMINATION SIGNATURES REQUIRED

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED</u>
Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Insurance Commissioner, State Treasurer, Attorney General, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction (§ 8062)	))) 65-100
Representative in Congress State Board of Equalization-District 4 Members, State Senate and State Assembly (§ 8062)	))) 40-60
Judge of the Superior Court Member, County Board of Education Member, County Board of Supervisors Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Clerk-Recorder, County Superintendent of Schools, and County Treasurer- Tax Collector (§ 8062)	)))))) 20-40

In all cases, it is suggested that more than the minimum number of signatures be obtained (but not to exceed the maximum) so in case any are marked "Not Sufficient", there will be enough "Sufficient" signatures remaining to validate the petition. Signatures to a candidate's Nomination Papers may not be withdrawn.

SIGNATURES-IN-LIEU OF FILING FEE AND INFORMATION

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u># OF SIGS REQUIRED IN LIEU OF FILING FEE</u>	<u>VALUE PER 100 SIGS</u>
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FEDERAL OFFICES

Representative in Congress	1,714	\$101.52
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STATE OFFICES

Governor	6,000	\$81.98
Lieutenant Governor	6,000	\$61.48
Secretary of State	6,000	\$61.48
Controller	6,000	\$65.58
Insurance Commissioner	6,000	\$65.58
Treasurer	6,000	\$65.58
Attorney General	6,000	\$71.21
Member, State Board of Equalization District 4	4,743	\$38.89
Member of the State Senate	1,714	\$78.58
Member of the Assembly	857	\$157.17
Superintendent of Public Instruction	6,000	\$71.21

COUNTY OFFICES

Assessor	6,136	\$38.62
Auditor-Controller	6,136	\$38.62
Clerk-Recorder	6,136	\$38.62
Superintendent of Schools	8,716	\$38.62
Treasurer-Tax Collector	6,136	\$38.62
Board of Supervisors	6,337	\$38.62
Judge of the Superior Court	6,337	\$38.62

THE FILING FEE OR PORTION THEREOF IS NON-REFUNDABLE!

§§ 8105(a), 8106, 8162(b)

SIGNATURES-IN-LIEU OF FILING FEE PETITION INFORMATION
(§8106-entire page)

Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions can be obtained from the Registrar of Voters beginning **December 19, 2025.** **§8162(b)**

The Registrar of Voters will issue forms for obtaining the minimum number of Signatures-in-Lieu of paying a Filing Fee. If the candidate requires an additional quantity of forms, the candidate may duplicate a blank form to obtain the desired quantity.

NOTE: If a candidate wishes to designate another person to obtain and/or file his/her Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions, he/she may do so **without this designation being in writing.**

A candidate may submit the appropriate number of signatures to cover all or any portion of the Filing Fee.

Candidates may OBTAIN Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions from any Registrar of Voters' office. They may CIRCULATE the petitions in any county in the district, but must FILE them in the county where the signatures were obtained. **§ 8106(b)(4)**

A circulator of Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions must be 18 years of age or older. He or she does not need to be a registered voter, be affiliated with the same political party as the candidate, or live in the district in which the candidate is to be voted on. **§§ 102, 8106(b)(4)**

Any registered voter may sign a Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition for any candidate for whom he/she is eligible to vote. **For voter-nominated and nonpartisan offices, the signer does not need to be affiliated with the same political party as the candidate.** Prior to the passage of Proposition 14, for voter-nominated offices, only a voter of the same political party as a candidate could sign the candidate's Nomination Paper. Additionally, any voter could sign a Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition, but only the signature of a voter who was of the same political party could be counted toward the number of voters required to sign a Nomination Paper. Now, anyone, regardless of party preference, can sign a Nomination Paper for a voter-nominated office candidate. As a result, all signatures on a Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition may be counted toward the number of voters required to sign a candidate's Nomination Paper for voter-nominated and nonpartisan offices. **§§ 8106(b)(1), 8061, 8068**

No voter shall sign more petitions for candidates than there are offices to be filled. If a voter signs more candidates' petitions than there are offices to be filled, the voter's signature will be valid only on those petitions which, taken in the order they were filed, do not exceed the number of offices to be filled. **§ 8106(b)(2)**

IMPORTANT: Each signer shall, at the time of signing the Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition, personally affix his/her signature, printed name and place of residence, giving street and number, and if no street or number exists, then a designation of the place of residence which will enable the location to be readily ascertained. **§ 100**

IMPORTANT: If a person who is a “Confidential Voter”, a Superior Court Judge or a candidate for Superior Court Judge, signs a Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition, he/she **must personally affix his/her place of residence**. Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions are public documents; the residence address would now be public record if the petition is completed. “Confidential Voters”, Superior Court Judges, and candidates for Superior Court Judge are **not exempt** from having to disclose their residential addresses on this document. However, Superior Court Judges and candidates for Superior Court Judge (but not “Confidential Voters”) **are exempt** from disclosing their residence addresses on the Declaration of Intention and the Declaration of Candidacy. **§ 8040**

All valid signatures obtained on a Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition will be counted toward the number of voters required to sign a Nomination Paper. If a Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition contains the number of valid signatures required on a Nomination Paper, the candidate is not required to file Nomination Papers, but may request the Registrar of Voters to accept the Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition signatures instead of filing Nomination Papers. **The candidate must still file a Declaration of Candidacy.** If a Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition does not contain the number of valid signatures required on a Nomination Paper, the candidate must file, within the time period allowed for filing Nomination Papers, a Nomination Paper in order to obtain the requisite number of valid signatures. A candidate who submits a Nomination Paper to supplement the number of valid signatures filed on a Signatures-In-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition need only submit enough signatures on the Nomination Paper when combined with the signatures appearing on the Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition equals the number of signatures required for nomination.

IMPORTANT: It is suggested that more than the minimum number of signatures be obtained (**but not to exceed the maximum**) in case any are marked “Not Sufficient”, there will be enough “Sufficient” signatures remaining to validate the Nomination Paper.

If a voter signs both the candidate’s Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition and Nomination Papers, and that person’s signature on the Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition is counted towards the nomination signature requirement, then that person’s signature on the Nomination Papers will not be counted.

Remember, if the petition is circulated for an office in more than one county, the candidate shall submit the signatures to the Registrar of Voters in the county in which the signatures were obtained. **§ 8106(b)(4)**

Signatures-In-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions do not need to be filed at the same time. They may be filed throughout the Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions filing period, ending on **February 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m. for all candidates, including those running for Superior Court Judicial offices.** **§ 8106**

Upon receipt of Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition signatures, or a sufficient combination of such signatures and pro rata Filing Fee, the Registrar of Voters shall issue Nomination Papers provisionally. Within 10 days after receipt of a petition, the Registrar of Voters shall notify the candidate of any deficiency. The candidate shall then, prior to the close of the nomination period pay a pro rata portion of the Filing Fee, to cover the deficiency. **§ 8106(b)(3)**

EXCEPTION: The Filing Fee for the office of Superior Court Judge shall be paid upon the filing of the candidate's Declaration of Intention to become a candidate. **All Filing Fees are nonrefundable.** Therefore, Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions must be filed at the time a candidate for Superior Court Judge files a Declaration of Intention, which is **between January 26, 2026 through February 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** § 8105(b)

EXCEPTION: If an incumbent Superior Court Judge fails to file a Declaration of Intention by **February 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**, the filing period for Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions for that particular office is extended to **February 9, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** for persons other than the incumbent. § 8023(b)

ANY VOTER SIGNING A SIGNATURES-IN-LIEU OF FILING FEE PETITION MUST BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE FOR THAT CANDIDATE. § 8106



NOTE: THE CANDIDATE IS STILL REQUIRED TO FILE A DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY DURING THE NOMINATION PERIOD (FEBRUARY 9, 2026 THROUGH MARCH 6, 2026, 5:00 P.M.) EVEN THOUGH HE/SHE COUNTS THE SIGNATURES APPEARING ON THE IN LIEU OF FILING FEE PETITION TOWARD THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR THE CANDIDATE'S NOMINATION PAPERS.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN FOR AND HOLD PUBLIC OFFICE

A Candidate must be:

1. 18 years old by Election Day;
2. a citizen of the State;
3. a registered voter at the time Nomination Papers are issued, and, unless otherwise specifically provided, qualified to vote for the office; and
4. eligible to take the oath of office and be able to be bonded in the amounts provided for by statute.

A candidate may not have been convicted of designated crimes specified in the Constitution and laws of the State.

A person is not eligible to be elected or appointed to a county or district office unless he/she is a registered voter of the county or district in which the duties of the office are to be exercised at the time that Nomination Papers are issued to the person or at the time of the person's appointment.

Gov't Code § 24001

Unless otherwise specifically provided, no person is eligible to be elected or appointed to an elective office unless that person is a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that Nomination Papers are issued to the person or at the time of the person's appointment.

§ 201

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a public officer who is a minor shall have the rights and liabilities of an adult, both civil and criminal, with regard to his/her official duties, and a candidate for nomination or election to public office who is a minor shall have the rights and liabilities of an adult, both civil and criminal, with regard to his/her activities as a candidate.

Gov't Code § 275.2

Successful candidates must qualify for office by taking the oath of office and be able to be bonded in the amounts provided for by statute, by the presiding judge of the Superior Court, and/or by judges of the Superior Court.

Cal. Const., Art. XX, § 3

A person is incapable of holding a civil office if at the time of his/her election he/she is not 18 years of age and a citizen of the state.

Gov't Code § 1020(a)

A person is disqualified from holding any office upon conviction of designated crimes as specified in the Constitution and laws of the State.

Gov't Code § 1021

The Declaration of Candidacy which each candidate must file states that the candidate meets the statutory and constitutional qualifications for the office (including, but not limited to, citizenship, residency, and party preference, if required) and that the candidate will accept the nomination and not withdraw if nominated.

§ 8040

SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN FOR AND HOLD PUBLIC OFFICE

VOTER-NOMINATED OFFICES

Proposition 14 was passed by the voters in June of 2010 providing for a “voter-nominated Primary Election” for each state elective office and congressional office in California. A voter may vote at the Primary Election for any candidate for congressional or state elective office **without regard to the political party preference disclosed by either the candidate or the voter.** The two candidates receiving the two highest vote totals for each office, regardless of party preference, would then compete for the office at the ensuing General Election. More than one candidate with the same party preference designation may participate in the General Election. **§ 8141.5**

For the June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election, the offices of Representative in Congress, State Constitutional Officers (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Insurance Commissioner, State Treasurer, Attorney General, and Member of the State Board of Equalization-District 4), Member of the State Senate, and Member of the Assembly are no longer considered partisan offices. They are voter-nominated offices.

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

- must:**
- be at least 25 years of age;
 - have been a United States citizen for seven years; and
 - be a resident of California on January 3, 2027, the date he or she would be sworn into office, if elected.

U.S. Const., Art. I, § 2, 20th Amend. § 1

No person shall be a Representative in Congress who shall not have attained the age of twenty-five years, and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state in which he/she shall be chosen.

U.S. Const., Art. 1, § 2



District residence is not a requirement for a Representative in Congress. The Federal Constitution does not require that a representative reside within his/her district, and a state cannot make such residency a requirement for office.

GOVERNOR

- must:**
- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that Nomination Papers are issued to the person;
 - be a United States citizen and resident of California;
 - not have served two terms in the office sought since November 6, 1990; and
 - not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money,

extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes. §§ 20, 201, Cal. Const., Art. V, §§ 2, 9, and 11

FOR CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR –TAX RETURNS

By at least March 6, 2026 (E-88), a candidate shall:

- File, by 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2026 (E-88), with the Secretary of State two (2) copies of every income tax return the candidate filed with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the five (5) most recent taxable years, one unredacted copy and another copy with required redactions.

§§ 8902, 8903

“Income tax return” means any tax or information return, declaration of estimated tax, or claim for refund required by, or provided for or permitted under, the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, and that is filed on behalf of, or with respect to any person, and any amendment or supplement thereto, including supporting schedules, attachments, or lists that are supplemental to, or part of, the return so filed.

§ 6882

NOTE: Tax return transcripts do not meet the requirement of filing income tax returns with the Secretary of State. Only personal income tax returns are required; do not submit business tax returns.

- Submit the Income Tax Return Disclosure Consent and Acknowledgement Form signed by the candidate granting the Secretary of State permission to publicly release the redacted versions of the candidate’s income tax returns. §§ 8902, 8903 c. If the candidate was not required to file an income tax return with the IRS for any of the last five (5) most recent taxable years the candidate must indicate that fact on the Income Tax Return Disclosure Consent and Acknowledgement Form.
- If the candidate has not filed an income tax return with the IRS for the tax year immediately preceding the election, the candidate shall submit a copy of the income tax return to the Secretary of State within five (5) days of filing the return with the IRS.

§ 8902

§ 8902

- The candidate shall redact the income tax returns as follows:

Many pdf programs allow users to redact information from a pdf file. This includes Adobe Acrobat software and other third-party software. Alternately, candidates may print out a copy of an unredacted income tax return, and manually (with a pen or marker) redact information pursuant to Elections Code section 8903.

It is the candidate’s responsibility to only redact the information identified below. It is important to note that some of the information identified below may appear on every page of the submitted income tax returns, including on the header or footer portion of each page.

The following information must be redacted by the candidate:

- Social security numbers • Home address • Telephone number • Email address • Medical information • Bank account numbers and routing numbers • IRS personal identification number (PIN)
- § 8903**

The following information may be redacted by the candidate:

- Names of dependent minors • Employer identification number • Business address • Preparer tax identification number, address, telephone number and email address of paid tax return preparers.
- § 8903**
- The required tax returns and consent form shall be filed with the Secretary of State by March 6, 2026 (E-88) by 5:00 p.m. as follows:
 - a. In Person/Courier Service:
Secretary of State's Office
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, California 95814
Elections Division drop box located in 1st floor lobby
Building Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
In-person filings will NOT be accepted in the Secretary of State's Los Angeles office.
 - b. Express Delivery/Mail:
Secretary of State's Office
1500 11th Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814
- NOTE:** Income tax returns sent by express delivery or mail must be received by March 6, 2026 (E-88) by 5:00 p.m. PST. Secretary of State will not consider shipping or postmark dates as timely filed. Income tax returns documents must be at the Secretary of State's Office by the deadline.
- The Secretary of State shall make the redacted versions of the candidate's income tax returns available to the public on the Secretary of State's internet website. These redacted versions of the candidate's income tax returns shall be continuously posted until the official canvass for the election is completed.
- § 8903**

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

- must:**
- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that Nomination Papers are issued to the person;
 - be a United States citizen and resident of California;
 - not have served two terms in the office sought since November 6, 1990; and

- not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes. §§ 20, 201, Cal. Const., Art. V, §§ 2, 9, and 11

Article V, Section 2 of the California Constitution requires California residency for five years; however, it is the legal opinion of the California Secretary of State's office that this provision violates the U.S. Constitution.

SECRETARY OF STATE, CONTROLLER, AND TREASURER

- must:**
- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that Nomination Papers are issued to the person;
 - be a United States citizen and a resident of California;
 - not have served two terms in the office sought since November 6, 1990; and
 - not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes.

§§ 20, 201, Cal. Const., Art. V, § 11

ATTORNEY GENERAL

- must:**
- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that Nomination Papers are issued to the person;
 - be a United States citizen and a resident of California;
 - have been admitted to practice before the California Supreme Court for a period of at least five years immediately preceding his/her election to the office;
 - not have served two terms in the office sought since November 6, 1990; and
 - not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes.

§§ 20, 201, Gov't Code § 12503, Cal. Const., Art. V, § 11

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

- must:**
- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that Nomination Papers are issued to the person;
 - be a United States citizen and resident of California;

- not have served two four-year terms in the office sought;
- during tenure of office, not be an officer, agent, or employee of an insurer or directly or indirectly interested in any insurer or licensee under the California Insurance Code except (a) as a policyholder, or (b) by virtue of relationship by blood or marriage to any person interested in any insurer or licensee; and
- not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes. Ins. Code §§ 12900(a), 12901, §§ 20, 201

MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION, DISTRICT 4

- must:**
- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that Nomination Papers are issued to the person;
 - be a United States citizen and a resident of California;
 - not have served two terms in the office sought since November 6, 1990; and
 - not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes. §§ 20, 201, Cal. Const., Art. XIII, § 17

MEMBER OF THE STATE SENATE and MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY

- must:**
- be a registered voter in the district and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time Nomination Papers are issued to the person;
 - be a United States citizen and a resident of California;
 - not have served more than 12 years in the State Senate, the Assembly, or both, in any combination of terms, if he or she was first elected to the Legislature after June of 2012 and has not previously served in the State Senate or Assembly, during his or her lifetime;
 - not have served two terms in the State Senate since November 6, 1990, if he or she was elected to the State Senate before June of 2012;
 - not have served three terms in the Assembly since November 6, 1990, if he or she was elected to the Assembly before June of 2012; and

- not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes.

§§ 20, 201, Cal. Const. Art. IV, § 2(a), 2(a)(4), 2(c)

Article IV, §2(c) of the California Constitution states that a person is ineligible to be a member of the Legislature unless the person is an elector and has been a resident of the legislative district for one year*, and a citizen of the United States and a resident of California for three years*, immediately preceding the election.

***NOTE:** In October 1975, the California Supreme Court ruled that residency requirements of more than 30 days for local candidates are unconstitutional. On February 4, 1976 the California Secretary of State issued an opinion which stated that a prospective candidate for local office, State Assembly or State Senate must be a resident at the time Nomination Papers are filed for at least 30 days immediately preceding such date of filing. On January 3, 1990, the California Secretary of State's office clarified that it is the legal opinion of that office that these provisions violate the U.S. Constitution and are unenforceable. Therefore, it believes no residency requirement exists for legislative candidates beyond the date their Nomination Papers are issued.

SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN FOR AND HOLD PUBLIC OFFICE

NONPARTISAN OFFICES

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- must:**
- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that Nomination Papers are issued to the person;
 - not have served two terms as State Superintendent of Public Instruction since November 6, 1990; and
 - not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes.
- §§ 20, 201, Cal. Const., Art. IX, § 2

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

- must:**
- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that Nomination Papers are issued to the person;
 - possess a valid credential issued by the State Board of Education;
 - possess a valid certification document authorizing administrative services, and for the purposes of this section, the possession of a valid elementary administrative credential and a valid secondary administrative credential are equivalent to the possession of a valid general administrative credential; and

- not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes. §§ 20, 201, Ed. Code §§ 1206, 1208

MEMBER OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

- must:**
- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time Nomination Papers are issued to the person;
 - be an elector of the trustee area which he/she represents; and
 - not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes.

A candidate may not be the County Superintendent of Schools, any member of his/her staff, or any employee of a school district, that is within the jurisdiction of the County Board of Education. §§ 20, 201, Ed. Code §§ 1000, 1006

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

- must:**
- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time Nomination Papers are issued to the person;
 - have been a member of the State Bar or served as a judge of a court of record in this state for ten years immediately preceding selection; and
 - not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes. §§ 20, 201 Cal. Const., Art. VI, § 15

A person is ineligible to be a judge of a court of record unless for ten years immediately preceding selection to the Superior Court, the person has been a member of the State Bar or served as a judge of a court of record in this state. Cal. Const., Art. VI, § 15

NOTE: Superior Court Judges and candidates are not required to reside in the county in which the court is located.

Terms of judges of Superior Courts are six years beginning the Monday after January 1 following their election. A vacancy shall be filled by election to a full term at the next General Election after the second January 1 following the vacancy, but the Governor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy temporarily until the elected judge's term begins.

Cal. Const. Art. VI, § 16(c)

If only the incumbent has filed Nomination Papers for the office of Superior Court Judge, his/her name will not appear on the ballot unless there is filed with the Registrar of Voters, within ten days after the final date for filing Nomination Papers for the office, a petition

indicating that a write-in campaign will be conducted for the office and signed by 100 registered voters qualified to vote with respect to the office.

If a petition indicating that a write-in campaign will be conducted for the office at the General Election, signed by 100 registered voters qualified to vote with respect to the office, is filed with the Registrar of Voters not less than 83 days before the General Election, the name of the incumbent shall be placed on the General Election ballot if it has not appeared on the Presidential Primary Election ballot. If the name of the incumbent does not appear either on the Presidential Primary Election ballot or General Election ballot, the Registrar of Voters, on the day of the General Election, shall declare the incumbent reelected. **§ 8203**

If an incumbent of a judicial office dies on or before the last day prescribed for the filing of Nomination Papers, or files a Declaration of Intention, but for any reason fails to file his/her Nomination Papers by the last day prescribed for the filing of the papers, an additional five days shall be allowed for the filing of Nomination Papers for the office. Any person other than the incumbent, if otherwise qualified, may file Nomination Papers for the office during the extended period. **§ 8204**

A judge of a court of record may not practice law and during the term for which the judge was selected is ineligible for public employment or public office other than judicial employment or judicial office. A Superior Court Judge may, however, become eligible for election to other public office by taking a leave of absence without pay prior to filing a Declaration of Candidacy. Acceptance of the public office is a resignation from the office of judge. **Cal. Const. Art. VI, § 17**

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- must:**
- **be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time Nomination Papers are issued to the person;**
 - **have been a registered voter in the district which he/she seeks to represent for at least 30 days immediately preceding the deadline for filing nomination documents for the office;**
 - **reside in the district during his/her incumbency; and**
 - **not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes. §§ 20, 201, Gov't Code §§ 24001, 25040, 25041**

ASSESSOR

- must:**
- **be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time Nomination Papers are issued to the person; and**
 - **not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes.**
- must:**
- **possess a valid appraiser's certificate issued by the State Board of**

Equalization pursuant to Article 8, commencing with Section 670 of Chapter 3 of Part 2 of Division 1 of the Revenue and Taxation Code; or

- acquire, notwithstanding Government Code § 24001.5(a), for a period not to exceed one year, a temporary appraiser's certificate from the State Board of Equalization no later than 30 days after taking office.
§§ 20, 201, Gov't Code § 24002.5(a)(b)

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

- must:**
- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time Nomination Papers are issued to the person; and
 - not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes.
- must:**
- possess a valid and active certificate issued by the California Board of Accountancy under Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 5000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code showing the person to be, and a permit authorizing the person to practice as, a certified public accountant; or
 - possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited university, college, or other four-year institution, with a major in accounting, as described in subdivision (a) of Section 5081.1 of the Business and Professions Code, as that section read on December 31, 2009, or a business-related degree that includes at least 24 semester units, or equivalent quarter units, in accounting-related subjects, including, but not limited to, accounting, financial reporting, auditing, and taxation, and has served within the last five years in a senior fiscal management position in a county, city, or other public agency, or a nonprofit organization, dealing with similar fiscal responsibilities, including, but not limited to, public accounting or auditing responsibilities, for a continuous period of not less than three years; or
 - have served as County Auditor, Chief Deputy County Auditor, or Assistant County Auditor, or an equivalent position for a continuous period of not less than three years. §§ 20, 201, Gov't Code § 26945

CLERK-RECORDER

- must:**
- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time Nomination Papers are issued to the person; and
 - not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes. §§ 20, 201

TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR

- must:**
- be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time Nomination Papers are issued to the person; and
 - not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes.
- must:**
- have served in a senior financial management position in a county, city, or other public agency dealing with similar financial responsibilities for a continuous period of not less than three years, including, but not limited to Treasurer, Tax Collector, Auditor, Auditor-Controller, or the Chief Deputy or an assistant in those offices; or
 - possess a valid baccalaureate, masters, or doctoral degree from an accredited college or university in any of the following major fields of study: Business administration, public administration, economics, finance, accounting, or a related field, with a minimum of 16 college semester units, or their equivalent, in accounting, auditing, or finance; or
 - possess a valid certificate issued by the California State Board of Accountancy, pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 5000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, showing that person to be, and a permit authorizing that person to practice as, a certified public accountant; or
 - possess a valid charter issued by the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts showing the person to be designated a Chartered Financial Analyst, with a minimum of 16 college semester units, or their equivalent, in accounting, auditing, or finance.
- §§ 20, 201, Gov't Code § 27000.7**

All candidates for Assessor, Auditor-Controller, and County Treasurer-Tax Collector shall complete a Special Qualifications form. By signing this document, under penalty of perjury, the candidate is stating that he/she meets the special qualifications for the office he or she is seeking. The Registrar of Voters' office is not responsible for investigating that candidates meet these special requirements. The form must be filed with the Registrar of Voters' office by March 6, 2026, the deadline for filing the Declaration of Candidacy.

All candidates for Superior Court Judicial offices shall complete a Special Qualifications form. By signing this document, under penalty of perjury, the candidate is stating that he/she meets the special qualifications for Superior Court Judicial office. The Registrar of Voters' office is not responsible for investigating that candidates meet these special requirements. The form must be filed with the Registrar of Voters' office by February 4, 2026, the deadline for filing the Declaration of Intention.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION



Information concerning the Declaration of Intention presented below applies **ONLY** to candidates for Superior Court Judicial offices.

Between January 26, 2026 and February 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m., all candidates for SUPERIOR COURT JUDICIAL OFFICES MUST file a Declaration of Intention.

Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions MUST be submitted and the Filing Fee MUST be paid at the time the Declaration of Intention is filed.

Between February 9, 2026 and March 6, 2026, 5:00 p.m., all candidates who are required to file a Declaration of Intention are also required to file a Declaration of Candidacy. If a Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition does not contain the requisite number of valid signatures needed on Nomination Papers, the candidate is also required to file Nomination Papers to meet the requirement for the requisite number of valid signatures needed.

§§ 8023, 8061

ALL FILING FEES ARE NONREFUNDABLE!

§ 8105

Every candidate for a Superior Court Judicial office, not more than 14 nor less than 5 days prior to the first day on which his/her Nomination Papers may be circulated and signed or may be presented for filing, shall file in the office of the Registrar of Voters a written and signed statement of his/her intention to become a candidate for that office on a form to be supplied by the Registrar of Voters. A candidate for a numerically designated Judicial office shall state in his/her declaration for which office he/she intends to become a candidate. The period for filing a Declaration of Intention is **January 26, 2026 through February 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**

§ 8023

If an incumbent Superior Court Judge fails to file a Declaration of Intention by **February 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**, the period is extended, for persons other than the incumbent, to **February 9, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** for that particular office.

§ 8022

If an incumbent Superior Court Judge files a Declaration of Intention, but for any reason fails to qualify for nomination for the office by the last day prescribed for the filing of Nomination Papers, **March 6, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**, an additional five days shall be allowed for the filing of Nomination Papers for the office during the extended period, notwithstanding that he/she has not filed a written and signed Declaration of Intention to become a candidate for the office.

§ 8204

No candidate for a Superior Court Judicial office shall be required to state his/her residential address on the Declaration of Intention provided for in this section. However, in cases where the candidate (including Incumbent Judges) does not state his/her residential address on the Declaration of Intention, the elections official shall verify that the address is within the appropriate political subdivision and add the notation "verified" to the residential address line of the form.

§ 8023

IMPORTANT: A candidate for a Superior Court Judicial Office (including Incumbent Judges) **MUST** provide a residential address to the Registrar of Voters, but need not include this on: (1) Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions, if submitted; or (2) Nomination Papers, including his/her own Nomination Papers and other candidates' Nomination Papers. **A candidate for a Judge of the Superior Court may reflect a business or mailing address on the Declaration of Intention and Declaration of Candidacy.** § 8040

IMPORTANT: If a "Confidential Voter" or candidate for Judge of the Superior Court signs a Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition and/or Nomination Papers, he/she must personally affix his/her place of residence. **After signing the document, his or her residential address would become a public record and would not remain confidential. In addition, his/her signature would not be considered a valid signature for the candidate's Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition and/or Nomination Papers.**

NOTE: The required Filing Fee must be paid or Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions filed at the time the Declaration of Intention is filed for the Superior Court Judicial offices. **The Filing Fee is nonrefundable.** § 8105(a)

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY AND NOMINATION PAPERS

Between February 9, 2026 and March 6, 2026, all candidates must file a Declaration of Candidacy and Nomination Papers. §§ 8020, 8040, 8041, 8063, 8064

The Filing Fee must be paid at the time the Declaration of Candidacy and Nomination Papers are obtained from the Registrar of Voters unless:

- (a) No Filing Fee is required; or
- (b) A judicial candidate paid the Fee when his/her Declaration of Intention was filed; or
- (c) The candidate filed Signatures-in-lieu of Filing Fee Petitions to meet the Filing Fee requirement. §§ 8105, 8106



A word of caution: *FILE EARLY!* It is not advisable to wait until the last day of the Nomination Period to file your paperwork.

ALL FILING FEES ARE NONREFUNDABLE!

February 9, 2026 is the first date that candidates may obtain, circulate and leave for filing or examination and certification, the Declaration of Candidacy and nomination documents. Upon request of a candidate, the county elections official shall provide the candidate with a Declaration of Candidacy. The county elections official shall not require the candidate to sign, file, or sign and file a Declaration of Candidacy as a condition of receiving nomination papers. § 8020

The Registrar of Voters shall supply all forms required for nomination and election to all congressional, state, and county offices and shall imprint a stamp which reads "Official Filing Form" and affix his/her signature. The forms shall be distributed without charge to all candidates applying for them, upon the pre-payment of the Filing Fee provided for in Elections Code §§ 8103-8106. **The Filing Fee will not be refunded in the event the candidate fails to qualify as a candidate.** §§ 8101, 8105

Information to be completed by the candidate on the Declaration of Candidacy form includes the candidate's name, occupational (ballot) designation, residence/business address, mailing address, phone number, party preference (if applicable), and includes a statement that he/she meets the statutory and constitutional qualifications for the office and that, **if nominated, he/she will accept the nomination and not withdraw.** No candidate for a judicial office shall be required to state his or her residential address on the Declaration of Candidacy. §§ 8040, 10511

NOTE: A candidate for a judicial office, or a candidate for any office whose voter registration information is confidential under Section 2166, 2166.5, 2166.7, or 2166.8 may withhold the candidate's residence address from the declaration of candidacy. § 8040(b)

A candidate for a voter-nominated office (Representative in Congress, State Constitutional Officers, Member of the State Senate, and Member of the State Assembly) shall indicate his or her party preference, or lack of party preference upon his/her Declaration of Candidacy, as disclosed upon the candidate's most recent statement of registration. A candidate's party preference as stated on his or her Declaration of Candidacy shall appear on the Primary and General Elections ballots in conjunction with his or her name. **The candidate's designated party preference on the ballot shall not be changed between the Primary and General Elections.** § 8002.5(a)

A voter-nominated office candidate designating a party preference shall not be deemed to be the official nominee of the party designated as preferred by the candidate and is only shown for the information of the voter. A candidate's designation of party preference shall not be construed as an endorsement of that candidate by the party designated. It does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the candidate by the party designated, and no candidate nominated by the qualified voters for any voter-nominated office shall be deemed to be the officially nominated candidate of any political party. § 8002.5(c)

It is mandatory that candidates for voter-nominated office list their party preferences/voter registration histories for the preceding ten years. **It is the responsibility of the candidate to provide accurate information.** This information will be posted on the Secretary of State's website and the Registrar of Voters' Voter Information Guide and website. § 8121(a)(b)

If a candidate for a voter-nominated or nonpartisan office submits a Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition pursuant to section 8106, any valid signatures appearing on the petition will, if the signatures are those of registered voters and eligible to vote for the candidate, be counted toward the number of voters required to sign Nomination Papers. **The requirement for voter-nominated offices that the signer must be registered with the political party of the candidate for the signature to be counted toward the signature requirement on Nomination Papers is no longer in effect.** If a Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition contains the requisite number of valid signatures needed on Nomination Papers, the candidate is not required to file Nomination Papers, but may request the Registrar of Voters to accept the petition instead of filing Nomination Papers. § 8061

NOTE: When using the Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee process, the candidate is still required to file a Declaration of Candidacy during the nomination period. § 8020

(See DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES AND THEIR CIRCULATORS for information on signing Nomination Papers.)

All nomination documents which are required to be filed in the office of the Secretary of State shall, within five days after being left with the Registrar of Voters, be forwarded to the Secretary of State, who shall receive and file them. The Registrar of Voters shall forward with the nomination documents a statement showing the total number of signatures on the nomination documents which have not been marked "not sufficient." § 8082

All nomination documents must be filed with the Registrar of Voters or left for examination and forwarding to the Secretary of State by **March 6, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** unless the filing period is extended due to circumstances described in the following paragraphs. **Nomination signatures do not need to be filed at the same time and may be filed before the Declaration of Candidacy is filed.** If after verification, the minimum number of nomination

signatures has not been attained, supplemental signatures may then be obtained until the filing deadline. **§ 8020(b)**

If nomination documents for a person who holds the office of Member of the Representative in Congress, State Constitutional Officer, Member of the State Senate, and Member of the Assembly (voter-nominated offices) are not delivered by **5:00 p.m. on the 88th day** before the Statewide Direct Primary Election, **March 6, 2026**, any person other than the person who holds the office on the **88th day** shall have until **5:00 p.m. on the 83rd day** before the election, **March 11, 2026**, to file nomination documents for the elective office. However, if the incumbent's failure to file nomination documents is because he/she has already served the maximum number of terms permitted by the California Constitution for that office, there shall be no extension of the period for filing the nomination documents. **§ 8022**

If an incumbent Superior Court Judicial Officer files a Declaration of Intention, but for any reason fails to qualify for nomination for the office by the last day prescribed for the filing of Nomination Papers, an additional five days shall be allowed for the filing of Nomination Papers for the office during the extended period, notwithstanding that he/she has not filed a written and signed Declaration of Intention to become a candidate for the office. **§ 8204**

NOTE: There is no extension of the filing period for any office where there is no incumbent eligible to be elected. **§ 8022**

If an incumbent Superior Court Judicial Officer fails to file a Declaration of Intention by the end of the Declaration of Intention filing period, persons other than the incumbent may file a Declaration of Intention no later than the first day for filing Nomination Papers. For additional requirements, see the DECLARATION OF INTENTION in this handbook. **§ 8023**

In any county in which **only the incumbent has filed** Nomination Papers for the office of Superior Court Judge, his or her name will **not** appear on the ballot unless there is filed with the Registrar of Voters' office, within 10 days (**March 7, 2026 through March 16, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**) after the final date for filing nomination papers for the office, a petition indicating that a write-in campaign will be conducted for the office and signed by at least 0.1 percent 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. **NOTE: If a non-incumbent candidate for the office of Superior Court Judge is the only candidate who filed Nomination Papers, his or her name will appear on the ballot.** **§ 8203**

If nomination documents for an incumbent officer of a county office are not delivered by **5:00 p.m. on the 88th day** before the Statewide Direct Primary Election, any person other than the person who was the incumbent on the **88th day** shall have until **5:00 p.m. on the 83rd day** before the election to file nomination documents for the elective office. The filing period is not extended if there is no incumbent eligible to be elected. **§ 8024**

If only one person has declared a candidacy for a voter-nominated office at the primary election and that candidate dies after **March 6, 2026**, but on or before **March 11, 2026**, any person otherwise qualified may circulate and deliver nomination documents for the nomination for that office to the county elections official by **5:00 p.m. on March 20, 2026**. **§ 8025**

The period for filing Nomination Papers for a nonpartisan office shall be reopened in an election where the incumbent who is a candidate for a nonpartisan office where only one

other candidate has filed, excluding any write-in candidates, has qualified and either the challenger or the incumbent dies after **March 6, 2026** but before **March 26, 2026**.

Any qualified person may deliver nomination documents to the office to the Registrar of Voters no later than **March 26, 2026**.

§ 8027

If by **5:00 p.m. on March 11, 2026**, only one person has been nominated for each trustee area for County Board of Education, or no one has been nominated for the offices, and a petition signed by 10% of the voters or 50 voters, whichever is the smaller number, in the district or trustee area, if elected by trustee area, requesting that an election be held has not been presented to the Registrar of Voters, appointment will be made in lieu of election.

Ed. Code §§ 5326, 5328

If an incumbent is a candidate for a nonpartisan office and only one other candidate, excluding write-in candidates, has qualified to have his or her name placed on the ballot for that office, and either the challenger or incumbent dies after the hour of **12:01 a.m. on March 31, 2026**, an election shall not be conducted, no votes cast for that office shall be counted, and if counted the votes shall be null and void.

§ 8026

Every candidate must file a Declaration of Candidacy during the nomination period, whether or not a Nomination Paper is filed. The Declaration of Candidacy form must be obtained from and filed with the Registrar of Voters' office in the candidate's county of residence.

§§ 8020, 8064

If a person is a candidate for a nonpartisan office, all reference to party preference must be omitted on all forms required to be filed.

§ 8002

Except as provided in Section 8020.5, a candidate whose Declaration of Candidacy has been filed for any Primary Election may withdraw as a candidate at that Primary Election.

§§ 8020.5, 8800

A candidate may, in a dated, signed, written statement designate a person to obtain a Declaration of Candidacy form from the Registrar of Voters' office and deliver it to the candidate. Such statement shall include language indicating that the candidate is aware that the Declaration of Candidacy must be properly executed and delivered to the Registrar of Voters' office of the county of the candidate's residence by the 88th day prior to the Statewide Direct Primary Election, **March 6, 2026**. **Any person may return the completed Declaration of Candidacy.**

§ 8028

In the event that the Declaration of Candidacy form is being returned to the Registrar of Voters' office by a person other than the candidate, the Declaration of Candidacy form/the Oath of Office **must be notarized** prior to filing with the Registrar of Voters' office. **(See back of Declaration of Candidacy form drafted by the Secretary of State and Elections Code section 8028)**

NOTE: A person does not need to be designated in writing by the candidate to obtain or file Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Petitions and Nomination Papers; this is only necessary to obtain and/or file the Declaration of Candidacy.

IMPORTANT: For County elected offices, the Oath on the back of the Declaration of Candidacy is not the official Oath of Office. Between Election Day and **January 4, 2027** (the date of taking office), the Clerk of the Board will administer the Oath of Office to those elected to these offices.

CANDIDATE'S NAME

If a candidate changes his/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.

§ 13104

For candidates with long names, there is a possibility that the Registrar of Voters' system may split the name. Due to space limitations of the ballot, the Registrar of Voters' office is unable to change column size, font size, etc., to accommodate long names. **A candidate should keep this in mind as they designate on their Declaration of Candidacy how they want their name to appear on the ballot.**

Assembly 1316 was signed into law by Governor Brown in August of 2013 and went into effect on **January 1, 2014**. It eliminates the practice of permitting candidates to select a number to be printed alongside their name on ballot materials if a candidate with a similar name files for the same office. The bill requires the elections official to assign each such candidate a number based on the order in which the candidates filed their nomination papers. It requires that the first candidate be assigned the number "1", with each subsequent candidate with a similar name being assigned the next number in numerical sequence until each candidate with a similar name has been assigned a distinguishing number. The law also requires the elections official to conduct a drawing of the numbers assigned to the candidates in a similar manner as provided for by existing law to determine the order on the ballot for candidates with similar names.

Assembly Bill 57 (2019) requires that any ballot providing a translation of a candidate's name, in jurisdictions required to provide translated ballot materials pursuant to a specified provision of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), to contain a phonetic transliteration of the candidate's name unless certain conditions are met and as specified:

- Permits a candidate who has a character-based name by birth, which can be verified by birth certificate or other valid identification, to use that name on the ballot instead of a phonetic transliteration.
- Permits a candidate who does not have a character-based name by birth, but who identifies by a particular character-based name and can demonstrate that the candidate has been known and identified within the public sphere by that name over the past two years, to use that name instead of a phonetic transliteration.

Candidates with a character-based name will be required to fill out a Character-Based Name Form and submit supporting documents.

Translations apply to character-based languages in Chinese and Korean.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES AND THEIR CIRCULATORS

(Please read carefully before obtaining signatures)

CIRCULATORS

Circulators (whether the candidate himself/herself or another person) perform the important duty of obtaining signatures of properly registered voters on the Nomination Papers. If the signatures are not obtained in accordance with law, the candidate's right to be placed on the ballot could be challenged.

All candidates should endeavor to obtain the required number of signatures as soon as possible, in order that their Nomination Papers may be returned to the Registrar of Voters' office for examination and filing or certification to the Secretary of State, as the case may be.

All Nomination Papers do not need to be filed at the same time.

A circulator (whether the candidate himself/herself or another person) must make a sworn statement that all the signatures he/she obtained on the Nomination Papers were made in his/her presence and that to the best of his/her knowledge and belief each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be. Accordingly, Nomination Papers may not be handed to someone else to obtain the signatures. Only one person may obtain signatures to a section of a Nomination Paper. **§ 8041**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person who is a candidate for any office may obtain signatures to and sign his/her own Nomination Papers. His/her signature will be given the same effect as that of any other qualified signer. **§ 106(a)**

Any person engaged in obtaining signatures to the Nomination Papers of a candidate for any office may, if otherwise qualified to sign the papers, sign the papers. The signature shall be given the same effect as that of any other qualified signer. **§ 106(b)**

Appointed circulators shall be 18 years of age or older. §§ 102, 8066

A candidate running for an office contained in more than one county is encouraged to obtain more than the minimum number of qualified signers of the county of his/her residence in order to obtain the required minimum.

SIGNERS

For voter-nominated offices, signers shall be voters in the district or political subdivision in which the candidate is to be voted on. **The signer does not need to be affiliated with the same political party as the candidate.** **§§ 100, 8068**

For nonpartisan offices, signers shall be voters in the district or political subdivision in which the candidate is to be voted on. **The signer does not need to be affiliated with the same political party as the candidate.** **§§ 100, 8068**

IMPORTANT: Each signer shall, at the time of signing Nomination Papers, personally affix his/her signature, printed name and place of residence, giving street and number, and if no street or number exists, then a designation of the place of residence which will enable the location to be readily ascertained. **§ 100**

IMPORTANT: If a person who is a “Confidential Voter”, a Superior Court Judge or a candidate for Superior Court Judge, signs a Nomination Paper, **he/she must personally, affix his/her place of residence.** Nomination Papers are public documents; after signing the document, the residence address would now become public record. “Confidential Voters”, Superior Court Judges, and candidates for Superior Court Judge are **not exempt** from having to disclose their residential addresses on this document. However, Superior Court Judges and candidates for Superior Court Judge (but not “Confidential Voters”) **are exempt** from disclosing their residence addresses on the Declaration of Intention and the Declaration of Candidacy. **§ 8041**

Signatures to a Nomination Paper shall not be obtained by the Registrar of Voters, or by the deputies in the office of the Registrar of Voters, nor within 100 feet of any election booth or Vote Center. **§§ 6123, 6383, 6592, 8452**

No signer shall, at the time of signing a Nomination Paper, have his/her name signed to any other Nomination Paper for any other candidate for the same office, or, in case there are several places to be filled in the same office, signed to more Nomination Papers for candidates for that office than there are offices to be filled. **§ 8069**

Any candidate may obtain signatures to and sign his or her own Nomination Papers. **§ 106(a)**

NOTE: Candidates MUST OBTAIN Nomination Papers from their county of domicile. They may CIRCULATE the papers in any county in the district but must FILE the Nomination Papers in the county where the signatures were obtained.

Before filing or forwarding for filing any Declaration of Candidacy or Nomination Papers, the Registrar of Voters will verify the signatures on the Nomination Papers with the registration affidavits on file in the office of the Registrar of Voters. **Party preferences do not need to be verified for signatures on voter-nominated and nonpartisan offices.** The Registrar of Voters will mark "not sufficient" any signature which does not appear in the same handwriting as appears on the affidavit of registration in his/her office. The Registrar of Voters may cease to verify signatures once the minimum requisite number of signatures has been verified. **§ 8081**

ELECTED OR NOMINATED

State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, County Officers, and Judge of the Superior Court: Any candidate for a nonpartisan office who at a Primary Election receives votes on a majority of all the ballots cast for candidates for that office shall be elected to that office. Where a candidate has been elected to a nonpartisan office at the Primary Election, that office shall not appear on the ballot at the ensuing General Election, notwithstanding the death, resignation, or other disqualification of the candidate at a time subsequent to the Primary Election. **§ 8140**

If no candidate has been elected to a nonpartisan office pursuant to Section 8140, then candidates for that office at the ensuing General Election shall be the candidates not elected at the Primary Election who received the highest and second-highest numbers of votes for that office. **§ 8141**

Member, Orange County Board of Education: When one member of the governing board of a school district or community college district is to be elected, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. When two or more members are to be elected, the two or more candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. **§ 10600**

Representative in Congress, State Constitutional Officers, Member of the State Senate, and Member of the State Assembly (voter-nominated offices): Only the two candidates for a voter-nominated office who receive the highest and second-highest numbers of votes cast at the Primary Election shall appear on the ballot as candidates for that office at the ensuing General Election. More than one candidate with the same party preference designation may participate in the General Election. No candidate for a voter-nominated office shall be deemed to be the official nominee for that office of any political party, and no party is entitled to have a candidate with its party preference designation participate in the General Election unless such candidate is one of the two candidates receiving the highest or second-highest numbers of votes cast at the Primary Election. **§ 8141.5**

DATES OF TAKING OFFICE

- Elected **Representatives in Congress** take office at noon on **January 3, 2027.**
U.S. Const., Art. I, §§ 1, 2; 20th Amend. § 1
- Elected **State Constitutional Officers** take office at noon on **January 4, 2027.**
Cal. Const., Art. V, § 2, 9, 11, Ins. Code § 12900
- Members of the **State Senate** and **Assembly** take office on **December 7, 2026.**
Cal. Const., Art. IV, § 2
- Elected members of the **Board of Supervisors** take office at noon on **January 4, 2027.**
Gov't Code § 24200
- Elected **County Officers** take office at noon on **January 4, 2027.** **Gov't Code § 24200**
- Elected **State Superintendent of Public Instruction** takes office at noon on
January 4, 2027. **Cal. Const., Art. IX, § 2**
- Elected **County Board of Education Trustees** take office on **July 1, 2026.** **Ed. Code § 1007**
- Elected **Superior Court Judges** take office on **January 4, 2027.** **Cal. Const., Art. VI, § 16**

BALLOT DESIGNATIONS FOR CANDIDATES
(§13107; Secretary of State Ballot Designation Regulations,
Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), § 20710, et seq.)

With the exception of candidates for Justice of the State Supreme Court or Court of Appeal, immediately under the name of each candidate, and not separated from the name by any line, may appear at the option of the candidate only one of the following designations:

- (1) Words designating the elective city, county, district, state or federal office which the candidate holds at the time of filing the nomination documents to which he/she was elected by vote of the people, or to which he/she was appointed, in the case of a Superior Court Judge. **There is no word limit for the official title of the office.** A candidate may choose to include the name of his/her elective office with another profession, vocation, or occupation, but that Ballot Designation is limited to no more than three words. **§ 13107(a)(1)**
- (2) Proposed ballot designations indicating a position of legislative leadership or leadership in another elected body, such as “Majority Leader of the California Senate”, “Speaker of the California State Assembly”, and “City of Long Beach Mayor Pro Tem” are not elective offices as described in Elections Code § 13107 (a)(1). Such Ballot Designations are improper, pursuant to Elections Code § 13107(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”. **CCR § 20712(d)**

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 section 13107(a)(1). **CCR § 20712(e)**

- (3) The word “incumbent” if the candidate is a candidate for the same office which he/she holds at the time of filing the Nomination Papers, and was elected to that office by a vote of the people. **The word “incumbent” must be used as a noun and must stand alone. NOTE: For the June 2, 2026 Election, candidates for Representative in Congress may not use the word “incumbent”.** **§ 13107(a)(2)**
- (4) The phrase “appointed incumbent” may be used 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. **§ 13107(a)(4)**

If the candidate is a candidate for **election to another office**, but wants to use the title of his/her current appointed office, he may use the word “appointed” and the title of his/her current office. He/she may not use “appointed **incumbent**” in this case.

In either instance, the candidate may not use the unmodified word “incumbent” or any words designating the office unmodified by the word “appointed.” **The words “appointed incumbent” must stand alone.**

NOTE: The phrase “appointed incumbent” shall not be required of a candidate who seeks reelection to an office which he/she holds and to which he/she was appointed as a nominated candidate, in lieu of an election pursuant to Education Code Sections 5326 and 5328 or Elections Code Sections 7228, 7423, 7673, 10229, or 10515.

- (5) **The names of special districts, school districts, and political subdivisions are not geographical names. For purposes of this section, all California geographical names shall be considered to be one word and shall be limited to the names of cities, counties and states.** CCR § 20714(f)(3)
- (6) Punctuation shall be limited to the use of a comma (e.g., Governing Board Member, Anaheim Union High School District) and a slash (e.g., Physician/Rancher/Legislator). 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 not in the dictionary shall be counted as a separate word. CCR § 20714(f)(2)



- (7) **No more than three words** designating the current principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate may be used as a Ballot Designation. **YOU MUST INCLUDE YOUR PRINCIPAL PROFESSION, VOCATION, OR OCCUPATION IN YOUR BALLOT DESIGNATION.** However, in the event the candidate does not have a current principal profession, vocation or occupation at the time he/she files his/her nomination documents, the candidate may use a Ballot Designation consisting of his/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 documents. CCR § 20714(d)

“Principal”, as that term is used in Elections Code § 13107(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.** The Ballot Designation must accurately state the candidate’s principal professions, vocations, or occupations and must be factually accurate and descriptive, and neither confusing nor misleading. CCR § 20714(b)

“Profession” means a field of employment requiring special education or skill and requiring specific 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 (a)(3) include, but are not limited to: Attorney, physician, accountant, architect, and teacher. CCR § 20714(a)(1)

“Vocation” means a trade, a religious calling, or the work upon which a person, in most but not all cases, relies for his/her livelihood and spends a major portion

of his/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(a)(3) include, but are not limited to: Minister, priest, mother, father, parent, homemaker, dependent care provider, carpenter, plumber, electrician, and cabinetmaker. **NOTE:** Husband and wife are not acceptable designations. **CCR § 20714(a)(2)**

"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(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. **CCR § 20714(a)(3)**

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/her "principal" professions, vocations, or occupations if (a) the candidate has maintained his/her license current as of the date he/she filed his/her nomination documents by complying with all applicable requirements of the respective licensure, including the payment of all applicable license fees and (b) the status of the candidate's license is active at the time he/she filed his/her nomination documents. **CCR § 20714(b)(1)**

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/her "principal" professions, vocations, or occupations if (a) the candidate's licensure status is "inactive" at the time the candidate files his/her nomination documents; or (b) the candidate's license has been suspended or revoked by the agency issuing the license at the time the candidate files his/her nomination documents. **CCR § 20714(b)(2)**

Multiple Principal Professions, Vocations, or Occupations: A candidate may engage in multiple principal professions, vocations or occupations. However, 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 three-word limitation specified in Elections Code § 13107(a)(3); (2) Each such proposed profession, vocation or occupation shall be separately considered and must independently qualify as a "principal" profession, vocation, or occupation; and (3) When multiple professions, vocations or occupations are proposed as a ballot designation, they shall be separated by a slash ("/"). **CCR § 20714(e)(1)(2)(3)**

- (8) **"Community Volunteer"** means a person who engages in an activity or performs a service for or on the behalf of, without profiting monetarily, one or more of the following: (1) A charitable, educational, or religious organization as defined by the U.S. Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3); (2) a governmental agency; or (3) an educational institution.

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. The words “Community Volunteer” must stand alone. **CCR § 20714.5**

Remember: The candidate must use his/her principal profession, vocation, or occupation as his/her Ballot Designation. “Community Volunteer” will not be allowed if the candidate does have a principal profession, vocation, or occupation. If the volunteer work is considered an “avocation” (see below under “Unacceptable Ballot Designations”), then “Community Volunteer” may not be used as the Ballot Designation.

- (9) The use of the word “**retired**” is generally limited for use by individuals who have permanently given up their chosen principal profession, vocation or occupation. These factors will be taken into consideration: (a) Prior to retiring from his/her principal profession, vocation or occupation, the candidate worked in such profession, vocation or occupation for more than five 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/her last professional, vocational, or occupational position; (e) If the candidate requests a Ballot Designation that he/she is a retired public official, he/she 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; (f) The candidate has not had another more recent, principal profession, vocation, or occupation; and (g) The candidate’s retirement benefits are providing him/her with a principal source of income.

CCR § 20716(h)(1)(2)(3)(4)

- (10) 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: (2)(A) Words designating the actual job title, as defined by statute, charter, or other governing instrument. (3) A designation made pursuant to this subparagraph shall also contain relevant qualifiers as follows: If the candidate is an official or employee of a city, the name of the city shall appear preceded by the words “City of”. (B) If the candidate is an official or employee of a county, the name of the county shall appear preceded by the words “County of”. (C) If the candidate is an official or employee of a city and county, the name of the city and county shall appear preceded by the words “City and County”. (D) If the candidate performs quasi-judicial functions for a governmental agency, the full name of the agency shall be included. (c) **A candidate for superior court judge who is an active member of the State Bar and practices law as one of his or her principal professions shall use one of the following ballot designations as his or her ballot designation: “Attorney,” “Attorney at Law,” “Lawyer,” or “Counselor at Law.”** The designations “Attorney” and “Lawyer” may be used in combination with one other current principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate, or the principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents. **§ 13107(c)**

UNACCEPTABLE BALLOT DESIGNATIONS:

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

- (a) **Avocations:** An avocation is a casual or occasional activity, diversion or hobby pursued principally for enjoyment and is in addition to the candidate's principal profession, vocation or occupation. The Secretary of State's Ballot Designation Regulations state that avocations may include, but are not limited to: Hobbies, social activities, volunteer work (except as set forth in section 20714.5), and matters pursued as an amateur. **CCR § 20716(b)(1)**

Example: (a) If a person is a PTA President (not a paid position), and does not have a principal profession, vocation, or occupation, then that person could use "Community Volunteer" as his/her ballot designation but could not use "PTA President". "PTA President" is considered a "status (see "c: Statuses"); (b) If the person is a PTA President (not a paid position), and also has a principal profession, vocation, or occupation, he/she must use his/her principal profession, vocation, or occupation as his/her ballot designation; (c) If the person is a PTA President (not paid position) and also has a principal profession, vocation, or occupation, he/she **could not** use both the principal profession, vocation, or occupation and "Community Volunteer" (even if the designation meets the three-word requirement) because "Community Volunteer" must stand alone.

- (b) **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. The Secretary of State's Ballot Designation Regulations state that pro forma professions, vocations and occupations may include, but are not limited to: Honorary peace officer, honorary chairperson, honorary professor, goodwill ambassador, official host or hostess and the like. **CCR § 20716(b)(2)**

- (c) **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. The Secretary of State's Ballot Designation Regulations state that examples of a status include, but are not limited to: Veteran, proponent, reformer, scholar, founder, philosopher, philanthropist, activist, patriot, taxpayer, concerned citizen, Kiwanis Club President, PTA President, husband, wife, and the like. **CCR § 20716(b)(3)**

(2) A Ballot Designation which abbreviates the word "retired" or places it following any word or words which it modifies. Examples of impermissible designations include, but are not limited to: Ret. Army General; Major USAF, Retired; and City Attorney, Retired. **CCR § 20716(f)**

- (3) No degree shall appear on the same line on a ballot as a candidate's name, either before or after the candidate's name per Elections Code § 13106. Examples include, but are not limited to: Ph.D., M.A., B.A., B.S., and M.D. **§ 13106**
- (4) 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. **CCR § 20716(d)**
- (5) Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107(a)(2), a 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. ***NOTE:** If the word "specialist" is part of a person's job classification and proof is provided, the word "specialist" may be used in the Ballot Designation. **CCR § 20716(e)**
- (6) A 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. These include, but are not limited to: Ex-, former, past, and erstwhile. The Secretary of State's Ballot Designation Regulations state that impermissible designations include: Former Congressman, Ex-Senator, and Former Educator. **CCR § 20716(g)**
- (7) A Ballot Designation indicating that a 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(a)(1)**. A Member of the Central Committee may not use "Member of the Central Committee". **CCR § 20712(e)**
- (8) A ballot designation which uses the name of any political party, whether or not it has qualified for recognized ballot status. **§ 13107(e)(5)**
- (9) A ballot designation which uses a word or words referring to a racial, religious or ethnic group or implies any ethnic or racial slurs or ethnically or racially derogatory language. **CCR § 20716(j)(1)**
- (10) If the candidate is a member of the clergy, the candidate may not make reference to his/her specific denomination. However, the candidate may use his/her clerical title as a ballot designation (e.g. Rabbi, Pastor, Minister, Priest, Bishop, Deacon, Monk, Nun, Imam, etc). **CCR § 20716(j)(2)**

- (11) Pursuant to section 13107(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. **CCR § 20716(k)**

Neither the Secretary of State nor any other election official shall 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 word "retired."
- (5) It uses the name of any political party, whether or not it has qualified for the ballot.
- (6) It uses a word or words referring to a racial, religious, or ethnic group.
- (7) It refers to any activity prohibited by law. **§ 13107(e)**

BALLOT DESIGNATION WORKSHEET

Each candidate who submits a ballot designation **shall file a Ballot Designation Worksheet** that supports the use of that ballot designation by the candidate.

The Ballot Designation Worksheet shall be filed with the Registrar of Voters at the same time that the candidate files his/her Declaration of Candidacy.

§ 13107.3, CCR § 20711

The Ballot Designation Worksheet is public record and shall be available for inspection and copying. **CCR § 20711**

NOTE: A candidate for a judicial office, or a candidate for any office whose voter registration information is confidential under Section 2166, 2166.5, 2166.7, or 2166.8 may withhold the candidate's residence address from this form.

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 new Ballot Designation Worksheet.

CCR § 20711

IN THE EVENT THAT A CANDIDATE FAILS TO FILE A BALLOT DESIGNATION WORKSHEET, NO DESIGNATION SHALL APPEAR UNDER THE CANDIDATE'S NAME ON THE BALLOT. **§ 13107.3**

The purpose of the Ballot Designation Worksheet is for the candidate to give information to substantiate his/her Ballot Designation. **It must be completed in its entirety. Do not leave any response spaces blank.** The candidate signs this worksheet attesting that the Ballot Designation and the provided back-up information are accurate. **It is not the responsibility of the Registrar of Voters' staff to investigate if the facts indicated by the candidate**

are valid. The Ballot Designation Worksheet is used as back-up for his/her Ballot Designation in the event the Ballot Designation is challenged.

In the space provided on the Ballot Designation Worksheet, you must describe why you are entitled to use the proposed ballot designation. You may attach any documents or exhibits that you believe support your proposed ballot designation. If using the title of an elective office, you may attach a copy of your certificate of election or appointment. **DO NOT SUBMIT ORIGINALS.** These documents will not be returned to you.

If the proposed ballot designation includes the word “volunteer”, indicate the title of your volunteer position and the name of any entity for which you volunteer along with a brief description of the type of volunteer work you do, and the approximate amount of time involved. **NOTE:** You may only use the ballot designation “Community Volunteer” if you do not have a principal profession, vocation, or occupation. You must volunteer for a 501(c)(3) charitable, educational, or religious organization, a governmental agency, or an educational institution.

Remember: It is your responsibility to justify your proposed ballot designation and to provide all requested details.

In reviewing the nomination documents, the Registrar of Voters’ staff will verify that the Ballot Designation meets the **basic restrictions set forth in this section**, such as the three-word limitation and the use of “Incumbent”. If the designation is found 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 appearing on the candidate's nomination documents. **§ 13107(f)**

The candidate shall, within three days from the date of receipt of the notice, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, appear before the elections official or, in the case of the Secretary of State, notify the Secretary of State by telephone, and provide an alternate designation. **In the event the candidate fails to provide an alternate designation, no designation will appear after the candidate’s name.** **§ 13107(f)(1)**

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, July 28, 2026, requests in writing a different designation which the candidate is entitled to use at the time of the request. The written request must be accompanied by a Ballot Designation Worksheet. **§ 13107(h)**

In all cases, words so used shall be printed in 8-point roman uppercase and lowercase type except that, if the designation selected is so long that it would conflict with the space requirements of Elections Code sections 13207 and 13211, the elections official shall use a type size for the designation for each candidate for that office sufficiently smaller to meet these requirements. **§ 13107(i)**

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

CHALLENGING A BALLOT DESIGNATION

A person may administratively challenge a Ballot Designation of a local candidate in writing to the Registrar of Voters by 5:00 p.m. on one of the following deadlines:

- March 6, 2026 if the candidate filed the Ballot Designation by March 5, 2026
- March 9, 2026 if the candidate filed the Ballot Designation on March 6, 2026
- March 12, 2026 if the candidate filed the Ballot Designation during the Nomination Extension Period

After the administrative challenge deadlines, the public may only challenge a Ballot Designation in court. A person may file a writ of mandate or injunction to require the Ballot Designation to be amended. The Registrar of Voters requests that a Court Order amending a Ballot Designation be issued by March 27, 2026 to ensure election material mailing deadlines are met.

§§ 9163, 13313

A person may challenge the Ballot Designation of a State candidate in Sacramento County. A person may file a writ of mandate or injunction to require the Ballot Designation to be amended. Contact the Secretary of State for further information.

No Ballot Designation given by a candidate shall be changed by the candidate after the final date for filing nomination documents, **March 6, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**, except as specifically requested by the elections official or mandated by the court to change an unacceptable designation.

§ 13107(d)

BALLOT ORDER OF CANDIDATES

The ballot order of a candidate depends upon the contest for which the person is a candidate. The ballot order for a specific contest will be determined by one of two methods: (1) A random draw conducted by the Secretary of State or the County; or (2) A rotation determined pursuant to Elections Code § 13111.

The following June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election contests' ballot orders will be determined by a random draw: Member of the State Senate, Member of the State Assembly, Member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, and Member of the County Board of Education.

The following June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election contests' ballot orders will be determined by rotation: Representative in Congress, State Constitutional Officers, Superior Court Judge, and County Officers.

RANDOMIZED ALPHABET:

The Secretary of State shall conduct a drawing of the letters of the alphabet, the result of which shall be known as a randomized alphabet. **§ 13112**

The procedure shall be as follows: Each letter of the alphabet shall be written on a separate slip of paper, each of which will be folded and inserted into a capsule. Each capsule shall be opaque and of uniform weight, color, size, shape, and texture. The capsules shall be placed in a container, which shall be shaken vigorously in order to mix them thoroughly. The container then shall be opened and the capsules removed at random one at a time. As each is removed, it shall be opened and the letter on the slip of paper read aloud and written down. **§ 13112**

The resulting random order of letters constitutes the randomized alphabet, which is to be used in the same manner as the conventional alphabet in determining the order of all candidates in all elections. For example, if two candidates with the surnames Campbell and Carlson are running for the same office, their order on the ballot will depend on the order in which the letter M and R were drawn in the randomized alphabet drawing. The drawing shall be open to the public. A drawing will take place for each election date. **The date of the drawing for the Statewide Direct Primary Election will be March 12, 2026, 11:00 a.m.** **§ 13112**

If the office is to be voted upon wholly within, but not throughout, one county, such as **Member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors and Member of the Orange County Board of Education**, the names shall appear according to the randomized alphabet. **§ 13111(f)**

If the office is that of **Member of the State Senate** or **Member of the Assembly**, the names of the candidates shall appear according to the randomized alphabet unless the district encompasses more than one county, in which case the arrangement shall be made pursuant to subdivision (i) of Elections Code section 13111.

If the office is that of **Member of the State Senate** or **Member of the Assembly**, and the district includes more than one county, the elections official in each county shall conduct a drawing of the letters of the alphabet, pursuant to the same procedures specified in section 13112. The results of the drawing shall be known as a county randomized ballot and shall be

used only to arrange the names of the candidates when the district includes more than one county. The Secretary of State's random draw will not be used for multi-county districts. **The date of this drawing for the Statewide Direct Primary Election will be March 12, 2026, 11:00 a.m.** § 13111(i)

ROTATION:

For **offices to be voted on throughout the state**, the Secretary of State shall arrange the names of the candidates according to the randomized alphabet for the First Assembly District. Thereafter, for each succeeding Assembly District, the name appearing first in the last preceding Assembly District shall be placed last, the order of the other names remaining unchanged. § 13111(c)

For the office of **Representative in Congress** or **Member of the State Board of Equalization**, the Secretary of State shall arrange the names of candidates for the office according to the randomized alphabet for that Assembly District which has the lowest number of all the Assembly Districts in which candidates are to be voted on. Thereafter, for each succeeding Assembly District in which the candidates are to be voted on, the names appearing first in the last preceding Assembly District shall be placed last, the order of the other names remaining unchanged. § 13111(d)

For the office of **Judge of the Superior Court**, it is to be voted on throughout a single county and there are five or more Assembly Districts wholly or partly in the county; therefore, the names shall appear according to the randomized alphabet for the Assembly District which has the lowest number. Thereafter, for each succeeding Assembly District, the name appearing first for each office in the last preceding Assembly District shall be placed last, the order of the other names remaining unchanged. § 13111(j)

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

NOTE: State Constitutional Office candidates may purchase Candidates' Statements with the Secretary of State from **January 22, 2026 through February 11, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**

NONPARTISAN OFFICES:

Each candidate for **nonpartisan elective office** in any local agency, including any city, county, city and county, or district, may prepare a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications on an appropriate form provided by the elections official. The statement may include the name, age and occupation of the candidate and a brief description, of no more than 200 words, of the candidate's education and qualifications expressed by the candidate himself/herself. However, the governing body of the local agency may authorize an increase in the limitations on words for the statement from 200 to 400 words. **§ 13307(a)**

The statement shall not include the party preference of the candidate, nor membership or activity in partisan political organizations. **§ 13307**

All statements may be submitted on the form provided by the county elections official of each county in which the candidate wishes to have his/her statement printed. The candidate must sign the statement before it is filed in the office of the Registrar of Voters when his/her Nomination Papers are returned for filing, if it is for a Primary Election, or for an election for offices for which there is no Primary Election. **§ 13307**

The statement shall be filed in the office of the election's official no later than the 88th day before the election, **March 6, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**, if it is for an election for which Nomination Papers are not required to be filed. **Costs of providing statements to voters shall be paid by the candidates.** The statement **may be withdrawn, but not changed**, during the period for filing Nomination Papers and until **5:00 p.m.** of the next working day after the close of the nomination period. **§ 13307(a)(3)**

In addition to the statement prepared pursuant to §13307(a), if the elections official who is conducting the election permits electronic distribution of a candidate's statement, the governing body of a local agency may permit each candidate for nonpartisan elective office in the local agency to prepare a candidate's statement for the purpose of electronic distribution pursuant to this subdivision. **§ 13307(c)(1)**

A statement prepared pursuant to §13307(c), shall be posted on the Internet Web site of the elections official, and may be included in a voter information guide that is electronically distributed by the elections official pursuant to Section 13300.7, but shall not be included in a voter information guide that is printed and mailed to voters pursuant to §13307(b).

NOTE: A statement that is printed in the voter's information guide and mailed to voters pursuant to §13307(b), shall be included with the statement that is prepared and electronically distributed pursuant to §13307(c).

NOTE: In the event that the nomination period for a particular office is extended because an incumbent eligible to be elected did not file Nomination Papers, a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications for that particular office, filed by either candidates prior to the **88th day** before the election or by new candidates during the extended nomination period, **may be**

withdrawn, but not changed, during the extended nomination period and until **5:00 p.m.** of the next working day after the close of the extended nomination period, **March 12, 2026.**

§ 13307

For purposes of the following section, the Orange County Board of Supervisors shall be deemed the governing body of judicial elections.

**NOTICE REQUIRED BY ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 13307 FOR
ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICES,
COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND JUDGES**

The Orange County Board of Supervisors, by Resolution No. 76-136, adopted the following regulations:

1. The limitation on words for Candidates' Statements of Qualifications for candidates is increased from 200 words to 400 words.
2. The Candidates' Statements of Qualifications shall be prepared at the expense of the candidates and that only the cost of mailing such statements shall be borne by the County of Orange.

VOTER-NOMINATED OFFICES:

State Legislative Candidates: Pursuant to Proposition 34 adopted by the voters in November of 2000, all candidates for **State elective offices (State Constitutional Officers, Member of the State Senate and Member of the State Assembly in the June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election)** as specified in Government Code section 82053 who have voluntarily agreed to expenditure limits may prepare a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications. **A candidate for State elective office who has not voluntarily agreed to expenditure limits will not be allowed to file a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications.**

NOTE: Once the voluntary expenditure limits are accepted (or rejected), the spending-limits decision applies to both the Primary and General Elections. However, a state/statewide candidate who has not exceeded the voluntary spending limits may revoke and change his/her acceptance or rejection of the voluntary spending limits no more than two times after the initial filing of the Candidate Intention Form (Form 501), provided that the amendment to the filer's Form 501 is received by this office, before the deadline for filing the candidate's Nomination Papers.

Additionally, the law permits a state candidate to change his/her mind and accept the spending limits for the General Election, if an amended Form 501 is filed within 14 days, **June 16, 2026**, following the Primary Election, indicating the candidate's intention to accept the spending limits in the General Election, provided that the filer has not exceeded the spending limits in the Primary Election.

At the top of a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications by a candidate for Member of the State Senate or Member of the Assembly (a voter-nominated office), the following may be included: The name, age, occupation, and party preference (party affiliation) of the candidate. The Candidate's Statement of Qualifications shall contain a brief description, of

no more than 250 words of the candidate's education and qualifications (expressed by the candidate himself/herself). The name, age, occupation, and party preference at the top of the statement will not be included in the word count.

The statement must be filed no later than **5:00 p.m. on the 88th day** prior to the election, or in the event the nomination period has been extended, candidates filing their Nomination Papers during that period have until **5:00 p.m. on the 83rd day** prior to the election. All statements may be submitted on the form provided by the county elections official of each county in which the candidate wishes to have his/her statement printed.

A candidate filing during the extended filing period may file a Candidate's Statement. Candidates for that contest who filed statements during the regular filing period and those who filed statements during the extended time frame may withdraw their statements the next working day after the close of the extended filing period for that office. **A Candidate's Statement may not be changed.** **§ 13307**

Costs of providing statements to voters shall be paid by the candidates. See page 79-80 for Candidates' Statements costs.

Congressional Candidates: All candidates for the office of Representative in Congress may prepare a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications, not to exceed 250 words. The statement must be filed no later than **5:00 p.m. on the 88th day** prior to the election, or in the event the nomination period has been extended, candidates filing their Nomination Papers during that period have until **5:00 p.m. on the 83rd day** prior to the election, whichever is applicable. All statements may be submitted on the form provided by the county elections official of each county in which the candidate wishes to have his/her statement printed. Costs of providing statements to voters shall be paid by the candidates. **Congressional candidates do not need to voluntarily agree to expenditure limits to prepare a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications.** **§ 13307.5**

At the top of a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications by a candidate for Representative in Congress (a voter-nominated office), the name, age, occupation, and party preference (party affiliation) of the candidate may be included. In addition, the candidate may give a brief description, of no more than 250 words, of his/her education and qualifications (expressed by the candidate himself/herself). The name, age, occupation, and party preference at the top of the statement will not be included in the word count.

VOTER-NOMINATED AND NONPARTISAN OFFICES:

IMPORTANT: A Candidate's Statement of Qualifications may make no reference to another candidate. In addition to the restrictions set forth in Section 13307, any Candidate's Statement of Qualifications 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. **§ 13308**

The Registrar of Voters will send to each voter, together with the sample ballot, a Voter Information Guide which contains the written statements of each candidate that is prepared pursuant to this section. **The statement of each candidate will be printed in type of uniform size and darkness, and with uniform spacing.** § 13307(b)

All Candidates' Statements shall remain confidential until the expiration of the filing deadline. § 13311

All Candidate's Statements written in the third person must also include the name of the candidate at the end of the statement and must be included in the word count.

The Registrar of Voters will require each candidate filing a Candidate's Statement to pay in advance as a condition of having his/her statement included in the Voter Information Guide. The cost is calculated to recover expenses for translation into the required languages, typesetting, printing and labor in the processing of candidate's statements. Payment may be made by cash, check, money order, certified check, and credit card (MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and Discover). § 13307(d)

In the event that a candidate pays for a statement by check and the check is returned by the bank due to insufficient funds, the candidate will have 24 hours to pay for the statement by cash, money order, certified check, or credit card (MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and Discover). If payment is not received by the deadline, the statement will not be printed in the Voter Information Guide. § 13307(d)

The candidate must also sign a Candidate's Statement Agreement at the time the statement is filed. A copy of the signed Agreement and signed Statement will be given to the candidate. § 13307(d)

Assembly Bill 2010 Authorizes candidate's statement for electronic distribution. Requires the statement to be posted on the Internet Web site of the elections official, permit the statement to be included in a Voter Information Guide that is electronically distributed, and prohibit the statement from being included in a Voter Information Guide that is printed and mailed to voters. § 13307(c)

If a candidate's contest does not appear on the ballot due to it being a contest whose candidates may be appointed in lieu of election if the number of candidates nominated does not exceed the number of candidates to be elected from that district (for the June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election -- Judge of the Superior Court and Member of the County Board of Education only), the Candidate's Statement of Qualifications payment will be refunded without the candidate requesting the refund.

NOTE: Pursuant to minority language provisions of the Federal Voting Rights Act, Orange County is required to provide election materials in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Spanish languages in addition to English. The materials covered by this Act include Candidates' Statements. Therefore, the costs include translating and printing of Candidates' Statements of Qualifications in Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese languages.

These materials will be provided to voters who have requested Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese language election materials.

Nothing in the foregoing shall be deemed to make any statement or the authors thereof free or exempt from any civil or criminal action or penalty because of any false, slanderous or libelous statements offered for printing electronic distribution pursuant to this section or contained in the County Voter Information Guide. **§ 13307(e)**

Before the nomination period opens, the local agency for that election shall determine whether a charge shall be levied against that candidate for the Candidate's Statement of Qualifications sent to each voter and, if authorized, for the electronically distributed candidate's statement. This decision shall not be revoked or modified after the seventh day prior to the opening of the nominating period. A written statement of the regulations with respect to charges for handling, packaging, mailing and electronic distribution, shall be provided to each candidate or his/her representative at the time he/she picks up the nomination Papers. **§ 13307(f)**

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: For all Candidates' Statements of Qualifications filed on or before **March 6, 2026**, the public review period is **March 7, 2026 through March 16, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** For all Candidates' Statements of Qualifications filed during the extended filing period, the public review period is **March 12, 2026 through March 20, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** at the Registrar of Voters' office and on its website. **§ 13313**

CHALLENGING A CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT: There is a Public Review Period – **March 7, 2026 through March 16, 2026** – during which time the public may challenge a Candidate's Statement in court. A person may file a writ of mandate or injunction to require the Candidate's Statement to be amended. For extended contests the public review period is **March 12, 2026 through March 20, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** There is no administrative challenge process for candidate statements. **§ 13314**

No Candidate's Statement may be changed by the candidate after the statement has been filed except as specifically requested by the elections official or mandated by the court to change an unacceptable Candidate's Statement. **§ 13307(a)(3)**

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CANDIDATES IN DISTRICTS THAT ENCOMPASS MORE THAN ONE COUNTY: All candidates running for office in a district located in more than one county must file Nomination Papers with the county elections official where the candidate is domiciled. **HOWEVER**, if a candidate in a multi-county district would like his/her Candidate's Statement of Qualifications (if applicable) to be included in the Voter Information Guide distributed in each county of the district, the statement **must** be filed in the office of each county's election official. In addition, the cost of printing and handling the Candidate's Statement of Qualifications in each county must be paid to each county elections official. If you desire a statement in Orange County's Voter Information Guide, you **MUST** submit your statement and payment at the Orange County Registrar of Voters' office. The fee will vary in each county depending on many factors, including the number of registered voters within that portion of the district. **It is the candidate's responsibility to contact each county to obtain the appropriate information from each county. Failure to do so may jeopardize the printing of the Candidate's Statement of Qualifications (California Association of Clerks & Election Officials' Candidate Statement Guidelines).**

CANDIDATES IN RUN-OFF CONTESTS IN THE GENERAL ELECTION may re-submit the same Candidate's Statement of Qualifications as printed in the Statewide Direct Primary Election Voter Information Guide or present a new statement. The statement accompanied by full payment must be submitted to the Registrar of Voters' office **NO LATER THAN AUGUST 7, 2026, 5:00 P.M. FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION.** § 13307

STATE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE CANDIDATES may resubmit the same Candidate's Statement of Qualifications as printed in the Statewide Direct Primary Election Voter Information Guide or present a new statement to the Secretary of State's office by **July 20, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** However, **State Constitutional Office candidates may purchase statement space in the guide only if they have agreed to voluntary expenditure limits.** If a candidate rejected the voluntary expenditure ceiling in the Statewide Direct Primary Election but did not exceed the ceiling during that election, he/she may amend the Form 501 to accept the expenditure ceiling for the General Election. **The amended Form 501 must be filed within 14 days following the Statewide Direct Primary Election – no later than June 16, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**

Gov't Code § 85601, (Proposition 34, California Form 501 Instructions)

LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES may re-submit the same Candidate's Statement of Qualifications as printed in the Statewide Direct Primary Election Voter Information Guide or present a new statement to the Registrar of Voters' office by **August 7, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** However, **legislative candidates may purchase statement space in the guide only if they have agreed to voluntary expenditure limits.** If a candidate rejected the voluntary expenditure ceiling in the Statewide Direct Primary Election but did not exceed the ceiling during that election, he/she may amend the Form 501 to accept the expenditure ceiling for the General Election. **The amended Form 501 must be filed within 14 days following the Statewide Direct Primary Election – no later than June 16, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**

Gov't Code § 85601, (Proposition 34, California Form 501 Instructions)

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES may re-submit the Candidate's Statement of Qualifications as printed in the Statewide Direct Primary Election Voter Information Guide or present a new statement to the Registrar of Voters' office by **August 7, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** **Congressional candidates do not need to meet the voluntary expenditure limits to file a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications.** §§ 13307, 13307.5

Contest ID: _____

Candidate ID : _____

Words: _____

[] 200 [] 400
[] 250

June 2, 2026

Candidate's Statement of Qualifications

NAME:

OCCUPATION:

AGE:

(Optional)

PARTY:

(Voter Nominated Offices Only)

INSTRUCTIONS: (Elections Code § 13307)

1. Signed and dated statement must be filed in the Registrar of Voters office at the time final nomination documents are filed. A copy will be given to the candidate.
2. This statement is printed at candidate's expense and should reflect the candidate's qualifications.

Date _____

Candidate's Signature

SEE BACK-SIDE OF THIS PAGE FOR CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT FORMATTING GUIDELINES.

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FORMATTING GUIDELINES

The Registrar of Voters' office has a semi-automated system for Voter Information Guide input/layout of a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications. Due to the volume of statements and printing deadlines, it is necessary to have a standardized format for a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications. We have prepared the following guidelines to assist candidates in the preparation of their statements.

1. The following paragraph styles are acceptable with this system.

INDENTED PARAGRAPHS:

Xxxxx xxxxx xxxxxxxxxxx xxxxx xxxxx. X xxxx xx xxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxx xx xxx xxxxx. Xxx xxxxx xxxxxxx xxxxx xx xx
Xxxx xxxxxxx xx x x xxxxxxxxxxx x xxxxxx xxxxx. Xxx xxxxxx xxxxxxx xxxxx xx xxx
xxxxx xxx xxxxxx. Xx xxxxx xxx.

BLOCK PARAGRAPHS:

Xxxxx xxxxxxx xxxxx. Xxxx x xx xxxx xxxxxxxxxxx xxx. Xxxx xxx xxx xxxxxxxxxxx
xxxx. X xxx xxxxx xxx x xx xxx. Xxx xxx xxx xxxxxxx xxxxx xxx.

Xxx xxxxxx xxx. Xx xxx xxxxxxx xxxxxxx xxxxx. X xxx xxxxx xxxxxxx xxxxx xxx
x xx xxx xxx. Xxx xxx xxxxxxx xxxxx xxx. Xxx xxxxx xxxxxxx xxxxxxx xxxxx.

DO NOT USE ANY PARAGRAPH/FORMAT STYLE OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED ABOVE.

2. All statements may be submitted on our template or typed and printed by automated equipment. **DO NOT PRINT ANY STATEMENT ON LINED PAPER.**

3. NOTE: Name, age and occupation at the top of the statement are not included in the word count. In addition, for voter-nominated candidates, the party preference at the top of the statement will not be included in the word count if they desire to have it included in the statement. **The words reflected in the "occupation" field must follow the Ballot Designation Guidelines listed on pages 59 through 65 of this Handbook.**

4. Do not underline or **bold** WORDS. § 13307(b)

5. Words may NOT be all CAPITAL letters. § 13307(b)

6. Do not use *italics* or type styles to highlight portions of the statement. § 13307(b)

7. Do not use different type sizes. § 13307(b)

8. **Keep in mind that a 200 and 250-word statement must fit on one quarter of a Voter Information Guide page and a 400-word statement must fit on a half-page of a Voter Information Guide.** If your statement exceeds this limitation, we will be forced to adjust your format to fit in the space allowed.

IMPORTANT

9. You may block indent within a paragraph. However, you MAY NOT use bullet points, stars, asterisks, or numbers that function as bullet points to off-set the paragraphs.



Excessive block-indentation or numerous paragraphs consisting of one or two sentences each may extend the statement beyond the size of the box even though your statement may contain less than the maximum number of words. **If the statement does not fit into the box, you will be asked to edit your statement. Keep this in mind as you write and format your statement.**

Use these general guidelines to assist you in the preparation of your statement. There are other requirements regarding the content of your statement that are outlined in this Candidate's Handbook. Candidates should submit their candidate's statement via email to: ballot-statement@ocvote.gov. **Statements must be submitted in a Word or Text format. PDF's will not be accepted.**



CHECK YOUR STATEMENT CAREFULLY FOR ERRORS IN SPELLING, PUNCTUATION, AND GRAMMAR BEFORE FILING. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS, YOUR STATEMENT WILL BE PRINTED EXACTLY AS SUBMITTED.

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT COSTS

OFFICE	200 words	250 words	400 words
38 th Congressional District	N/A	\$1,100.88**	N/A
40 th Congressional District	N/A	\$1,650.10**	N/A
41 st Congressional District	N/A	\$1,114.82**	N/A
42 nd Congressional District	N/A	\$2,295.86**	N/A
45 th Congressional District	N/A	\$3,251.27**	N/A
46 th Congressional District	N/A	\$3,194.70	N/A
47 th Congressional District	N/A	\$3,524.54	N/A
49 th Congressional District	N/A	\$1,100.88**	N/A
30 th Senate District*	N/A	\$747.95**	N/A
32 nd Senate District*	N/A	\$858.97**	N/A
34 th Senate District*	N/A	\$3,681.46**	N/A
36 th Senate District*	N/A	\$4,643.95**	N/A
38 th Senate District*	N/A	\$1,688.14**	N/A
59 th Assembly District*	N/A	\$2,201.89**	N/A
64 th Assembly District*	N/A	\$785.26**	N/A
67 th Assembly District*	N/A	\$2,050.90**	N/A
68 th Assembly District*	N/A	\$2,174.75	N/A
70 th Assembly District*	N/A	\$2,719.00	N/A
71 st Assembly District*	N/A	\$1,424.36**	N/A
72 nd Assembly District*	N/A	\$2,701.11	N/A
73 rd Assembly District*	N/A	\$2,309.96	N/A
74 th Assembly District*	N/A	\$1,409.26**	N/A
2 nd Supervisorial District	\$2,674.36	N/A	\$4,961.51
4 th Supervisorial District	\$2,928.76	N/A	\$5,470.33
5 th Supervisorial District	\$3,229.23	N/A	\$6,071.26
Superior Court Judge	\$13,397.64	N/A	\$26,408.07
County Board of Education, Trustee Area 2	\$3,078.43	N/A	\$5,769.66
County Board of Education, Trustee Area 5	\$3,274.26	N/A	\$6,161.31
Countywide Offices	\$13,397.64	N/A	\$26,408.07

ELECTRONICALLY DISTRIBUTED CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT COST***

One – 200 word	\$512.20	
One – 250 word*	\$543.45	
One – 400 word		\$637.20

***REMEMBER:** Only those State Legislative candidates who have voluntarily agreed to expenditures limits may prepare a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications, not to exceed 250 words. **Proposition 34**

****The Districts may be shared by more than one county. This cost is only for the Orange County portion. If a candidate desires to have his/her Candidate's Statement of Qualifications printed in another county's Voter Information Guide, he/she must also file his/her statement and pay that county's elections office. It is possible that the cost may not be the same as Orange County's.**

*****These Candidate's Statements of Qualification will NOT be printed in the County Voter Information Guide but can be viewed ONLY on ocvote.gov.**

NOTE: Candidates' Statements costs are calculated using the following assumptions: Two 200 or 250-word statements per contest, a 32-page Voter Information Guide, and registered voter counts at the time of calculating.

Any candidate needing information applicable to indigents should check with the Registrar of Voters' office.

If a candidate's contest does not appear on the ballot (due to being a contest whose candidates may be appointed in lieu of election if the number of candidates nominated does not exceed the number of candidates to be elected from that district), his/her Candidate's Statement of Qualifications payment will be automatically refunded.

IMPORTANT: A candidate may withdraw his/her Candidate's Statement of Qualifications by signing and submitting a cancellation notice at the bottom of the Statement Agreement or in writing to the Registrar of Voters no later than 5:00 p.m. of the next working day after the close of the nomination period. § 13307(a)

WORD COUNT STANDARD FOR CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS (§9)

Each word shall be counted as one word except as specified on this page.

The following are the guidelines for computing the word count:

The title of the office, name, district, age, and occupation lines are not included in the word count –only the text is counted. For voter-nominated offices, the party preference line is also not included in the word count.

Punctuation marks are not included in the word count.

Symbols such as "&" (and), and "#" (number/pound) are not considered
punctuation..... each symbol is counted as one word

Dictionary words.....one word
The words "a", "the", "and", and "an" are counted as individual words.

All proper nouns including geographical names and names of persons.....one word
Examples: County of Orange, Orange County, San Juan Capistrano, City of Brea,
Gus Enright, Jane Smith.

Abbreviations - UCLA, U.C.L.A., PTA, P.T.A., USMC, U.S.M.C.....one word

Acronyms.....one word

Regularly hyphenated words appearing in any generally available standard reference
dictionary published in the United States within 10 years preceding the election.
(Each part of all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word)..one word

Dates.....one word

Whole numbers - Digits (1 or 10 or 100, etc.).....one word
Spelled out (one or ten or one hundred).....each word counts as one word

Names of things.....each word counts as one word
L.A. basketball team (three words)

Numeric combinations (1973, 18 1/2, 1971-73, 5%).....one word

Monetary amounts (if the dollar sign is used with figures - \$1,000).....one word
Spelled out (one thousand dollars).....each word counts as one word

Telephone/fax numbers.....one word

E-mail and website addresses.....one word

If the text exceeds the word limit, the candidate must delete or change a sufficient number
of words, or a sentence, to put the statement within the required word limit before the
statement is filed. The candidate should correct any misspellings before the statement is
filed. **Other than formatting requirements, your statement will be printed as filed.**

**The submitted statement must be typed. No word will be printed in "ALL CAPS",
bolding or underlining. Do not use bullet points, stars, asterisks, or numbers that
function as bullet points to block-indent paragraphs.**

However, you may block-indent within the paragraph without using bullets, etc.



Keep in mind that a 200 and 250-word statement must fit into a box (the size of a quarter page) and a 400-word statement must fit into a box (the size of a half-page). Excessive block-indentation or numerous paragraphs consisting of one or two sentences each may extend the statement beyond the size of the box even though your statement may contain less than the maximum number of words. **If the statement does not fit into the box, you will be asked to edit your statement.** See “Candidate’s Statement Formatting Guidelines” for more information.



The Candidate’s Statement may make no reference to another candidate. The statement may include a description of the candidate’s education and qualifications expressed by the candidate himself/herself. **§ 13308**

THE PRECEDING INFORMATION SHALL NOT APPLY TO COUNTING WORDS FOR BALLOT DESIGNATIONS UNDER SECTION 13107

The candidate must sign and date the statement before it is filed. **All statements are confidential until the expiration of the filing deadline.** The candidate is required to pay for the statement at the time of filing. A copy of the signed statement and the Candidate’s Statement Agreement form will be given to the candidate. **§ 13311**

The statement must be filed at the same time that the Declaration of Candidacy is filed. The statement **may be withdrawn, but not changed**, during the period for filing nomination documents and until **5:00 p.m.** of the next working day after the close of the nomination period. **§ 13307(a)(2)**

NOTE: A nomination period may be extended because an incumbent, eligible to be elected, failed to file a Declaration of Candidacy. Candidates’ Statements of Qualifications for that particular office filed by either candidate prior to the **88th day** before the election or during the extended period, may be withdrawn, but not changed, until **March 12, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** **§ 8022**

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

A person's name may only be written on the ballot as a write-in candidate for a voter-nominated office at the Statewide Direct Primary Election. **§§ 8600, 8606**

A write-in candidate for a voter-nominated office from the Primary Election is eligible to have his or her name on the ballot in the General Election only if that candidate is one of the top-two vote getters at the Primary Election. **§§ 8142, 8605**

A person's name may be written on the ballot as a write-in candidate for nonpartisan offices at the Statewide Direct Primary Election and the General Election. **§ 8600**

No fee or charge shall be required of a write-in candidate. **§ 8604**

Every person who desires to be a write-in candidate and have his/her name as written on the ballot of an election counted for a particular office shall file:

(a) A Statement of Write-in Candidacy that contains the following information:

- (1) Candidate's name;
- (2) Candidate's complete residence address, including street and number, if any;
- (3) A declaration stating that he/she is a write-in candidate;
- (4) The name of the office for which he/she is running;
- (5) For voter-nominated offices, the candidate's 10-year political party preference history; and
- (6) The date of the election. **§ 8600(a)**

(b) The requisite number of signatures on the Nomination Papers, if any, required pursuant to section 8062, 10220, or 10510. **§ 8600(b)**

The Statement of Write-in Candidacy form and Nomination Papers shall be available from the Registrar of Voters' office on **April 6, 2026**. The Statement of Write-in Candidacy and Nomination Papers shall be delivered to the county elections official of the county in which the signers reside no later than the 14th day prior to the election, **May 19, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** **§ 8601**

The required number of signers to a write-in candidate's Nomination Paper for the respective offices are as follows:

- Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Insurance Commissioner, State Treasurer, Attorney General, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction: **Not less than 65 nor more than 100;**
- Representative in Congress, Member of the State Board of Equalization – District 4, Member of the State Senate, and Member of the State Assembly: **Not less than 40 nor more than 60;**
- Judge of the Superior Court, Member of the County Board of Education, Member of the County Board of Supervisors, and County Officers – Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Clerk-Recorder, County Superintendent of Schools, and County Treasurer-Tax Collector: **Not less than 20 nor more than 40.** **§ 8062**

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. If the candidate is running for a voter-nominated office or nonpartisan office, the signers do not need to be affiliated with the party of the candidate. **§ 8603**

The write-in candidate may appoint persons to circulate the nomination papers. Circulators must be 18 years or older. **§§ 102, 8066**

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE FILING SCHEDULE
(Government Code §§ 81000-91014)

STATEWIDE DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION

<u>TYPE OF STATEMENT</u>	<u>PERIOD COVERED</u>	<u>FILING DEADLINE</u>
SEMI-ANNUAL	* -- DECEMBER 31, 2025	FEBRUARY 2, 2026
1ST PRE-ELECTION	JANUARY 1, 2026 – APRIL 18, 2026	APRIL 23, 2026
2ND PRE-ELECTION	APRIL 19, 2026 – MAY 16, 2026	MAY 21, 2026
LATE CONTRIBUTION	MARCH 4, 2026 – JUNE 2, 2026	WITHIN 24 HOURS OF RECEIPT OF \$1,000
POST-FILING**	MAY 17, 2026 – JUNE 12, 2026	JUNE 17, 2026
SEMI-ANNUAL	MAY 17, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2026	JULY 31, 2026

*The period covered by any statement begins on the day after the closing date of the last statement filed, or January 1 if no previous statement has been filed.

****NOTE:** For the Statewide Direct Primary Election, candidates for Orange County Board of Supervisors and County offices, including Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Clerk-Recorder, County Superintendent of Schools, and County Treasurer-Tax Collector must also submit a post-filing by **June 17, 2026**, covering the period **May 17, 2026 through June 12, 2026**. The semi-annual report, filed by **July 31, 2026**, will cover the period of **June 13, 2026 through June 30, 2026** for these candidates.

**FAILURE TO FILE OR LATE FILING OF CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS
COULD RESULT IN MONETARY FINES.**

The second pre-election statements must be sent by personal or guaranteed overnight delivery. All other type of statements (first pre-election and semi-annual) may be sent by first class mail.

Campaign statements that contain 30 pages or less may be faxed provided that the required original (a copy containing an original signature of the committee treasurer) and the required copies are sent by first-class mail or by guaranteed overnight delivery service within 24 hours of the filing deadline. See information in campaign reporting kit for more details.

For technical questions regarding completion of campaign disclosure forms, please contact:

Fair Political Practices Commission
1102 Q Street, Suite 3000
Sacramento, California 95811
1-866-275-3772*1; fppc.ca.gov

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE FILING REQUIREMENTS

For detailed information on Campaign Disclosure Statements, see Campaign Disclosure Manual 1 or 2. The manual is prepared by the Fair Political Practices Commission, and can be found on its website at fppc.ca.gov.

Any individual who intends to be a candidate for elective office shall file a Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501) for the specific office sought. Candidates are not required to file a Form 501 for the same office in a connected General Election after filing a Form 501 for the Primary Election. A separate Form 501 must be filed for each future election, including re-election to the same office. This statement shall be signed under penalty of perjury and filed prior to the solicitation or receipt of any contribution or loan, including expenditures made from personal funds used for campaign purposes. **Gov't. Code § 85200**

If you plan on spending two thousand dollars (\$2,000) or more in a calendar year, you will receive a campaign reporting kit when you file for office. The kit contains all the necessary forms and instructions for filing your required campaign disclosure statements. A Statement of Organization-Recipient Committee (Form 410) shall be filed with the Secretary of State's Political Reform Division within 10 days of qualifying as a committee by receiving contributions totaling \$2,000 or more in a calendar year. **Gov't. Code §§ 82013(a), 84101**

If you plan on spending less than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in a calendar year, you will receive a form 470 (short form) when you file for office. Every candidate or officeholder who has filed a short form and who thereafter receives contributions or makes expenditures totaling two thousand dollars (\$2,000) or more in a calendar year, shall send written notification to the Secretary of State, the local filing officer, and each candidate contending for the same office within 48 hours of receiving or expending a total of two thousand dollars (\$2,000). The written notification shall revoke the previously filed short form statement. For additional filing obligations, refer to Manual 1 for State office candidates or Manual 2 for local office candidates. **Gov't. Code § 84206**

If you have questions concerning campaign disclosure reporting, call (714) 567-6268 for assistance or additional filing forms or contact the Fair Political Practices Commission at its website: fppc.ca.gov or call its toll-free number: (866) 275-3772*1.

ELECTRONIC FILING OF CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

An electronic filing system is now available for you to file your Campaign Disclosure Statements. The system is a web-based data entry filing system. It allows candidates and campaign committees to submit disclosure reports as mandated by the California Political Reform Act. **This system is available free of charge.**

State Committees: State committees that make contributions of \$25,000 or more must electronically file with the Secretary of State. State committees that must file the Form 497 (24-hour Contribution Report) must file this form electronically even if the \$25,000 threshold has not yet been met. For more information, contact the Secretary of State's office at (916) 653-6224.

County Candidates and Officers: Section 1-6-23 of the Orange County Campaign Reform Ordinance adopted by the Orange County Board of Supervisors in October of 2008, requires elected County candidates and officers and their committees who must file campaign disclosure statements or reports with the Orange County Registrar of Voters and who receive contributions or loans totaling more than \$25,000 to file their statements and reports electronically and on paper with the Registrar of Voters. This section applies to the following County offices and candidates for those offices: County Supervisor, Sheriff-Coroner, District Attorney-Public Administrator, Assessor, County Treasurer-Tax Collector, Clerk-Recorder, Auditor-Controller, and County Superintendent of Schools. To use this system, call (714) 567-6268 to receive your username and password. Then, you may access the system at ocvote.gov/efile. A user's guide is available on the site.

Congressional Candidates: A congressional candidate should contact the Federal Election Commission at 1050 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20463 or call toll-free (800) 424-9530 for a copy of the Federal Election Campaign Act as amended, related regulations providing the filing requirements for reporting campaign contributions, and the forms on which to file.

Other Candidates: While the County ordinance only requires the offices mentioned above to file electronically, the system is available to anyone required to file campaign finance disclosure documents with the Registrar of Voters' office. If you wish to electronically file your campaign finance disclosure documents, let the Registrar of Voters' office know of your desire to do so by calling (714) 567-6268. You will receive your username and password.

Netfile Requirements: The NetFile Campaign Admin System is a web-based service allowing anyone with internet access to use the system.

System Requirements: Because the system is web-based, any computer with Internet access will work. **Software Requirements:** You will need the following software to use the NetFile Campaign Admin System. The latest version of any of the following web browsers: Microsoft Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, Google Chrome, and Opera.

California Fair Political Practices Commission

Where to File Campaign Reports

Filing campaign reports is easy!

- The **Secretary of State** receives each committee's incorporation form, Form 410.
- The **Filing Officer** of the jurisdiction where the committee spends money receives the standard campaign disclosure statements (Forms 425, 450 or 460).
- The FPPC provides free assistance on how to complete forms, but file the forms as indicated below.

State Elected officials, candidates (including Supreme Court justices, appellate court justices, and superior court judges), and all other state committees file with:

- **Secretary of State's Office**
- **Election office in the county of domicile – *Only applies to state candidate controlled committees that are not E-filers.***

Multi-County Elected officials, candidates, and all other committees in jurisdictions that contain parts of two or more counties file with:

- **Election office in the county with the largest number of registered voters.**
- **Election office in the county of domicile - *Only applies to multi-county candidate controlled committees, if different from the county with the largest number of registered voters.***

County Elected officials, candidates, and all other committees in a single county file with:

- **Election office**

City Elected officials, candidates, and all committees in a single city file with:

- **City Clerk - *This includes elections that may be conducted by the county, but the voting jurisdiction is within a single city.***

CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

At the time an individual is issued his/her Declaration of Candidacy, Nomination Papers, or any other paper evidencing an intention to be a candidate for public office, the elections official shall give the individual a blank form of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices and a copy of the provisions of Chapter 5 of Division 20 of the Elections Code. The elections official shall inform each candidate for public office that **subscription to the code is voluntary.** § 20440

In the case of a committee making an independent expenditure as defined in section 82031 of the Government Code, the Secretary of State shall provide a blank form and a copy of the provisions of Chapter 5 of Division 20 of the Elections Code to the individual filing, in accordance with Title 9, (commencing with section 81000) of the Government Code, an initial campaign statement on behalf of the committee. § 20440

The Registrar of Voters shall accept at all times prior to the election, all completed forms that are properly subscribed to by a candidate for public office and shall retain them for public inspection until 30 days after the election. § 20442

Every code subscribed to by a candidate for public office pursuant to Chapter 6 of Division 20 of the Elections Code is a public record open for public inspection. § 20443

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

STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS - FORM 700

Candidates for State Constitutional Offices, Member of the State Senate, Member of the Assembly, Judge of the Superior Court, Member of the Board of Supervisors, and County Treasurer-Tax Collector must file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) before or at the same time as the filing of his/her Declaration of Candidacy or no later than March 6, 2026. Gov't Code §§ 87201, 87500

The following candidates are required to file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) during the period for filing a Declaration of Candidacy. This article is applicable to elected state officers, Judges and Commissioners of courts of the Judicial Branch of government, Members of the Public Utilities Commission, Members of the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, Members of the Fair Political Practices Commission, Members of the California Coastal Commission, Members of planning commissions, Members of the High-Speed Rail Authority, Members of the Board of Supervisors, District Attorneys, County Counsels, County Treasurers and Chief Administrative Officers of counties, Mayors, City Managers, City Attorneys, City Treasurers, and Chief Administrative Officers and Members of City Councils of cities, other public officials who manage public investments, and to candidates for any of these offices at any election. **Gov't. Code § 87200**

Every candidate for an office specified in Government Code section 87200 other than a Justice of an Appellate Court or the Supreme Court shall file no later than the final filing date of a Declaration of Candidacy, a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) with the county elections official, disclosing his/her investments, his/her interests in real property, and any income received during the immediately preceding 12 months pursuant to the requirements of the Political Reform Act of 1974, as amended.

The statement shall not be required if the candidate has filed, within 60 days prior to the filing of his/her Declaration of Candidacy, a statement for the same jurisdiction pursuant to Government Code sections 87202 or 87203. **Gov't. Code § 87201**

FILING DATE

Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) is to be completed and returned to the Registrar of Voters' office **prior to the deadline to file a Declaration of Candidacy.** Each candidate will receive a Statement of Economic Interests form and instructions when issued the Declaration of Candidacy. Any questions regarding your Form 700, contact the following:

Orange County Registrar of Voters
1300 South Grand Avenue, Building C
Santa Ana, CA 92705
(714) 567-6268

For technical questions regarding completion of the Form 700, please contact:
Fair Political Practices Commission
1102 Q Street, Suite 3000
Sacramento, California 95811
1-866-275-3772*2

The FPPC offers a training video on how to complete the form:
fppc.ca.gov/learn/training-and-outreach/form-700-filers.html

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Any paid political advertisement which refers to an election or to any candidate for state or local elective office and that is contained in or distributed with a newspaper, shall bear on each surface or page thereof, in type or lettering at least half as large as the type or lettering of the advertisement or in 10-point roman type, whichever is larger, the words "Paid Political Advertisement". The words shall be set apart from any other printed matter.

As used in this section "paid political advertisement" shall mean and shall be limited to, published statements paid for by advertisers for purposes of supporting or defeating any person who has filed for an elective state or local office. **§ 20008**

SIMULATED BALLOT REQUIREMENTS

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 of 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).

Nothing in this section shall be construed to require this notice in any editorial or other statement appearing in a regularly published newspaper or magazine other than a paid political advertisement.

No simulated ballot or simulated county voter information guide shall bear any official seal or the insignia of any public entity, nor shall that seal or insignia appear upon the envelope in which it is mailed or otherwise delivered.

The Superior Court, in any case brought before it by any registered voter, may issue a temporary or permanent restraining order or injunction against the publication, printing, circulation, posting, or distribution of any matter in violation of this section, and all cases of this nature shall be in a preferred position for purposes of trial and appeal, so as to assure the speedy disposition of cases of this nature. **§ 20009**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION POLITICAL SIGN INFORMATION:

CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

California Department of Transportation

DIVISION OF TRAFFIC OPERATIONS
P.O. BOX 942873, MS-36 | SACRAMENTO, CA 94273-0001
(916) 654-6473 | TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/oda



Dear Candidate or Committee Member:

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

Section 5405.3 of the State Outdoor Advertising Act exempts the placing of Temporary Political Signs from normal outdoor advertising display requirements.

A Temporary Political Sign meets the following criteria:

- A. Encourages a particular vote in a scheduled election.
- B. Is placed no sooner than 90 days prior to the scheduled election and is removed within 10 days after that election.
- C. Is no larger than 32 square feet.
- D. Has had a Statement of Responsibility filed with the Department certifying a person who will be responsible for removing the sign (Attached).

A completed Statement of Responsibility must be submitted to:

Division of Traffic Operations
Outdoor Advertising Program
P.O. Box 942873, MS-36
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001

Temporary Political Signs shall not 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 classified "Landscaped freeway".

State law directs the Department of Transportation to remove unauthorized Temporary Political Signs and bill the responsible party for their removal. We are calling these provisions to your attention to avoid possible embarrassment or inconvenience to you and your supporters. Please share this information with those assisting in your campaign.

Should you have any questions, comments or need additional information, please call (916) 654-6473.

Enclosure

DOT ODA-0027

"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment"

**STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY
FOR TEMPORARY POLITICAL SIGNS**

DOT ODA-0027 (REV 04/2025)

Election Date: March November Other:

Candidate's Name:

Office sought or Proposition Number:

County where sign(s) will be placed:

Number of signs to be placed:

RESPONSIBLE PARTY:

Name:

Address:

Phone Number (Include Area Code):

Email (Optional):

The undersigned hereby accepts responsibility for the removal of Temporary Political Signs placed pursuant to Section 5405.3 of the Outdoor Advertising Act for the above candidate or proposition.

It is understood and agreed that any Temporary Political Signs placed sooner than ninety (90) days prior to the election and/or not removed within ten (10) days after the election, may be removed by the Department and the responsible party will be billed for any associated removal costs.

I agree that by providing my electronic signature for this form, I agree to conduct business transactions by electronic means and that my electronic signature is the legal binding equivalent to my handwritten signature. I hereby agree that my electronic signature represents my execution or authentication of this form, and my intent to be bound by it.



Signature of Responsible Party



Date

Mail Statement of Responsibility to:

Department of Transportation
Division of Traffic Operations
Outdoor Advertising Program
P.O. Box 942873, MS-36
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001
Email: ODA@dot.ca.gov

OBSERVER GUIDELINES

The election process is a public affair and anyone who wishes may observe. However, the vote of the individual citizen is secret, and no one may interfere with a voter's right to cast a secret ballot. Members of the precinct boards are sworn election officials of the County of Orange and have complete responsibility for conducting all phases of the election in their precinct. Certain standards are expected of observers:

- Any person who in any manner interferes with the officers holding an election or conducting a canvass, or with the voters lawfully exercising their rights of voting at an election, as to prevent the election or canvass from being fairly held and lawfully conducted, is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months or two or three years. **§ 18502**
- The election must be orderly. Do not talk in a loud voice, cause confusion, or congregate inside the Vote Centers. Do not ask to use the telephone or other facilities. Do not conduct a media interview inside a Vote Center.
- Only voters engaged in receiving, preparing, or depositing their ballots and persons authorized by the precinct board to keep order and enforce the law may be permitted to be within the voting booth area before the closing of the polls. **§ 14221**
- (a) Only members of the precinct board, and persons while signing their names on the roster, shall be permitted, during the hours within which voting is in progress, to sit at the desk or table used by the precinct board.
(b) Any person may inspect the roster while voting is in progress and while votes are being counted. However, this shall not be done at a time or in a manner which will impede, interfere, or interrupt the normal process of voting. **§ 14223**
- No person on Election Day, or at any time that a voter may be casting a ballot, shall, within 100 feet of a Vote Center or an elections official's office, a curbside voting area, or a ballot drop box:
 - (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; and
 - (d) Do any electioneering. Electioneering is defined as the visible display or audible dissemination of information that advocates for or against any candidate or measure on the ballot.

"Vote Center 100 Foot" signs are posted outside Vote Centers, indicating the 100 foot boundary for electioneering. As used in this section, **"100 feet of a Vote Center or an elections official's office" means a distance of 100 feet from the entrance of a Vote Center, curbside voting location, or ballot drop box.**

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. **§ 18370**

- (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 Vote Center 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 in the state prison for 16 months or two or three years or in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both the 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/her vote;
 - (2) A peace officer who is conducting official business in the course of his/her public employment or who is at the Vote Center to cast his/her vote;
 - (3) A private guard or security personnel hired or arranged for by a city or county elections official; and
 - (4) A private guard or security personnel hired or arranged for by the owner or manager of the facility or property in which the Vote Center is located if the guard or security personnel is not hired or arranged solely for the day on which an election is held.
- § 18544**
- The Precinct Board will attempt to respond to any reasonable, lawful requests from observers. The Registrar of Voters' office has instructed Precinct Officers to ask unruly poll watchers to leave, and to ask for assistance from the local law enforcement agency, if necessary.

ELECTION NIGHT RESULTS

Orange County uses a central location for tallying votes. All ballots are tabulated in the Registrar of Voters' Tally Center located at 1300 S. Grand Ave., Building C, Santa Ana.

The vote counting procedure is open to public viewing. Unofficial results are available throughout the evening of the election in the Registrar of Voters' office beginning at approximately 8:05 p.m. and continuing until all precinct ballots have been tallied. Results may also be obtained by calling the Registrar of Voters' office at (714) 567-7600 or visiting our web site at ocvote.gov.

It is the Registrar of Voters practice to post unofficial election results more frequently than statutorily required.

The first election results report for the 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election will be posted about 8:05 p.m. after Vote Centers close. This will include votes from Vote-By-Mail ballots received before Election Day, processed, accepted for counting, and scanned.

As votes from Vote Centers are securely transported by two-person teams with a Sheriff's Department escort to the Registrar of Voters' office in Santa Ana, updated results reports will be posted at 9:30 p.m. and every half-hour thereafter until all in-person ballots are included in the results.

PENAL PROVISIONS

- (a) The Legislature finds and declares that the voters of California are entitled to accurate representations in materials that are directed to them in efforts to influence how they vote.
- (b) No person shall publish or cause to be published, with intent to deceive, any campaign advertisement containing a signature that the person knows to be unauthorized.
- (c) For purposes of this section, "campaign advertisement" means any communication directed to voters by means of a mass mailing as defined in Section 82041.5 of the Government Code, a paid television, radio, or 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 Section 84100) of Title 9 of the Government Code.
- (d) For purposes of this section, an authorization to use a signature shall be oral or written.
- (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a person from publishing or causing to be published a reproduction of all or part of a document containing an actual or authorized signature, provided that the signature so reproduced shall not, with the intent to deceive, be incorporated into another document in a manner that falsely suggests that the person whose signature is reproduced has signed the other document.
- (f) Any knowing or willful violation of this section is a public offense punishable by imprisonment in the state prison or in a county jail, or by a fine not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.
- (g) As used in this section, "signature" means either of the following:
 - (1) A handwritten or mechanical signature, or a copy thereof.
 - (2) Any representation of a person's name, including, but not limited to, a printed or typewritten representation, that serves the same purpose as a handwritten or mechanical signature.

Penal § 115.1

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 such a name to such a petition, is guilty of a felony and is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months or two or three years.

§ 18200

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 one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months or two or three years or by both such fine and imprisonment.

§ 18201

Every person acting on behalf of a candidate is guilty of a misdemeanor who deliberately fails to file at the proper time and in the proper place any Nomination Paper or Declaration of Candidacy in his/her possession, entitled to be filed under the provisions of this code.

§ 18202

PENAL PROVISIONS

(Continued)

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 one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months or two or three years or by both such fine and imprisonment. **§ 18203**

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 one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months or two or three years or by both such fine and imprisonment. **§ 18204**

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. **§ 18205**

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 Sections 11327 or 13307, with the intent to mislead the voters in connection with his/her campaign for nomination or election to a nonpartisan office is punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). **§ 18351**

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

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

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

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

(4) Do any electioneering as defined by Section 319.5.

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

(1) The entrance to a building that contains a polling place as defined by 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, on election day, or at any time that a voter may be casting a ballot, do any of the following within the immediate vicinity of a voter in line to cast a ballot or drop off a ballot:

(1) Solicit a vote.

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

(3) Disseminate visible or audible electioneering information.

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

§ 18370

PENAL PROVISIONS

(Continued)

(c) This section shall not be construed to conflict with any provisions 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.

§ 18371(c)

No one who holds, or who is seeking election or appointment to, any office shall, directly or indirectly, offer or arrange for any increase in compensation or salary for an employee of a state or local agency in exchange for, or a promise of, a contribution or loan to any committee controlled directly or indirectly by the person who holds, or who is seeking election or appointment to, an office. A violation of this section is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for a period not exceeding one year, a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

Gov't § 3205.5

SERVICES TO CANDIDATES

MAPS

Electronic Maps (Shapefiles and PDFs) with district and precinct boundaries are available. A printed set of precinct maps is also located on our public counter. If you wish to purchase printed custom maps for a small fee, call the Map Unit at (714) 567-7610.

REGISTRATION FORMS

For candidates and committees wishing to conduct registration drives to register voters, registration forms are available at the Registrar's office from the Voter Registration Specialist. You may obtain the quantity of registration forms you deem necessary, upon availability. You will be asked to complete a Statement of Distribution form at the time the forms are issued to you. For further information, please call (714) 567-7569.

COMPUTER PRODUCTS

Registered Voter File: Candidates may purchase the registered voter file on a USB drive or for secure download. The file can be ordered with the names of all voters in Orange County or just the voters in a particular city or district. Call (714) 834-7116 for more information or go to ocvote.gov/data to make your purchase online. The Registrar of Voters office does not provide technical support.

INDICES (WALKING LISTS): All candidates are entitled to purchase indexes. These are printed lists of registered voters by precinct, listed by address with the street names arranged alphabetically and street numbers in numerical order for a given street name.

Each candidate may purchase up to two copies (sets) of indexes for his/her own use or the use of his/her committee. These may be a complete set, including all precincts within the district in which the candidate is running, or a partial set, including some of the precincts in the district. Indexes sell for \$1.50 per thousand names or portion thereof. Indexes may be ordered by filling out the proper form at the Registrar of Voter's office. The cost of the product is payable in advance at the time the product is requested. For further information, please call (714) 834-7116.

VOTE-BY-MAIL CURE LIST: All candidates are entitled to purchase a countywide list of all voters whose ballot envelope signature was challenged. The cure list is updated daily. For further information, please call (714) 834-7116, or go to ocvote.gov/data to make your purchase online.

The candidate must complete a written request form containing a signed declaration that the data purchased will be used only for election purposes.

Products are usually available within 3-4 days of placing the order (depending on job scheduling). For further information, please call (714) 834-7116.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS/WEBSITES

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

GENERAL INFORMATION	(714) 567-7600
FAX	(714) 567-7556
WEBSITE	ocvote.gov
VOTE-BY-MAIL VOTER DIVISION (Replacement Ballot Requests, Information)	(714) 567-7600
CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE DIVISION (Financial Disclosure Statements, Information)	(714) 567-6268
CAMPAIGN MATERIALS DIVISION (Maps, Precinct Information) (Voter List, Street Index)	(714) 567-7610 (714) 834-7116
CANDIDATE FILING DIVISION (Filing Requirements for Office)	(714) 567-7600
VOTER REGISTRATION DIVISION (Voter Registration Forms, Information)	(714) 567-7588

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

ELECTIONS DIVISION	(916) 657-2166
FAX	(916) 653-3214
(General Information, Filing for State/Federal Offices)	
WEBSITE	sos.ca.gov
POLITICAL REFORM DIVISION (Mon - Fri, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm) (Committee ID Number, Termination)	(916) 653-6224

FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

ADVICE (Mon -Thurs, 9:00 am – 11:30 am)	(866) 275-3772*1
FAX	(916) 322-0886
WEBSITE	fppc.ca.gov
ENFORCEMENT DIVISION EMAIL (File Complaint under Political Reform Act)	complaint@fppc.ca.gov (916) 322-5660

STATE FRANCHISE TAX BOARD (Mon - Fri, 7:00 am – 5:00 pm)

AUTOMATED INFORMATION (Committee Tax Status, Tax Deductible Contributions Charitable Non-Profit Groups, General Information)	(800) 852-5711 (800) 338-0505
WEBSITE	ftb.ca.gov
CA RELAY SERVICE -- TDD	(800) 735-2929

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

(Federal Campaign Finance Law)	(800) 424-9530
WEBSITE	fec.gov

ELECTRONIC AND PRINTED MAPS INFORMATION

Map Central:

Our Interactive Mapping Tool provides a user-friendly visual representation of the election results in Orange County. The tool offers various customization options to easily explore and analyze the results of elections by contests, precincts, and voting methods in a map format.



ocvote.gov/map-central

Electronic or Printed Maps:

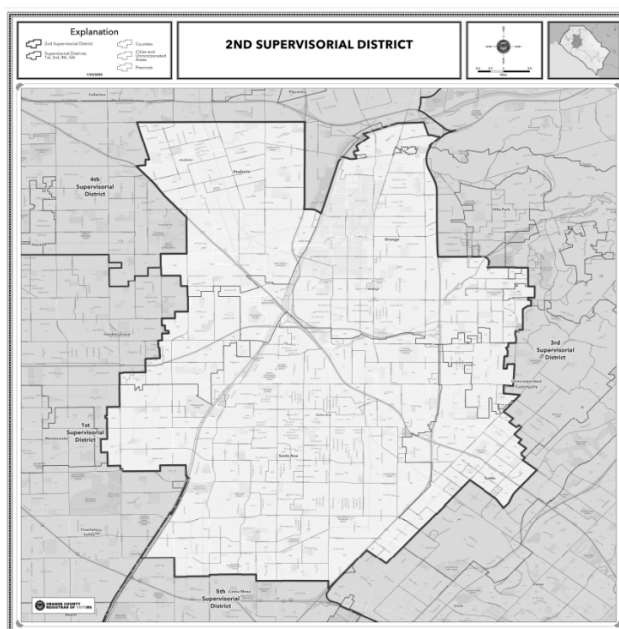
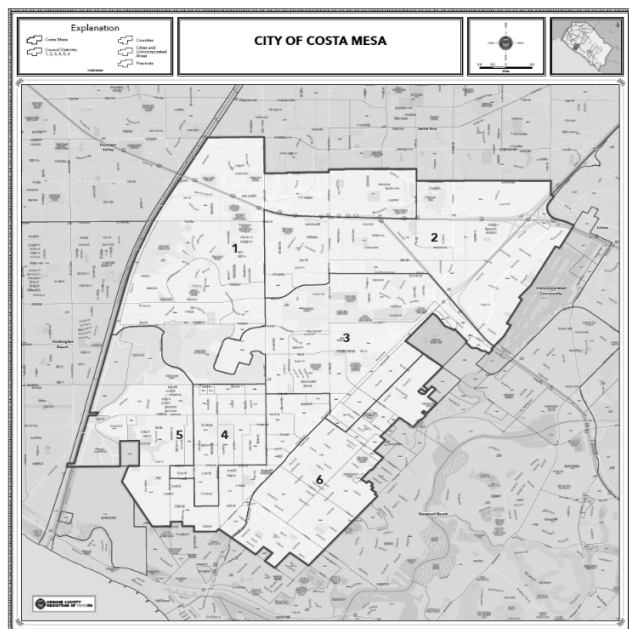
Shapefiles and PDFs with district and precinct boundaries are available for download.

Printed maps are available for a small fee. You can order your map and complete your purchase online at **ocvote.gov/maps-and-gis**.



ocvote.gov/maps-and-gis

Printed maps can either be mailed or picked up at our office. Please allow two business days for printed map orders to be filled.



Contact Information:

For any questions, please contact the Registrar of Voters at (714) 567-7610, or view “Services to Candidates” on page 99 of this Handbook.



CANDIDATE FILING CHECKLIST

VOTER NOMINATED OFFICE

See Election Calendar for Important Dates and deadlines: [ocvote.gov/elections](https://www.ocvote.gov/elections)

☐ **LET'S GET STARTED**

- **Candidate's Handbook** (available in person at the ROV or online at <https://www.ocvote.gov/candidates>)

☐ **SIGS IN LIEU PERIOD December 19, 2025 – February 4, 2026**

- **Petitions**
Obtain these documents from the ROV office in person or online at [ocvote.gov/candidates](https://www.ocvote.gov/candidates). Signers need to be 18 years old and eligible to vote for the candidate.
- **Return signed petitions**
Return the signed petitions to the appropriate county (some districts will fall in multiple counties) Orange County Registrar of Voters can only verify signatures from Orange County voters. Petitions must be submitted before the period for Sigs in Lieu ends. Signed petitions may be submitted all at once, or over the course of multiple days for signature verification.

☐ **NOMINATION PERIOD February 9, 2026 – March 6, 2026**

- **Pay filing fee**
If signatures were obtained during sigs in lieu, filing fee will be adjusted according to the balance owed. Checks are payable to Secretary of State
- **Obtain Nomination Petitions**
Signers need to be 18 years old and eligible to vote for the candidate. It is advised to obtain the maximum number of signatures.
- **Campaign Disclosure Statements**
Complete forms that apply to spending/receiving of funds.
- **File Nomination Documents**
File signed petitions all at once or over the course of multiple days for signature verification. The Registrar of Voters' office will call/email once signatures are validated.
- **Code of Fair Campaign Practice filed Optional**
- **Ballot Designation Worksheet filed Optional**
The Ballot Designation worksheet is filed at the same time that the Declaration of Candidacy is filed. If a BDW is not filed, the candidate will not have one listed on the ballot below their name.
- **Candidate's Statement Optional (State Constitutional Offices file with the Secretary of State)**
The Candidate's Statement is filed at the same time that the Declaration of Candidacy is filed. Pay statement fee, complete statement agreement and template.
 - Submit Word or text document of candidate's statement to ballot-statement@ocvote.gov
- **Declaration of Candidacy completed and filed.**
 - Name to appear on the Ballot
 - Ballot Designation if applicable
 - 10-Year Party History
 - Confirm Confidential Status
 - Oath of Office



CANDIDATE FILING CHECKLIST

NONPARTISIAN OFFICE

See Election Calendar for Important Dates and deadlines: ocvote.gov/elections

□ **LET'S GET STARTED**

- **Candidate's Handbook** (available in person at the ROV or online at <https://www.ocvote.gov/candidates>)

□ **SIGS IN LIEU OF FILING FEE PERIOD December 19, 2025 – February 4, 2026**

- **Petitions (County Board of Education does not pay filing fee)**
Obtain these documents from the ROV office in person or online at ocvote.gov/candidates.
Signers need to be 18 years old and eligible to vote for the candidate.
- **Return signed petitions**
Return the signed petitions to the appropriate county (some districts will fall in multiple counties) Orange County Registrar of Voters can only verify signatures from Orange County voters. Petitions must be submitted before the period for Sigs in Lieu ends. Signed petitions may be submitted all at once, or over the course of multiple days for signature verification.

□ **NOMINATION PERIOD February 9, 2026 – March 6, 2026**

- **Pay filing fee (There is no filing fee for County Board of Education)**
If signatures were obtained during sigs in lieu, filing fee will be adjusted according to the balance owed. Checks are payable to: Orange County Registrar of Voters
- **Obtain Nomination Petitions**
Signers need to be 18 years old and eligible to vote for the candidate. It is advised to obtain the maximum number of signatures.
- **Campaign Disclosure Statements**
Complete forms that apply to spending/receiving of funds.
- **File Nomination Documents**
File signed petitions all at once or over the course of multiple days for signature verification. The Registrar of Voters' office will call/email once signatures are validated.
- **Code of Fair Campaign Practice filed Optional**
- **Ballot Designation Worksheet filed Optional**
The Ballot Designation worksheet is filed at the same time that the Declaration of Candidacy is filed. If a BDW is not filed, the candidate will not have one listed on the ballot below their name.
- **Candidate's Statement Optional**
The Candidate's Statement is filed at the same time that the Declaration of Candidacy is filed. Pay statement fee, complete statement agreement and template.
 - Submit Word or text document of candidate's statement to ballot-statement@ocvote.gov
- **Declaration of Candidacy completed and filed.**
 - Name to appear on the Ballot
 - Ballot Designation if applicable
 - Confirm Confidential Status
 - Oath of Office