

# June 2, 2026

## Statewide Direct Primary Election



**KERN**  
COUNTY  
ELECTIONS DIVISION

## Candidate Filing Guide

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1115 Truxtun Ave. 1<sup>st</sup> FL • Bakersfield, CA 93301 • (661) 868-3590 • [KernVote.com](http://KernVote.com)

Compiled by the Kern County Elections Division

This guide was developed in an effort to provide answers to questions frequently asked of the Kern County Elections Division regarding filing for office. It is for general information only and does not have the force and effect of law, regulation, or rule. In case of conflict, the law, regulation, or rule will apply. Persons using this guide must bear full responsibility to make their own determinations as to all legal standards and duties. The Kern County Elections Office cannot give legal advice or interpretations of the law. All references are to the California Elections Code unless otherwise noted.

November 2025

This Document is subject to change without notice.

Dear Candidate,

The Elections Division extends its gratitude for your decision to run for public office. To assist you with this important endeavor, we have prepared the Candidate Handbook, a comprehensive guide designed to support prospective candidates through every step of the process.

The Candidate Handbook is regularly updated to ensure it provides the most current and relevant information. It covers a wide range of topics, including filing deadlines, campaign finance regulations, and voter outreach strategies, helping to clarify any uncertainties you may encounter during the candidate filing process.

While this handbook is a valuable resource, it is intended to provide general information and should not replace professional legal counsel. We strongly recommend consulting with a legal advisor to address any specific legal questions or concerns.

Our dedicated team at the Elections Division is available to assist you with any questions you may have. We are available Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. You may also reach us via email at [candidatefiling@kerncounty.com](mailto:candidatefiling@kerncounty.com).

Thank you for your commitment to the democratic process and for your willingness to serve the public.

Sincerely,

Aimee X. Espinoza  
Auditor-Controller-County Clerk-  
Registrar of Voters

**Table of Contents**

**Contact Information** .....4

**Who Should You Call?**.....6

**Top–Two Open Primary Act** .....7

**Candidate Qualifications and Requirements** .....10

**Federal & State Offices** .....11

**Judicial Offices** .....16

**County Offices** .....17

**Nomination Documents and Declaration of Candidacy** .....22

**Statement of Economic Interest Form: Form 700** .....29

**Write-In Candidacy**.....29

**Candidate Statement** .....30

**Cost of the Candidate Statement** .....36

**2026 Primary Election Calendar** .....40

**Important Notice to Candidates: Incompatibility of Offices** .....44

**Provision of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices**.....50

**Regulations/Prohibitions Concerning Political Campaigns**.....51

**Kern County Ordinance Code** .....64

**Election Night Results** .....67

**Contact Information**

**KERN COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE**

1115 Truxtun Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Phone: (661) 868-3590  
Fax: (661) 868-3768  
Email: elections@kerncounty.com  
Website: kernvote.com

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

California Department of Justice General Information.....(800) 952-5225  
Phone.....(800)735-2922  
Fax.....(916) 323-5341  
Website.....[www.oag.ca.gov](http://www.oag.ca.gov)

**CALIFORNIA CODE**

Website.....<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml>

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

General Information.....(916) 654-2852  
(Temporary Political Signs) .....(916) 654-6473

**FEDERAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

General Information.....(800) 424-9530

**FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION (FPPC)**

Technical Assistance (Mon-Thurs 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM) ..... (866) 275-3772  
Enforcement Division.....(866) 275-3772  
Fax.....(916)-322-0886  
Email.....[complaint@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:complaint@fppc.ca.gov)  
Website.....[www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov)  
Political Advertising Disclaimers.....<http://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn.html>

**INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**

General Information.....(800) 829-1040  
Website.....[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

**JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN ETHICS ONLINE COURSE**

General Information.....(415) 865-7745  
Website.....<http://www2.courtinfo.ca.gov/protem/courses/judcampeth/>  
Mail.....[cjerprograms@jud.ca.gov](mailto:cjerprograms@jud.ca.gov)

**KERN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE**

General Information.....(661) 868-2340

**SECRETARY OF STATE (SOS) ELECTIONS DIVISION**

General Information.....(916) 657-2166  
Fax.....(916) 653-3214  
Website.....[www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)

**STATE FRANCHISE TAX BOARD**

General Information.....(800) 338-0505  
Website.....[www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov)

**CITIES WITHIN KERN COUNTY**

Candidates for city seats must contact their respective City Clerk for candidate filing requirements.

City	Phone	Fax
Arvin	(661) 854-3134	(661) 854-0817
Bakersfield	(661) 326-3767	(661) 323-3780
California City	(760) 373-7140	(760) 373-7511
Delano	(661) 720-2228	(661) 721-3269
Maricopa	(661) 769-8279	(661) 769-8130
McFarland	(661) 792-3091	(661) 792-3093
Ridgecrest	(760) 499-5000 or (760) 499-1500	(760) 499-5002
Shafter	(661) 746-5000	(661) 746-0607
Taft	(661) 763-1222 ext. 16	(661) 765-2480
Tehachapi	(661) 822-2200	(661) 822-8559
Wasco	(661) 758-7214	(661) 758-5411

**NEIGHBORING COUNTIES**

Below is a list of counties that are adjacent to Kern County and with whom we share a Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly, School, or Special District.

Candidates must contact the other counties about cost and submitting a candidate statement in that county.

- Fresno Elections Office**..... 1 (559) 600-8683
- Inyo Elections Office**..... 1 (760) 878-0224
- Kings Elections Office**.....1 (559) 852-4401
- Los Angeles Elections Office**..... 1 (562) 462-2317
- Mono Elections Office**.....1 (760) 932-5530
- San Bernardino Elections Office**.....1 (909) 387-8300
- San Luis Obispo Elections Office**.....1 (805) 781-5080
- Santa Barbara Elections Office**.....1 (805) 568-2200
- Tulare Elections Office**.....1 (559) 624-7300
- Ventura Elections Office**.....1 (805) 654-2781

## Who Should You Call?

The Kern County Elections Office appreciates notifications of cases of alleged voter registration, petition or voter fraud; however, this office is **NOT** an enforcement agency and is therefore unable to investigate any violations.

In response to the many inquiries our office receives regarding possible election violations or fraud, the following is a list of resources regarding whom to contact for the various types of violations:

- ▶ **False or misleading campaign materials** - No agency enforcement; these issues are dealt with in court. Contact your local district attorney at 1(661) 868-2340, or the Fair Political Practices Commission at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov) or 1 (866) 275-3772.
- ▶ **Violations of the Political Reform Act (Title 9 of the California Government Code §81000-91014), i.e. mass mailing requirements, slate mailers, campaign disclosure, proper use of campaign funds, disclosure of economic interests** - Contact your local district attorney at 1(661) 868-2340, or the appropriate city attorney for local candidates or measures, or the Fair Political Practices Commission at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov).
- ▶ **Election fraud** - Contact your local district attorney at 1 (661) 868-2340, or the California Secretary of State at 1 (916) 657-2166 or [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov).
- ▶ **Unlawful use of public funds, violations of the Elections Code, the Penal Code, or any laws other than the Political Reform Act** - Contact your local district attorney at 1 (661) 868-2340, or the California State Attorney General at 1 (800) 952-5225 or [www.oag.ca.gov/](http://www.oag.ca.gov/).
- ▶ **Federal campaigns, e.g., U.S. Senate, House of Representatives, the President of the United States, etc.** - Contact the Federal Election Commission at 1(800) 424-9530 or [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov).
- ▶ **Open meeting laws (Brown Act)** - Contact your local district attorney at 1(661) 868-2340, or the California State Attorney General at 1 (800) 952-5225 or [www.oag.ca.gov/](http://www.oag.ca.gov/).
- ▶ **Local ordinances** - Contact your local city attorney or local district attorney at 1(661) 868-2340.
- ▶ **Vandalism or requirements concerning campaign signs** - Contact your local city attorney or local district attorney at 1(661) 868-2340.
- ▶ **Political Advertising Disclaimers**, go to the Fair Political Practices Commission website for information: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn.html> (under Learn - select Campaign Rules) or call 1(916) 322-5660.

## **Top-Two Open Primary Act**

On June 8, 2010, California voters approved Proposition 14, which created the “Top-Two Open Primary Act”.

The “Top-Two Open Primary Act” changes the way elections are conducted for all statewide offices including:

Governor	Controller	State Senator
Lt. Governor	Insurance Commissioner	State Assembly
Secretary of State	Board of Equalization	U.S. Senator
State Treasurer	U.S. Representatives	Attorney General

Prior to the “Top-Two Open Primary Act”, candidates running for partisan office appeared only on their own party’s ballot. The top vote-getter from each qualified political party and any candidates who qualified using the independent nomination process would then move on to the general election.

Now, under the “Top-Two Open Primary Act”, all candidates running, regardless of their party preference, will appear on a single combined ballot, and voters can vote for any candidate from any political party. The “Top-Two Open Primary Act” would not affect the election of President or County Central Committees, which are still party specific contests.

The “Top-Two Open Primary Act” requires that only the two candidates for voter-nominated offices who receive the highest and second-highest number of votes cast at the primary shall appear on the ballot as candidates at the ensuing general election. (E.C. § 8141.5)

Nonpartisan offices such as judges, schools, special districts, municipalities and the Superintendent of Public Instruction would remain open to all eligible voters.

### **Quick facts about the “Top-Two Open Primary Act”**

#### **What does this mean for the Voter?**

It changes the way candidates are elected in a primary election.

#### **There are three types of candidate contests**

##### **Party-Nominated (Formerly known as Partisan)**

Party-Nominated offices are contests in which the nominee is selected by the political party. Only registered voters in that political party can vote for that party’s candidate on the ballot.

**Who can vote:** Only voters registered with the same party preference as the candidate. (Except parties who allow nonpartisan voters to cross-over and join their primary).

**Party Nominated Offices:**

U.S. President  
County Central Committees

**Who advances to the general:** Presidential contest only, the top vote-getters in each party.

**Voter-Nominated**

Voter-Nominated offices are contests in which the nominee is selected by the voter. In voter-nominated contests, any voter can vote for any candidate, regardless of party.

**Who can vote:** All voters, regardless of party preference, will receive ballots containing listings of all candidates running for each office. Candidates may also choose to have their party preference or lack of party preference printed on the ballot.

**Voter-Nominated Offices:**

Governor  
Lieutenant Governor  
Secretary of State  
State Treasurer  
State Controller  
State Insurance Commissioner  
State Board of Equalization  
Attorney General  
State Senator  
Member of the State Assembly  
United States Representative

**Who advances to the general election:** The top-two vote-getters, regardless of party preference.

**Nonpartisan**

A Nonpartisan office is an office in which no political party nominates a candidate. Judicial, school, county and municipal offices are examples of nonpartisan offices.

**Who can vote:** All voters, regardless of party preference.

**Nonpartisan Offices:**

Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Superior Court Judge  
County Office  
Municipal Office  
School  
Special District

**Who advances to the general:** In majority vote contests, candidates that receive a majority of the votes win outright in the primary. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote, then the top-two vote-getters move on to the general election.

**How does this affect write-in candidates?**

You may write in a qualified write-in candidate's name on the ballot in a primary election contest.

In the general election, you may only write-in a qualified candidates name in a party-nominated or nonpartisan contest. Write-in votes are not allowed in a voter-nominated general election.

# Candidate Qualifications and Requirements

***It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure all filing requirements and deadlines are met.***

**For a full summary of qualifications and requirements for Federal and California State Offices, please visit the California Secretary of State's website at [SOS.CA.Gov](http://SOS.CA.Gov)**

**Secretary of State Elections Division Office Location**  
1500 11th Street Sacramento, CA 95814  
Mailing Address 1500 11th Street Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone Number & Fax Phone: (916) 657-2166  
Fax: (916) 653-3214

**For information qualifications and requirements for Municipal offices, please contact the respective city clerk.**

**Federal & State Offices**

**United States Representative**

**FILING FEES**

(E.C. §§ 8061, 8062, 8103-8106)

<b>NON-REFUNDABLE FILING FEE</b>	\$1,740.00
% ANNUAL SALARY	1%
NOMINATION SIGNATURES	40-60
SIGNATURES IN LIEU OF FILING FEE	1,714
PETITION IN LIEU VALUE PER SIGNATURE	\$1.015169195

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- Every candidate shall be at least 25 years of age, a U.S. citizen for seven years, and a resident of California on January 3, 2027 the date he or she would be sworn into office if elected. \*1

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

**TERM OF OFFICE**

Two (2) years commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon January 3, 2027.

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

Congressional Candidates may purchase the space to place a statement in the Voter Pamphlet that does not exceed 250 words. The statement may not make reference to any opponent of the candidate. The statement shall be submitted in accordance with the time frames and procedures set forth in this code for the preparation of the voter information portion of the sample ballot.

E.C. § 13307.5

\*1 There is no durational residency requirement to be a candidate for United States Representative

**STATE CONSTITUTIONAL**

**FILING FEES**

(E.C. §§ 8061, 8062, 8103-8106)

OFFICE	<b><u>NON-REFUNDABLE</u></b> FILING FEE	% ANNUAL SALARY	NOMINATION SIGNATURES		SIGNATURES IN LIEU OF FILING FEE	PETITION IN LIEU VALUE PER SIGNATURE
			MIN	MAX		
Governor	\$4,918.58	2%	65	100	6,000	\$0.819763333
Lt. Governor	\$3,688.94	2%	65	100	6,000	\$0.614823333
Secretary of State	\$3,688.94	2%	65	100	6,000	\$0.614823333
Controller	\$3,934.86	2%	65	100	6,000	\$0.65581
Treasurer	\$3,934.86	2%	65	100	6,000	\$0.65581
Attorney General	\$4,272.34	2%	65	100	6,000	\$0.712056667
Insurance Commissioner	\$3,934.86	2%	65	100	6,000	\$0.65581
Board of Equalization	\$1,844.47	1%	40	60	4,743	\$0.388882564
Superintendent of Public Instruction	\$4,272.34	2%	65	100	6,000	\$0.712056667

Candidate Statement of Qualification only available to be printed in State Voter Information Guide. Contact the Secretary of State's Office for further information.

## Qualifications

### Governor & Lieutenant Governor

- Be a U.S. citizen. Cal. Const., art. V, §§ 21, 9 B.
- Be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person. § 2012 C.
- 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 D.
- Not have served two terms in the office. Cal. Const., art. V, §§ 2, 11 E.
- [For Governor only] File 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

### Secretary of State, Controller & Treasurer

- Be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person. § 201
- Have not 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
- Have not served two terms in the office sought since November 6, 1990. Cal. Const., art V §11

### Attorney General

- Be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person. § 201
- Have been admitted to practice before the California Supreme Court for a period of at least five years immediately preceding his or her election to the office. Gov. Code § 12503 C.
- 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 D. Not have served two terms in the office sought since November 6, 1990. Cal. Const., art. V, § 11

## **Insurance Commissioner**

- Be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person. § 201
- Have not 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
- 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 (1) as a policyholder, or (2) by virtue of relationship by blood or marriage to any person interested in any insurer or licensee. Ins. Code § 12901
- Have not served two four-year terms in the office sought. Ins. Code § 12900(a)

## **Board of Equalization**

- Be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person. § 201
- Have not 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
- Have not served two terms as a Member of the State Board of Equalization since November 6, 1990. Cal. Const., art. XIII, § 17

## **State Superintendent of Public Instruction**

- Be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person. § 201
- Have not 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
- Have not served two terms in the office sought since November 6, 1990. Cal. Const., art. IX, § 2

## State Legislature

### FILING FEES

(E.C. §§ 8061, 8062, 8103-8106)

OFFICE	NON-REFUNDABLE FILING FEE	% ANNUAL SALARY	NOMINATION SIGNATURES		SIGNATURES IN LIEU OF FILING FEE	PETITION IN LIEU VALUE PER SIGNATURE
			MIN	MAX		
State Senator	\$1,346.94	1%	40	60	1,714	\$0.785845974
Member of the State Assembly	\$1,346.94	1%	40	60	857	\$1.571691949

### QUALIFICATIONS

- Be a U.S. citizen. Cal. Const., art. IV, § 2(c) \*1
- Be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time nomination papers are issued to the person. § 201
- Have not 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
- Serve no more than 12 years in the State Senate, the Assembly, or both, in any combination of terms during his or her lifetime if he or she was first elected to the Legislature after June 2012 and has not previously served in the State Senate or Assembly. Cal. Const., art. IV, § 2(a)(4)
- Have not served two terms in the State Senate since November 6, 1990, if he or she was elected to the State Senate before June 2012. Cal. Const., art. IV, § 2(a)(4)
- Have not served three terms in the Assembly since November 6, 1990, if he or she was elected to the Assembly before June 2012. Cal. Const., art. IV, § 2(a)(4)

\*1 Article IV, section 2(c), of the California Constitution requires one year of residency in the legislative district and three years of residency in California; however, it is the legal opinion of the Secretary of State's Office that these provisions violate the U.S. Constitution and are unenforceable.

### TERM OF OFFICE

Senate: Four (4) years commencing December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Art. IV, § 2a, Calif. Const.)

Assembly: Two (2) years commencing December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Art. IV, § 2a, Calif. Const.)

### Term Limits as follows:

Senate and Assembly members are limited to serving 12 years. This can be a combination of terms in both houses of the legislature.

**Judicial Offices**  
**Judge of the Superior Court**

**FILING FEES**

(E.C. §§ 8061, 8062, 8103-8106)

<b>NON-REFUNDABLE FILING FEE*</b>	\$2,447.27
% ANNUAL SALARY	1%
NOMINATION SIGNATURES	20-40
SIGNATURES IN LIEU OF FILING FEE**	6,293
PETITION IN LIEU VALUE PER SIGNATURE	.388888889

**QUALIFICATIONS**

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. (E.C. §§ 13.5, 201)

A person is ineligible to be a judge of a court of record unless for 10 years immediately preceding selection, the person has been a member of the State Bar or served as a judge of a court of record in this State. (Calif. Const. Art. VI §§ 15, 16; E.C. § 13.5)

**TERM OF OFFICE**

Six (6) years commencing on the first Monday after Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. (Calif. Const. Art. VI, § 16c)

**\*Your filing fee is due when you are issued your Declaration of Intention.**  
**\*\* Signatures from In-lieu Petition shall be used to meet your nomination signature requirements. Your candidate statement estimate (pre-payment) is due when your Declaration of Candidacy is issued.**

A candidate for Judge of the Superior Court shall file with the Kern County Elections Division a written and signed Declaration of Intent to become a candidate for that office and shall state for which of the numerically designated offices they intend to become a candidate.

If the incumbent fails to file a Declaration of Intent, persons other than the incumbent may file a Declaration of Intent during the extended period. (E.C. § 8023)

If the incumbent Judge of a Superior Court fails to submit the required nomination papers, an extended 5-day filing period is made available. Any person other than the incumbent, if otherwise qualified, may file for office during the extended period. (E.C. § 8204)

**County Offices**  
**Member of the Board of Supervisors**

**FILING FEES DISTRICT 2 & 3**  
(E.C. §§ 8061, 8062, 8103-8106)

<b>NON-REFUNDABLE FILING FEE</b>	\$1,170.37
% ANNUAL SALARY	1%
NOMINATION SIGNATURES	20-40
SIGNATURES IN LIEU OF FILING FEE - DISTRICT 2	5930
SIGNATURES IN LIEU OF FILING FEE - DISTRICT 3	5851
PETITION IN LIEU VALUE PER SIGNATURE – DISTRICT 2	.197374327
PETITION IN LIEU VALUE PER SIGNATURE – DISTRICT 3	.200035995

**QUALIFICATIONS**

Unless otherwise specifically provided, a person is not eligible to an elective county or district office, unless the person is a registered voter of the county or district in which the duties of the office are to be exercised at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person or, if appointed to the elective office to fill a vacancy, at the time of the appointment of the person. (Gov. C. § 24001; E.C. § 13.5, 201)

A member of the Board of Supervisors shall have been a registered voter of the district that they seek to represent for at least 30 days immediately preceding the deadline for filing nomination documents and shall reside in the district during incumbency. (Gov. C. § 25041)

**TERM OF OFFICE**

Four (4) years commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon on the first Monday after Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. (Gov. C. § 24200)

**Assessor-Recorder**

**FILING FEES**

(E.C. §§ 8061, 8062, 8103-8106)

<b>NON-REFUNDABLE FILING FEE</b>	\$1,871.25
% ANNUAL SALARY	1%
NOMINATION SIGNATURES	20-40
SIGNATURES IN LIEU OF FILING FEE	4,812
PETITION IN LIEU VALUE PER SIGNATURE	.388888889

**QUALIFICATIONS**

Unless otherwise specifically provided, a person is not eligible to an elective county or district office, unless the person is a registered voter of the county or district in which the duties of the office are to be exercised at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person or, if appointed to the elective office to fill a vacancy, at the time of the appointment of the person. (Gov. C. § 24001; E.C. § 201)

(a) No person shall perform the duties or exercise the authority of an appraiser for property tax purposes as an employee of the state, any county or city and county, unless he or she is the holder of a valid appraiser’s or advanced appraiser’s certificate issued by the State Board of Equalization.

(b) The board shall provide for the examination of applicants for these certificates and may contract with the State Personnel Board to give the examinations. Examinations shall be prepared by the board with the advice and assistance of a committee of five assessors selected by the California Assessors’ Association for this purpose. No certificate shall be issued to any person who has not attained a passing grade in the examination and demonstrated to the board that he or she is competent to perform the work of an appraiser as that competency is defined in regulations duly adopted by the board. However, any applicant for a certificate who is denied the same shall have a right to a review of that denial in accordance with the State Administrative Procedure Act contained in Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(Gov. C. § 24002.5)

**TERM OF OFFICE**

Four (4) years commencing at 12:00 o’clock noon on the first Monday after Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.

(Gov. C. § 24200)

**Auditor-Controller-County Clerk**

**FILING FEES**

(E.C. §§ 8061, 8062, 8103-8106)

<b>NON-REFUNDABLE FILING FEE</b>	\$1,871.25
% ANNUAL SALARY	1%
NOMINATION SIGNATURES	20-40
SIGNATURES IN LIEU OF FILING FEE	4,812
PETITION IN LIEU VALUE PER SIGNATURE	.388888889

**QUALIFICATIONS**

Unless otherwise specifically provided, a person is not eligible to an elective county or district office, unless the person is a registered voter of the county or district in which the duties of the office are to be exercised at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person or, if appointed to the elective office to fill a vacancy, at the time of the appointment of the person. (Gov. C.§ 24001; E.C. § 13.5, 201)

A person shall not be elected or appointed to the office of county auditor of any county unless the person meets at least one of the following criteria:

- (a) The person possesses 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.
  - (b) The person possesses 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.
  - (c) The person has 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.
- (Gov. C.§ 26945)

**TERM OF OFFICE**

Four (4) years commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon on the first Monday after Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. (Gov. C. § 24200)

**Treasurer-Tax Collector**

**FILING FEES**

(E.C. §§ 8061, 8062, 8103-8106)

<b>NON-REFUNDABLE FILING FEE</b>	\$1,871.25
% ANNUAL SALARY	1%
NOMINATION SIGNATURES	20-40
SIGNATURES IN LIEU OF FILING FEE	4,812
PETITION IN LIEU VALUE PER SIGNATURE	.388888889

**QUALIFICATIONS**

Unless otherwise specifically provided, a person is not eligible to an elective county or district office, unless the person is a registered voter of the county or district in which the duties of the office are to be exercised at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person or, if appointed to the elective office to fill a vacancy, at the time of the appointment of the person. (Gov. C. § 24001; E.C. §§ 13.5, 201)

No person shall be eligible for election or appointment to the office of county treasurer, county tax collector, or county treasurer-tax collector of any county unless that person meets at least one of the following criteria:

(a) A person shall not be eligible for election or appointment to the office of county treasurer, county tax collector, or county treasurer-tax collector of any county unless that person meets at least one of the following criteria:

(1) The person has 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.

(2) The person possesses 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.

(3) The person possesses a valid certificate issued by the California 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.

(4) The person possesses 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.

(Gov. C. § 27000.7; E.C. § 13.5)

**TERM OF OFFICE**

Four (4) years commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon on the first Monday after Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. (Gov. C. § 24200)

# Kern County Superintendent of Schools

## FILING FEES

(E.C. §§ 8061, 8062, 8103-8106)

<b>NON-REFUNDABLE FILING FEE</b>	\$3,657.56
% ANNUAL SALARY	1%
NOMINATION SIGNATURES	20-40
SIGNATURES IN LIEU OF FILING FEE	9,405
PETITION IN LIEU VALUE PER SIGNATURE	.388888889

## QUALIFICATIONS

Unless otherwise specifically provided, a person is not eligible to an elective county or district office, unless the person is a registered voter of the county or district in which the duties of the office are to be exercised at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person or, if appointed to the elective office to fill a vacancy, at the time of the appointment of the person. (Gov. C. § 24001; E.C. §§ 13.5, 201)

- (a) All county superintendents of schools in counties within classes (1) to (8), inclusive, shall possess a valid administrative credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.
- (b) For 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. (Ed. C. § 1208; E.C. § 13.5)

## TERM OF OFFICE

Four (4) years commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon on the first Monday after Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. (Gov. C. § 24200)

## **Nomination Documents and Declaration of Candidacy**

### **Filing Period**

**February 9, 2026**, is the first day that candidates for district offices can obtain, from the Elections Division, forms for declaration of candidacy. **The Declaration of Candidacy must be filed no later than March 6, 2026.** (E.C. §§ 10510, 10511)

### **\*Filing Extension Period**

If an incumbent fails to file a Declaration of Candidacy by 5:00 PM on **March 6, 2026**, then there is a 5-day extension period for anyone other than the incumbent to file a Declaration of Candidacy. There is no extension if the incumbent is termed out or it is a vacant office.

No person shall file nomination papers for more than one district office, including a county board of education office, at the same election. (E.C. § 10603(c))

### **Where to Obtain Forms**

Candidates must obtain nomination forms from the Elections Office, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301, phone number (661) 868-3590. At the time of applying for the forms, the candidate must state the office for which they wish to run and must pay the filing fee. The Elections Office cannot issue any nomination papers until the filing fees are paid. Filing fees for **Nonpartisan Offices** must be paid by check and made payable to the **Auditor-Controller-County Clerk**. Filing fees for **Voter-Nominated Offices** must be **made payable to the Secretary of State**. **Filing fees are not refunded in the event the candidate fails to qualify.** Only "Official Filing Forms," issued by the Elections Office, containing the candidate's name and office for which the candidate is running, may be used for filing. (E.C. §§ 8101, 8105)

### **Declaration of Candidacy**

The Declaration of Candidacy shall be obtained from, and delivered to, the Elections Office of the county in which the candidate resides and is a voter. A candidate shall not remove a Declaration of Candidacy form from the Elections Office; said form shall be completed in the Elections Office. A candidate may, in a written statement signed and dated by the candidate, designate a person to receive a Declaration of Candidacy form and deliver it to the candidate. Such statement shall indicate that the candidate is aware that the Declaration of Candidacy must be properly executed and delivered to the Elections Office in the County of the candidate's residence not later than 5:00 p.m., on the last day to file. (E.C. §§ 8028, 8064)

It is suggested that prospective candidates for the coming election obtain the necessary forms as soon as possible on or after the first day to circulate and file, and that the papers be filed as soon as completed as to allow the Elections Department adequate time to review documents. **If the papers are found "Not Sufficient" after the 88<sup>th</sup> day, no additions or corrections can be made.** The Elections Office will assist any candidate in the proper preparation of their nomination documents.

In all cases it is suggested that more than the minimum number of signatures be obtained so that in case any are marked "Not Sufficient," there will be enough "Sufficient" signatures remaining to validate the nomination paper.

All expenditures of \$100 or more must be paid by check or other written instrument. A candidate MAY NOT pay the filing fee in cash.

### **Signatures In-Lieu (E.C. §§ 8061, 8106)**

A candidate may submit a petition containing signatures of registered voters in-lieu of a filing fee to cover all or any pro-rata portion, of the filing fee. The Petition In-Lieu form may be obtained from the county elections official starting 155 days prior to Election Day (filing period adjusted due to potential redistricting). The petitions must be filed with the county elections official no later than the close of business 118 days prior to Election Day, and prior to filing a Declaration of Intention.

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

Petitions must be filed with the county elections official in the county where it circulated no later than 5:00 pm February 4, 2026.

Within 10 days of filing the signatures in-lieu, the county elections official will notify the candidate of the number of valid signatures. No signatures in-lieu petitions can be filed after February 4, 2026.

If a candidate submits a Signatures in-lieu petition, the county elections official will also count those valid signatures appearing on the petition toward the number of voter signatures required for the candidate's nomination petition.

### **Circulating Nomination Papers**

A person shall not circulate a state or local initiative, referendum, or recall petition or nominating paper unless the person is 18 years of age or older. There is no party affiliation required of the circulator. (E.C. § 102, 8066)

An Elections Official or a Deputy Elections Official may not circulate nomination papers, and circulators shall not obtain signatures within 100 feet of any election booth or polling place. (E.C. § 8452)

NOTE: The office of the Elections Official is a polling place.

The Elections Official shall not accept any nomination paper for filing, unless all blanks in the certificate are filled in. (E.C. § 8065)

### **Signing Nomination Papers**

Nomination papers for a **Voter-Nominated Office** must be signed by voters residing within the district or political subdivision in which the candidate intends to run. (E.C. § 8068)

Nomination papers for a **Nonpartisan Office** must be signed by voters residing within the district or political subdivision in which the candidate intends to run. (E.C. § 8068)

Each signer of a nomination paper can sign only as many Nomination Papers as there are places to be filled for such office. No more signers shall be secured for any candidate than the maximum, nor less than the minimum, required for the office. (E.C. §§ 8062, 8067, 8069)

A person signing a nomination paper should sign their name as they are registered, which is usually their first name, middle initial, and last name. Married women must sign their **legal** name, and not that of their husband.

Each voter must sign and print their name on the nomination paper in the presence of the circulator, with complete residence address including house number, street name, city and zip code. Ditto marks cannot be used for residence or cities. It is important that the signer write in the above requirements. **Signers are cautioned to give their residence, and not their business or mailing address on nomination papers.**

When the desired number of signatures have been obtained, the circulator must swear to the declaration appearing at the end of each section of the nomination paper, indicating the dates between which all signatures were obtained, and return all sections to the candidate, to be left by the candidate with the Elections Office in the county in which the signers reside for examination or certification and filing. (E.C. § 104)

### **Filing Nomination Documents**

The Elections Office will not accept any declaration or nomination paper unless all blanks are filled in. Any signature that does not appear in the same handwriting as appears on the affidavit of registration on file in the Elections Office (or for a party nominated office, for which the declaration of party affiliation is not in accordance with the declaration of party affiliation on such affidavit of registration) will be marked "Not Sufficient". (E.C. §§ 8065, 8081)

All nomination papers for the General Election must be left with the Elections Office for examination and filing, or for examination, certification, and forwarding to the Secretary of State. The last day to file is Friday, **March 6, 2026**, and the Elections Office will close promptly at 5:00 p.m., after which no nomination papers will be received. (E.C. § 8020)

### **NO CANDIDATE MAY WITHDRAW**

No candidate nominated at any Primary Election may withdraw as a candidate at the ensuing General Election, except those candidates permitted to withdraw by this part. (E.C. § 8801)

### **Ballot Designation Worksheet**

The Ballot Designation Worksheet shall be filed with the elections official at the same time that the candidate files his or her Declaration of Candidacy. In the event a candidate fails to file a Ballot Designation Worksheet in accordance with subdivision (a), no designation shall appear under the candidate's name on the ballot. (E.C. § 13107.3)

You may select as your ballot designation:

- (a) Your current principal profession(s), vocation(s), or occupation(s) [maximum total of three words, separated by a "/"
- (b) The full title of the public office you currently occupy and to which you were elected
- (c) "Appointed [full title of public office]" if you currently serve by appointment in an elective public office and are seeking election to the same office or to some other office
- (d) "Incumbent" if you were elected (or, if you are a Superior Court Judge, you are a candidate for the same office that you hold) to your current public office and seek election to the same office

(e) “Appointed Incumbent” if you were appointed to your current elective public office and seek election to the same office

If your proposed ballot designation includes the word “volunteer,” indicate the title of your volunteer position and the name of the 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. You may only use the ballot designation “community volunteer” if you volunteer for a 501(c)(3) charitable, educational, or religious organization, a governmental agency or an educational institution. You may not use “community volunteer” together with another designation.

**Remember, it is your responsibility to justify your proposed ballot designation and to provide all requested details.** For your reference, attached are Elections Code sections 13107 and 13107.3, and 2 California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 20711. You may also wish to consult Elections Code section 13107.5.

(“community volunteer”) and 2 CCR sections 20712 - 20719 (found at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)).

For your reference, the relevant provisions of Elections Code section 13107 are reproduced below:

(a) With the exception of candidates for Justice of the State Supreme Court or court of appeal, immediately under the name of each candidate, and not separated from the name by any line, unless the designation made by the candidate pursuant to Section 8002.5 must be listed immediately below the name of the candidate pursuant to Section 13105, and in that case immediately under the designation, may appear at the option of the candidate only one of the following designations:

(1) Words designating the elective city, county, district, state, or federal office which the candidate holds at the time of filing the nomination documents to which he or she was elected by vote of the people.

(2) The word “incumbent” if the candidate is a candidate for the same office which he or she holds at the time of filing the nomination papers and was elected to that office by a vote of the people.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) It would mislead the voter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(g) A designation given by a candidate shall not be changed by the candidate after the final date for filing nomination documents, except as specifically requested by the elections official as specified in subdivision (f) or as provided in subdivision (h). The elections official shall maintain a copy of the ballot designation worksheet for each candidate that appears on the ballot in the county for the same period of time as applied to nomination documents pursuant to E.C. 17100.

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

### **E.C. 13107.3**

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

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

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

**E.C. 13107.5**

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

- (1) A candidate's community volunteer activities constitute his or her principal profession, vocation, or occupation.
- (2) A candidate is not engaged concurrently in another principal profession, vocation, or occupation.
- (3) A candidate may not use the designation of "community volunteer" in combination with any other principal profession, vocation, or occupation designation.

(b) The Secretary of State shall by regulation define what constitutes a community volunteer for purposes of this section.

**Printing of Candidate's Name on Ballot**

The candidate's name will be printed on the ballot exactly as it appears on the Declaration of Candidacy.

If a candidate changes his or her name within one year of any election, the new name shall not appear upon the ballot, unless the change was made by marriage or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction. (E.C. § 13104)

The ballot name should be recognizable as the name under which the candidate is registered.

- First, middle and last name.
- Initials only and last name.
- Middle name and last name – **NOT ACCEPTABLE**.

Must be preceded by first name - RICHARD "MARTY" SMITH cannot use MARTY SMITH (shortened version of middle name MARTIN)

- A nickname may be included but must appear after the first name and be in quotation marks " ". **NO** parentheses ( ).
- A short version of the first name is acceptable, such as "BILL" for WILLIAM, "DICK" for RICHARD or "KATHY" for KATHLEEN, "MANDO" for ARMANDO. So, the name could be BILL JONES, instead of WILLIAM JONES (FIRST name)
- No title or degree shall appear on the same line on a ballot as a candidate's name, either before or after the candidate's name, in the case of any election to any office. (E.C. §13106) (Note: Can be used in the candidate's statement)

Further examples: JOHN WILLIAM SMITH could use the following variations as JOHN SMITH, JOHN W. SMITH, JOHN WILLIAM “JOHNNY” SMITH, J.W. SMITH, J.W. “JOHNNY” SMITH, JOHN W. “BUD” SMITH, Etc.

## **Statement of Economic Interest Form: Form 700**

The Conflict-of-Interest provisions of the Political Reform Act of 1974, as amended, require that certain candidates file a Statement of Economic Interests no later than the final filing date for Declaration of Candidacy.

All Candidates are required to file a Form 700 with the exception of candidates for US Senate and Congress. (Gov. C. §§ 87200-87201)

Statements of Economic Interest must be filed no later than the final date for filing the Declaration of Candidacy. This filing is not required if the candidate has filed within the past 60 days for the same jurisdiction.

Candidates must disclose interest in real property and investments as of the date of filing. A person elected to office will be required to file annual statements while in office. (Gov. C. §§ 87201, 87203)

Forms and instructions will be given to the candidates when the nomination papers are issued. The Statements of Economic Interests are filed with the Elections Office. (Gov. C. § 87201)

*Not required for US Senate Candidate, Congressional Candidates and Central Committee Candidates.*

## **Write-In Candidacy**

April 6, 2026 – May 19, 2026

### **Write-In Procedure**

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

To qualify as a write-in candidate, a person must file with the Elections Division the following documents:

- A “Statement of Write-in Candidacy” which shall contain the candidate's name, residence address, a declaration stating that he or she is a write-in candidate, the title of the office for which he or she is running, the party nomination they seek (if it is a partisan office) and the date of the election.
- A “Nomination Paper” with the requisite number of sponsor signatures required for the office sought.

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. No filing fee or charge shall be required of a write-in candidate. (E.C. §§ 8601-8605)

Write-in candidates are subject to the same requirements as other candidates with regard to disclosure of economic interests and campaign disclosure and must file a form 700 by the write-in filing deadline. (Gov. C. § 82007; E.C. § 305)

Write-in Candidates do not complete a Candidate Statement of Qualifications for the Voter Pamphlet and their names do not appear on the ballot.

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

#### NO WRITE-INS FOR VOTER-NOMINATED OFFICES AT GENERAL ELECTION

A person may not run as a write-in candidate at the General Election for a voter-nominated office. (E.C. § 8600(c))

#### COUNTING THE WRITE-IN VOTES

In order for a write-in vote to be valid, the voter must write the candidate's name in the space provided and completely fill in the oval. The names of the official write-in candidates are provided at the polls. Vote by mail voters do not receive a list of write-in candidates because the filing period takes place after ballots have been mailed.

#### OFFICES OMITTED FROM BALLOT

Prospective write-in candidates should note that write-in candidacy is possible only if the office appears on the ballot.

## **Candidate Statement**

### **Filing of Statement is not mandatory, but permissive if the candidate desires to file.**

The Statement shall be prepared on a form provided by the Elections Official and the candidate shall file the Statement, if any, when the candidate files the Declaration of Candidacy or when the Candidate's Nomination papers are returned for filing or before the last day of the nomination period for a Candidate who has filed nomination papers in another county and is eligible to file in Kern County. Runoff Candidates must file a new Candidate Statement if they wish to have it included in the General Election Voter Pamphlet, the deadline is the 88<sup>th</sup> day before the General Election. Runoff candidates may use previous statement, but it must be refiled and paid for it to appear in the General Election Voter Pamphlet, it will not automatically appear.

It may be withdrawn, but not changed, during the nomination period, and until 5 p.m. of the next working day after the close of nomination period.

The statement may include the name, age and occupation of the candidate and a brief description of no more than 200 or 250 (depending on office filing for, refer to candidate pages for further information on requirements for candidate statements) words, of the candidate's education and **qualifications expressed by the candidate himself, or herself.**

The governing body of the local agency may authorize an increase in the limitations on words for the statement from 200 to 400 words.

Candidates Statement should be typewritten, double-spaced, and in standard paragraph style. **Do not use** bullets, stars, asterisks, tables, lists, or other material requiring indentation. Words that are underlined, in italics, in bold, or in all upper-case will be typeset in italics. Exercise caution as **neither**

**grammar nor spelling** will be proofread or changed. All Statements will be printed in uniform style and size of type.

The statement shall not include the party affiliation of the candidate, nor membership or activity in partisan political organizations.

The statement must not be written in third person or quote other persons.

Formatting Not Permitted:

- Extra indentations
- Bold text
- Underlining of words
- Italics
- Graphics
- Extra punctuation
- Capitalized words for added emphasis
- Bullets of any kind

In addition to the above restrictions, any candidate's statement submitted by a candidate 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 which the Elections Official determines is not so limited or that includes any reference prohibited by this section. (E.C. § 13308)

All costs of printing, handling, etc., shall be paid by the candidate upon filing of the statement.

The provisions, conditions, and restrictions of the law are as follows:

Except as provided in Elections Section 13309, 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.

The elections official shall send to each voter, together with the sample ballot, a voter's pamphlet which contains the written statements of each candidate that is prepared pursuant to this section. The statement of each candidate shall be printed in type of uniform size and darkness, and with uniform spacing. The Elections Official shall provide a Spanish translation for candidates.

Nothing in this statement shall be deemed to make any such 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 or contained in the voter pamphlet. (E.C. § 13307)

Any candidate in an election or incumbent in a recall election who knowingly makes a false statement of material fact in a Candidate's statement, prepared pursuant to Election Code Section 13307 or 11327, with the intent to mislead the voters in connection with his or her campaign for nomination or election to a nonpartisan office is punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). (E.C. § 18351)

A candidate for judicial office 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 judicial office or to another candidate's qualifications, character, or activities. The Elections Official shall not

cause to be printed or circulated any statement which the Elections Official determines is not so limited or which includes any such references. (E.C. § 13308)

Under California Law, the Elections official shall mail a county voter information guide no later than 21 days prior to the election. (E.C. § 13303(a))

Under California Law, the Elections Official shall begin mailing a vote by mail ballot to every registered voter no later than 29 days prior to the election. (E.C. § 3000.5)

The local agency may estimate the total cost of printing, handling, translating, and mailing the candidate's statements filed pursuant to this section, including costs incurred as a result of complying with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended. The local agency may require each candidate filing a statement to pay in advance to the local agency his or her estimated pro rata share as a condition of having his or her statement included in the voter's pamphlet. In the event the estimated payment is required, the receipt for the payment shall include a written notice that the estimate is just an approximation of the actual cost that varies from one election to another election and may be significantly more or less than the estimate, depending on the actual number of candidates filing statements. Accordingly, the local agency is not bound by the estimate and may, on a pro rata basis, bill the candidate for additional actual expense or refund any excess paid depending on the final actual cost. In the event of underpayment, the local agency may require the candidate to pay the balance of the cost incurred. In the event of overpayment, the local agency or the elections official who collected the estimated cost shall prorate the excess amount among the candidates and refund the excess amount paid within 30 days of the election. (E.C. § 13307)

### **Candidate Statement Confidential**

Statements shall remain confidential until the expiration of the filing deadline. (E.C. § 13311)

Notwithstanding the provisions of the California Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5) commencing with Section 62501 of Division 5 of Title 1 of the Government Code, the statements filed pursuant to Section 13307 shall remain confidential until the expiration of the filing deadline. (E.C. § 13311)

### **Rules Governing Filing of Candidate's Statement**

(E.C. §§ 13307, 13307.5, 13308, 13309, 13311, 13313)

The law permits the following Voter-Nominated offices to file an optional **250 -word** Candidate's Statement to be mailed with the Voter Pamphlet:

- Congressional Representatives
- State Senate (if expenditure limits were accepted)
- State Assembly (if expenditure limits were accepted)

The law permits the following Non-Partisan offices to file an optional **200 -word** Candidate's Statement to be mailed with the Voter Pamphlet:

- Superior Court Judges
- County Seats: Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
  - Assessor-Recorder
  - Board of Supervisors
  - District Attorney
  - Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator
  - Superintendent of Schools

- Treasurer-Tax Collector
- School Governing Board Members
- Special District Directors

The law permits the following Non-Partisan offices to file an optional **200 -word** Candidate's Statement to be mailed with the Voter Pamphlet:

- City Offices (file with City Clerks)

### **Elections Office Policy**

It is the policy of the Kern County Elections Office that if a candidate statement is determined not to be in compliance with Elections Code, the Elections Office may: strike any language not in compliance, may not print or circulate the statement, or seek a writ of mandate or an injunction, requiring that the candidate statement be amended or deleted.

It is the policy of the Kern County Election Office that the candidate be fully responsible for ensuring that all spelling, punctuation, and grammar in a candidate statement are correct. The Elections Office is not responsible for proofreading, spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors.

It is the policy of the Kern County Elections Office that any named individual or specific organization listed as an endorsement in a candidate statement must be verified as endorsing the candidate prior to printing in the Voter Pamphlet. Verification of the endorsement must be in the form of a copy of a letter of endorsement, or in a direct communication from the endorser to the Elections Office in the form of an email or facsimile correspondence. All endorsements or verification of endorsements from an individual or organization of a candidate should be submitted by the candidate no later than five days after the end of the filing period.

#### Example A:

"... I am endorsed by County Supervisor John Doe, Senator Jane Smith, and the League of Women Voters."

The Elections Office would require an email, facsimile or copy of the letter of endorsement from Supervisor Doe, Senator Smith, and the League of Women Voters to allow these endorsements to be printed.

#### Example B:

"... I am endorsed by police, firefighters, nurses, and teachers throughout Kern County."

The Election Office would not require verification of the endorsement because the statement does not identify a specific individual or organization.

**Word Counting Guidelines for Candidate Statements/Arguments/Rebuttals & Other Enclosures**

(Elections Code Division 0.5 Preliminary Provisions, Chapter 1. General Provisions, Section 9)

The following guidelines are used by the Kern County Elections Office for counting words on candidate statements, ballot measure text, arguments, rebuttals and other ballot enclosures. The guidelines do **not** apply to ballot designations for candidates except as incorporated in California Administrative Code Section 20714 (f). If the text exceeds the specified 200 or 250-word limit, the author will be asked to delete words or change text until the statement conforms with requirements.

<b>PUNCTUATION MARKS</b>	Punctuation marks are not counted. However, symbols such as “&” (and), and “#” (number/pound) are not considered punctuation and each symbol is counted as one (1) word.	“ ” “ , ” “ , ”
<b>ALL PROPER NOUNS</b>	All proper nouns, including the names of individuals, things, and Geographical names (requiring a defined jurisdiction) are counted as one (1) word.	"City of Bakersfield", "County of Kern", "George Washington"
<b>ABBREVIATIONS and ACRONYMS</b>	Acronyms or abbreviations for a word, phrase, or expression are counted as one (1) word.	CSUB, PTA, UCSB, U.S.M.C.
<b>HYPHENATED WORDS</b>	Hyphenated words that appear in any generally available standard reference dictionary published in the U.S. at any time within the last 10 calendar years immediately preceding the election are counted as one (1) word. Be aware that many word processing programs will count a hyphenated word as one word even if it does not fit these criteria.	Attorney-at-law, full-time (as an adjective), in-law
<b>NUMERIC COMBINATIONS</b>	Numeric combinations will be counted as one (1) word.  Numeric combinations consisting of a combination of words and digits are counted as multiple words.	15,000, 13 1/2, 5%, 03/05/2024, \$200,000  Six %, July 4, 2012, December Twenty-Fifth, \$15 million
<b>TELEPHONE and FAX NUMBERS</b>	Telephone and fax numbers are counted as (1) word.	(661) 868-3590, 1-800-345-VOTE
<b>EMAIL ADDRESSES and WEBSITES</b>	Email addresses and websites are counted as (1) word.	<a href="http://www.kernvote.com">http://www.kernvote.com</a> <a href="http://www.sos.ca.gov">www.sos.ca.gov</a>

**DEFINITION OF A PROPER NOUN:**

A word or group of words (such as “Noah Webster,” “California,” or “U.S. Congress”) that is the name of a particular person, place, or thing and that usually begins with a capital letter.

**Candidate Statement Example**

The statement may contain the name, age, occupation of the candidate and a brief description of qualifications. Occupation and Age are optional. Despite the formatting changes mentioned below, the statement will be printed exactly as submitted, including any errors. Carefully check for spelling, punctuation, and grammar before filing. Word document must be emailed to The Elections Department at the time of filing.

**NO MORE THAN 200 WORDS.**

**TO BE PAID BY: CANDIDATE**

**CANDIDATE FOR KERN COUNTY WATER COMMISSIONER** Age is optional

**All statements must be in first-person** prepared in upper and lower-case letterings, block paragraph style. Any submission presented in third person will be deemed non-compliant and must be resubmitted accordingly.

No **bolding**, *Italics*, List, Centering, or Underlining (unless it is a website).

No graphics or characters such as bullets, asterisks, or other symbols.

Cannot be handwritten, must be typed.

Name: Joe Napa  
Occupation: Farmer

I live in Kern County. I believe all residents deserve to have excellent service and have a representative who has knowledge of the water crisis in Kern County. **John Appleseed has NO knowledge** of the water quality in Kern Couty. All **He** is interest is in **cheating the citizens of Kern County and ruining the Water System.**  
**VOTE FOR ME! Joe Napa!**  
[www.joenapa.vote](http://www.joenapa.vote)

Name: John Appleseed  
Occupation: Orchard Owner  
Age: 50

As a local orchard owner, I fully understand the importance water has in our county, and that is why I am running for Kern County Water Commissioner.

Something we all have in common is water as a necessity and I plan to make sure Kern County always has enough to meet our needs. While water is one of our basic needs in life, some of us depend on water to provide for our life.

I am aware of the regular household needs for water, including wanting to bathe your new puppy, to the needs of the local farmers needing to irrigate the land and crops to provide for their families, and in doing so also help our local economy thrive.

As a young adult, I traveled extensively across this great country of ours and have been able to see what works and, just as importantly, what doesn't work.

We literally let water go down the drain, so as Kern County Water Commissioner I will prioritize water storage.

I'd be honored to have your vote for Kern County Water Commissioner, so I can help our county flow in the right direction.

Endorsed by Family Farms.

**Example of unacceptable candidate statement.**

The highlighted portions are examples of what is not allowed in the candidate statement including referring to another candidate and improper formatting such as using italics, bolding, improper capitalization, non-uniform spacing, and using various size fonts.

Must have written proof of endorsements at the time of submission.

## Cost of the Candidate Statement

Each candidate that desires to file a statement will be required to pay in full at the time of filing their statement. The amount is based upon the number of registered voters in the district for the office for which they are filing. If the actual costs are less than the payment, the overage will be refunded to the candidate. If a refund is warranted it will be processed after the close of candidate filing.

### **All costs of printing, handling, translating, etc. shall be paid by the candidate.**

The candidate's statement may include the name, age, and occupation of the candidate and a brief description of the candidate's education and qualifications expressed by the candidate. Such statement shall not include the party affiliation of the candidate nor membership or activity in partisan political organizations. Such statement shall be filed in the Elections Office no later than the 88th day before the election.

The local agency may estimate the total cost of printing, handling, translating, and mailing the candidate's statement filed pursuant to this section, including costs incurred as a result of complying with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, and may require each candidate filing a statement to pay in advance to the local agency his or her estimated pro rata share as a condition of having his or her statement included in the voter pamphlet. In the event of underpayment, the Elections Official shall require the candidate to pay the balance of the costs incurred. In the event of overpayment, the Elections Official shall pro rate the excess share among the candidates paying estimated costs and refund the excess amount paid within 30 days of the election. If you believe that you may meet eligibility requirements to claim indigency status, please advise us and we will provide you with an application.

### **Congressional Offices**

District	Word Statement	Cost of Statement	Cost of Statement (Electronically)
US Congressional Representative 20 <sup>th</sup> District	250	\$5,147.34	\$5,069.34
US Congressional Representative 22 <sup>nd</sup> District	250	\$4,668.40	\$4,590.40
US Congressional Representative 23 <sup>rd</sup> District	250	\$589.18	\$511.18

### **State Legislature Offices**

District	Word Statement	Cost of Statement	Cost of Statement (Electronically)
12 <sup>th</sup> Senatorial District	250	\$5,534.81	\$5,456.81
16 <sup>th</sup> Senatorial District	250	\$4,473.11	\$4,395.11
32 <sup>nd</sup> Assembly District	250	\$4,960.73	\$4,882.73
34 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	250	\$882.38	\$804.38
35 <sup>th</sup> Assembly District	250	\$4,561.80	\$4,483.80

**Judicial Offices**

District	Word Statement	Cost of Statement	Cost of Statement (Electronically)
Judge Superior Court Office #16	200	\$9,610.92	\$9,532.92
Judge Superior Court Office #21	200	\$9,610.92	\$9,532.92
Judge Superior Court Office #24	200	\$9,610.92	\$9,532.92
Judge Superior Court Office #26	200	\$9,610.92	\$9,532.92
Judge Superior Court Office #31	200	\$9,610.92	\$9,532.92
Judge Superior Court Office #32	200	\$9,610.92	\$9,532.92
Judge Superior Court Office #35	200	\$9,610.92	\$9,532.92
Judge Superior Court Office #37	200	\$9,610.92	\$9,532.92

**County Offices**

Office	Word Statement	Cost of Statement	Cost of Statement (Electronically)
County Board of Supervisors District 2	200	\$2,354.55	\$2,276.55
County Board of Supervisors District 3	200	\$2,332.89	\$2,254.89
Assessor	200	\$9,610.92	\$9,532.92
Auditor-Controller-County Clerk	200	\$9,610.92	\$9,532.92
Treasurer	200	\$9,610.92	\$9,532.92
County Superintendent	200	\$9,610.92	\$9,532.92

State Legislative Candidates who have **voluntarily agreed** to the expenditure limitations set forth in Gov. C. §85400, may purchase a 250-word candidate statement in the Voter Pamphlet. The statement may not reference any opponent of the candidate. The statement must meet the county time frames for submittal. Statement may vary from county to county and must be paid for in each county. [Gov. C. §§ 85400, 85601(c)]

Kern County Ordinance (Chapter 2.130.010 – 2.130.230). Any person who is running for **Supervisor** or a **Countywide Office** who voluntarily accepted the Local Campaign Finance expenditure limits **prior** to accepting contributions, is entitled to a free candidate statement in the Kern County Voter Pamphlet. If you remain unopposed at the close of nominations, you may either choose to withdraw your candidate statement OR be billed for the cost of its inclusion in the Voter Pamphlet. If withdrawn, the statement will appear on the Elections website but will not be included in materials mailed to voters.

## Candidate's Checklist

Listed below is an informal checklist indicating some of the various mandatory and optional forms to be filed for candidates running in June 2, 2026, Primary Election. It is the obligation of the candidate, incumbents, and challengers, to ensure that filing requirements and deadlines have been met. All candidates are urged to file the required documents as early as possible to avoid a last-minute rush, confusion or misunderstanding. Additionally, it is recommended that the candidate file all documents personally.

Document	Applies To	Filing Period
<b>Campaign Disclosure Statements</b>	<b>All candidates that will be opening a committee.</b>	<b>File with the appropriate office</b>
<b>Petition in Lieu</b>	<b>Optional for all Voter-Nominated and Nonpartisan Candidates that have a filing fee. Period to circulate and file in lieu of filing fee – all candidates. Petitions for Judicial candidates must be filed at the time of, or prior to, filing the Declaration of Intent.</b>	<b>12/19/2025 – 02/04/2026 (E-165) to (E-118)</b>
<b>Declaration of Intent</b>	<b>Judicial Candidates only. Non-refundable filing fee due at this time.</b>	<b>01/26/2026 – 02/04/2026 (E-127) to (E-118)</b>
<b>Extension Period for Declaration of Intent</b>	<b>Anyone other than the incumbent judge who did not file. Extension period for filing Declaration of Intent <i>when incumbent fails to file.</i></b>	<b>02/05/2026 – 02/09/2026 (E-117) to (E-113)</b>
<b>Declaration of Candidacy</b>	<b>All Candidates</b>	<b>02/09/2026 – 03/06/2026 (E-113) to (E-88)</b>
<b>Nomination Forms</b>	<b>Candidates are required to file.</b>	<b>02/09/2026 – 03/06/2026 (E-113) to (E-88)</b>
<b>Code of Fair Campaign Practices</b>	<b>Optional for all Candidates</b>	<b>File during candidate filing period.</b>
<b>Candidate Statement</b>	<b>Optional for all Voter-Nominated/Nonpartisan Candidates</b>	<b>02/09/2026 - 03/06/2026 (E-113) to (E-88) Must be filed and paid for before signing Declaration of Candidacy</b>
<b>Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700)</b>	<b>Required for all Voter-Nominated/Nonpartisan Candidates Exceptions: US Senate, Congress, and Central Committee candidates do not file.</b>	<b>02/09/2026 - 03/06/2026 (E-113) to (E-88) File with the Declaration of Candidacy</b>
<b>Extension Period for Declaration of Candidacy</b>	<b>Anyone other than the incumbent who did not file.</b>	<b>03/07/2026 – 03/11/2026 (E-87) to (E-83)</b>

<p><b>for Voter-Nominated and Nonpartisan</b></p>	<p><b>Extension period for filing nomination documents <u>when incumbent fails to file nomination documents</u>. This extension will not apply if the incumbent failed to file nomination documents because of term limits.</b></p>	
<p><b>Write-in Period</b></p>	<p><b>For all Candidates that did not file during the regular filing period.</b></p>	<p><b>04/06/2026 – 05/19/2026 (E-57) to (E-14)</b></p>

Please note that the above listing does not include all forms that will be signed when you come into the office to file for office. It is intended to give a summary of some of the forms and required deadlines.

**It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure all filing requirements and deadlines are met.**

\*NOTE: Where the day on, before, or within which the law prescribes the performance of these duties falls on a Saturday, Sunday or a holiday, it is indicated that the same must or may be performed on the preceding business day or on the next following business day, depending on whether, considering the nature of the act or duty to be performed, the law requires that the time be restricted or permits such time to be extended.

## 2026 Primary Election Calendar

All code sections are California Election codes unless otherwise noted.

<b>01/05/2026 (E-148)</b>	<p><b>Governor's Proclamation - Issuance</b> By this date, the governor shall issue a proclamation calling the General 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. E.C. § 12000</p>
<b>01/13/2026 (E-140)</b>	<p><b>Amended Candidate Intention Statement</b> Last day to file an amended form 501 to accept the expenditure ceiling for the general election. Gov. Code §§ 85200, 85400, 85401, 85600, 85601(c)</p>
<b>01/22/2026 – 02/11/2026 (E-131 to E-111)</b>	<p><b>Candidate Statements in the State Voter Information Guide – Statewide Constitutional Office and United States Senator</b> Period in which statewide constitutional office and United States Senator candidates may purchase space for a 250-word statement in the state Voter Information Guide. A candidate for statewide constitutional office may purchase space for a statement only if a Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501) has been filed and the candidate has agreed to accept the expenditure limits. Gov. Code §§ 85601(a), 9084(i)</p>
<b>01/26/2026 – 02/09/2026 (E-127 to E-113)</b>	<p><b>Cities Publish Election Notice</b> Between these dates, any city that is consolidating an election with the November general will publish a Notice of Election one time in a newspaper of general circulation stating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The date and polling hours of the election</li> <li>• Any offices to be filled and any measure to be voted on, including a synopsis of each measure. E.C. §§ 12101, 12111</li> </ul>
<b>01/28/2026 (E-125)</b>	<p><b>Notice of Elective Offices</b> The District Secretary's transmittal form must be filed with the Registrar of Voters by this date. The notice shall bear the secretary's signature and the district seal and must contain: (a) The elective offices of the district to be filled during the next general district election; and (b) Whether the district or the candidate is to pay for the publication of a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications pursuant to E.C. §§ 10509, 13307.</p>
<b>02/02/2026 – 03/04/2026 (E-120 to E-90)</b>	<p><b>Notice of Election</b> The Registrar of Voters shall publish 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 Declarations of Candidacy 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.</p>

	The Registrar of Voters shall deliver a copy of the published notice to each district secretary, who shall post it in the district office. E.C. §§ 12112, 12113; Ed. C. §§ 5361, 5363
<b>02/09/2026 – 03/06/2026 (E-113 to E-88)</b>	<b>Nomination Period</b> Period for candidates to circulate and/or file nomination documents including the Declaration of Candidacy. E.C. §§ 8020, 8100
<b>02/09/2026 – 03/06/2026 (E-113 to E-88)</b>	<b>Statement of Qualifications for City/School/Special District Candidates</b> Between these dates, candidates may prepare a statement of qualifications, not to exceed 200 words, to be included in the County Voter Information Guide. The statement shall be filed and paid for at the time the Declaration of Candidacy is filed. <b>The statement may be withdrawn, but not changed, during the nomination period and until 5:00 PM of the next working day after the close of the nomination period.</b> If the nomination period is extended, then a candidate may withdraw the statement the next working day after the close of the extended period for that office. E.C. § 13307.
<b>02/09/2026 – 03/06/2026 (E-113 to E-88)</b>	<b>Candidate Statements in the County Voter Information Guide</b> Period in which candidates for United States Representative in Congress, State Senator, and Member of the State Assembly may purchase space for a 250-word candidate statement in the county voter information guide(s) of the county or counties in their jurisdiction. Candidates may purchase space for a candidate statement only if they have agreed to the voluntary expenditure limits on their Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501). Gov. Code. § 85601(c); E.C. §§ 13307.7, 13307.5
<b>02/24/2026 (E-98)</b>	<b>Change of Candidate’s Designation on Ballot</b> The last day that any candidate may request in writing a different ballot designation than that used at the primary election. The written request shall be accompanied by a ballot designation worksheet. This request should be made to both the Secretary of State and the county elections official. Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 2, § 20711(e); E.C. § 13107(h)
<b>03/07/2026 – 03/11/2026 (E-87 to E-83)</b>	<b>Candidate Filing Extension</b> If the incumbent fails to file by the end of the nomination period, there shall be a 5-day extension for anyone other than the incumbent to file for office. This extension shall not apply if the incumbent failed to file because of term limits. E.C. §§ 8022, 8024

## Runoff Candidates for the General Election November 3, 2026

<b>02/24/2026 (E-98)</b>	<b>Last day</b> to change occupational designation – New Ballot Designation Worksheet must be completed and submitted.
<b>03/06/2026 (E-88)</b>	<b>Last day</b> to file and pay for candidate’s statement. Must contact other counties about cost and submitting a candidate statement in that county.

<b>03/12/2026 (E-82)</b>	<p><b>Random Drawing</b> On this date, the Secretary of State holds a drawing of randomized alphabet to determine the order of candidates on the General ballot. The Elections Division holds a separate random drawing for state legislative offices. E.C. §§ 13111(i), 13112</p>
<b>4/06/2026 – 5/19/2026 (E-57 to E-14)</b>	<p><b>Write-In Candidates</b> Period write-in candidates may file a statement of write-in candidacy and nomination papers. E.C. § 8601</p>
<b>04/23/2026 – 05/12/2026 (E-40 to E-21)</b>	<p><b>Counties Mail County Voter Information Guides</b> Between these dates the county elections official shall mail a county Voter Information Guide and polling place notice to each registered voter.</p> <p><b>State Voter Information Guide Mailing</b> Between these dates the Secretary of State shall mail State Voter Information Guides to all households in which voters were registered by 9/19/2022 (E-50). E.C. §§ 9094, 13303, 13304</p>
<b>05/04/2026 – 05/26/2026 (E-29 to E-7)</b>	<p><b>Vote-by-Mail Voting</b> No later than this date, 29 days before the day of the election, the Registrar of Voters will mail 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. E.C. § 4005(a)(8)(A) &amp; (B)</p>
<b>05/18/2026 (E-15)</b>	<p><b>15-day Voter Registration</b> Deadline to register to vote in the general election. The Voter Registration Form shall be mailed (postmarked by this date), received online by midnight, or delivered to the county elections official by this date and is effective upon receipt. The Voter Registration Form may also be submitted by this date to the Secretary of State, Department of Motor Vehicles, or any National Voter Registration Act designated agency. 52 U.S.C. § 20301; E.C. §§ 300(b), 321, 2102, 3102</p> <p>Deadline for military or overseas voters to register to vote. A request for a vote-by-mail ballot from a military or overseas voter, if postmarked on or before this date, will be deemed an affidavit of registration and an application for permanent vote-by-mail status. When a county elections official receives and approves a registration application from a military or overseas voter, the official must provide that voter with a vote-by-mail <b>ballot for each</b> subsequent election for federal office in the state unless the voter fails to vote in four consecutive statewide general elections. E.C. § 3102</p>

<p><b>05/19/2026 – 06/02/2026</b> <b>(E-14 to E-0)</b></p>	<p><b>Conditional Voter Registration</b> During the period 14 days prior to Election Day and including Election Day, an individual can go to the Elections Division Office to conditionally register to vote and vote a provisional ballot. Additionally, a voter may complete a CVR and vote provisionally at the poll sites on Election Day. E.C. §§ 2170-2173</p>
<p><b>06/02/2026</b> <b>(E-0)</b></p>	<p><b>Day of Election</b> Polls open at 7am and close at 8pm. E.C. §§ 1000, 14212</p>
<p><b>06/04/2026</b> <b>(E+2)</b></p>	<p><b>Official Canvass</b> The canvass of the election returns shall commence no later than the first Thursday following the election. E.C. § 15301</p>
<p><b>06/09/2026</b> <b>(E+7)</b></p>	<p><b>Mailed Vote-By-Mail Ballots – Last Day to be Received</b> Any vote by mail ballot shall be deemed timely if it is received by the Elections Division Office via the United States Postal Service or a bona fide private mail delivery company no later than 7 days after Election Day and the vote by mail envelope is post marked on or before Election Day. E.C. §§ 3011, 3017, 3020(b), (c)</p>
<p><b>07/02/2026</b> <b>(E+30)</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline to Certify the Election</b> No later than this date, the county elections official must complete the canvass, and certify the results of the elections. Results will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors to declare the nominees or winners for each office and the results of each measure under its jurisdiction. The county elections official shall make and deliver to each person elected a certificate of election. E.C. §§ 15372, 15400, 15401</p>
<p><b>07/03/2026</b> <b>(E+31)</b></p>	<p><b>Statement of Results to the Secretary of State</b> No later than this date the elections official shall send one copy of the Statement of Vote to the Secretary of State. E.C. § 15375</p>
<p><b>07/10/2026</b> <b>(E+38)</b></p>	<p><b>Certificates of Election – All Voter Nominated Offices</b> The Secretary of State shall issue certificates of election to people elected to US Senate, Congress, and legislative offices. E.C. §§ 15503, 15504</p>

## **Important Notice to Candidates: Incompatibility of Offices**

*Please note that it is not within the purview of this office to determine whether a candidate meets the requirements for holding office.*

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

Elections Code §10603(c) states that no person shall file nomination papers for more than one school district office, including a county board of education office, at the same election. In addition, Elections Code §8003(b) states no person may file nomination papers for a party nomination and an independent nomination for the same office, or for more than one office at the same election.

The Declaration of Candidacy for statewide offices signed by the candidate under penalty of perjury declares: "I meet the statutory and constitutional qualifications for this office (including, but not limited to, citizenship, residency, and party preference, if required)." and "If nominated, I will accept the nomination and not withdraw, except as permitted by state law."  
" (E.C. § 8040)

The Declaration of Candidacy for nonpartisan offices signed by the candidate under penalty of perjury declares: "If elected, I will qualify and accept the office of \_\_\_\_\_ and serve to the best of my ability."  
(E.C § 10511)

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

a) A public officer, including, but not limited to, an appointed or elected member of a governmental board, commission, committee, or other body, shall not simultaneously hold two public offices that are incompatible. Offices are incompatible when any of the following circumstances are present, unless simultaneous holding of the particular offices is compelled or expressly authorized by law:

(1) Either of the offices may audit, overrule, remove members of, dismiss employees of, or exercise supervisory powers over the other office or body.

(2) Based on the powers and jurisdiction of the offices, there is a possibility of a significant clash of duties or loyalties between the offices.

(3) Public policy considerations make it improper for one person to hold both offices.

(b) When two public offices are incompatible, a public officer shall be deemed to have forfeited the first office upon acceding to the second. This provision is enforceable pursuant to Section 803 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(c) This section does not apply to a position of employment, including a civil service position.

(d) This section shall not apply to a governmental body that has only advisory powers.

(e) For purposes of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), a member of a multimember body holds an office that may audit, overrule, remove members of, dismiss employees of, or exercise supervisory powers over another office when the body has any of these powers over the other office or over a multimember body that includes that other office.

(f) This section codifies the common law rule prohibiting an individual from holding incompatible public offices. (Gov. C. § 1099)

The courts have defined this concept as follows: "One individual may not simultaneously hold two public offices where the functions of the offices concerned are inherently inconsistent, as where there

are conflicting interests, or where the nature of the duties of the two offices is such as to render it improper due to considerations of public policy for one person to retain both.”

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

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

If you have a question about whether two public offices which you hold or seek to hold would be considered incompatible, contact the Attorney General’s office at (916) 324-5437 or visit their website, [www.oag.ca.gov](http://www.oag.ca.gov). For further information about conflict of interest or incompatibility of offices, contact the Fair Political Practices Commission’s website at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov), or phone toll free 1(866) 275-3772.

## **Residency Law**

### **Election Code Section 349 Defines Residence**

(a) “Residence” for voting purposes means a person’s domicile.

(b) The domicile of a person is that place in which his or her habitation is fixed, wherein the person has the intention of remaining, and to which, whenever he or she is absent, the person has the intention of returning. At a given time, a person may have only one domicile.

(c) The residence of a person is that place in which the person’s habitation is fixed for some period of time, but wherein he or she does not have the intention of remaining. At a given time, a person may have more than one residence.

As both Elections Code section 349(b) and Government Code Section 244(b) provide, a person has only one domicile at any given time. The main test for determining a person’s domicile is “physical presence plus an intention to make that place his permanent home.”

Courts, and the Attorney General’s office, have generally considered a range of factors as indicia of a person’s domicile, including where the person sleeps, the address shown on the person’s voter registration, driver’s license, vehicle registration, homeowner’s exemption (if any), other official papers such as tax records, and telephone listing; the person’s mailing address for such things as bills and invoices; the location of bank accounts; where the majority of the person’s business and personal contacts are; and the acts and declarations of the person.

“Habitation” is defined by Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary (9th ed. 1983) at page 545, as “a dwelling place;” “dwelling” is defined as “a shelter (as a house or building) in which people live.” (*Collier v. Menzel*, (2nd Dist. 1985) 176 Cal.App.3d 24.)

**A. Domicile Requires a Union of Act and Intent.**

Elections Code Section 2024 provides that: “The mere intention to acquire a new domicile, without the fact of removal avails nothing, neither does the fact of removal without the intention.” This provision embodies the principle that “two elements are indispensable to accomplishing a change of domicile: actual residence in the new locality plus the intent to remain there.” (*Demiglio v. Mashore*, (1990) 4 Cal.App.4th 1260; see also *Fenton v. Board of Directors*, 156 Cal.App.3d at 1112.)

**B. A Candidate May Have More than One Residence. But Only a Single Domicile, at Any Given Time.**

“ ‘[D]omicile’ is the one location with which for legal purposes a person is considered to have the most settled and permanent connection... ; whereas ‘residence’ connotes any factual place of abode of some permanency, more than a mere temporary sojourn.” (*Smith v. Smith* (1955) 45 Cal.2d 235.) Thus, “a person may have only one domicile at a given time, but he may have more than one physical residence separate from his domicile, and at the same time.” *Id.*; see also *DeMiglio v. Mashore*, 4 Cal.App.4th at 1268 (“At any given time there can be only one domicile.”).

Emphasizing the singularity of a domicile, **Elections Code § 349** provides, in pertinent part, that:

“(b) The domicile of a person is that place in which his or her habitation is fixed, wherein the person has the intention of remaining, and to which, whenever he or she is absent, the person has the intention of returning. At a given time a person may have only one domicile.”

By contrast, **Elections Code § 349(c)** provides that, “[a]t a given time, a person may have more than one residence.” (*Whittel v. Franchise Tax Board*, 231 Cal. App.2d (a person may have “several ‘residences’ for different purposes.”))

**C. The “Basic Rules.”**

The “basic rules generally regarded as applicable to domicile” are (As outlined by *Fenton*):

“(a) It is the place where one remains when not called elsewhere for labor or other special or temporary purpose, and to which he or she returns in seasons of repose;

“(b) There can only be one [domicile];

“(c) A [domicile] cannot be lost until another is gained;

“... ”

“(f) The [domicile] can be changed only by the union of act and intent.”

## **CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE INFORMATION**

The Political Reform Act of 1974, as amended, is applicable to all state and local candidates, their committees, and committees supporting or opposing ballot measures. This Act requires candidates and committees to report, in detailed statements, campaign contributions and expenditures. Up to three filings may be required, two prior to the applicable election, and one filing after the election.

When the candidate applies for nomination papers, he/she will receive the appropriate forms and an information manual, if requested. Candidates should familiarize themselves thoroughly with the information in the manual and to note carefully the filing deadlines, as the Act imposes penalties for late filing of campaign statements.

A schedule of filing dates will be provided at the time of filing as a candidate, or you may visit the FPPC at the following website for further information: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov>.

Candidates who anticipate receiving less than \$2,000\* in contributions and spending less than \$2,000\* during the entire calendar year, exclusive of the costs of the filing fee and/or candidate statement, if paid from personal funds, may reduce their filing obligation by filing a Candidate and Officeholder Campaign Statement-Short Form 470. No further campaign statements need be filed for this election **unless** the \$2,000\* threshold is reached. (Gov. C. § 84206)

A judge who is not listed on the ballot for reelection during a calendar year is not required to file semi-annual statements if (1) the judge has not received any contributions and (2) the only expenditures are contributions from the judge's personal funds to other candidates or committees totaling less than \$1,000. (Gov. C. § 84200)

\*Effective January 1, 2016, the amount increased to \$2,000 from \$1,000.

Legal and technical questions must be directed to:

### **Pre-Campaign Reporting Requirements for Candidates and/or Committees**

California's Political Reform Act of 1974 requires candidates to file periodic campaign statements which disclose contributions received and expenditures made. The Act is administered and enforced by California's Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC).

Contact FPPC for assistance:

FPPC Advice Aline  
FPPC Advice email:

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

Advice Line: 1 (866) 275-3772 (press 2) or [advice@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:advice@fppc.ca.gov)  
General Contact Line: (916) 322-5660  
Enforcement Complaint 1 (866) 275-3772 (press 1) or [complaint@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:complaint@fppc.ca.gov)

### **Campaign Disclosure Forms**

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

Below is a list of the most commonly used FPPC forms along with a brief explanation of who must file the form.

#### **Form 501**

##### **Candidate Intention Statement**

Must be filed before you solicit or receive any contributions or before making expenditures of personal funds on behalf of your candidacy. State Candidates (including judges) file with the Secretary of State. Local candidates file with the County Elections Official or the City Clerk.

**Form 410****Statement of Organization**

Must be filed by persons, organizations, or groups that raise contributions of \$2,000 or more in a calendar year to qualify as a recipient committee. A recipient committee must register with the Secretary of State and report all receipts and expenditures within 10 days of receiving \$2,000 or more in contributions.

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

NOTE: If it becomes necessary to file a Form 410 during the 16 days prior to the election, it must be filed within 24 hours.

**Form 460****Recipient Committee Campaign Statement**

Must be used by all recipient committees including:

Candidates, Officeholders and Their Controlled Committees

- A candidate or officeholder who has a controlled committee, or who has raised or spent or will raise or spend \$2,000 or more during a calendar year in connection with election to office or holding office. The Form 460 is also required if \$2,000 or more will be raised or spent during the calendar year at the behest of the officeholder or candidate.

Primarily Formed Ballot Measure Committees

- A person, entity, or organization that receives contributions totaling \$2,000 or more during a calendar year for the primary purpose of supporting or opposing the qualification, passage, or defeat of a single ballot measure or two or more measures being voted on in the same city, county, multi-county or state election.

Primarily Formed Candidate/Officeholder Committees

- A person, entity, or organization that receives contributions totaling \$2,000 or more during a calendar year to support or oppose a single candidate or officeholder, or two or more candidates or officeholders who are being voted upon in the same city, county, or multi-county election. This type of committee is not controlled by the candidate(s) or officeholder(s).

General Purpose Committees

- A person, entity, or organization that receives contributions totaling \$2,000 or more during a calendar year to support or oppose various candidates and measures (e.g., political parties, political action committees).

Additional Requirements which may apply:

Candidates for the following elective local candidate offices, who wish to accept expenditure limits, must complete the local Candidate Intention Statement **prior** to either receiving or spending campaign funds (excepting personal monies):

Supervisor

A full copy of Ordinance No. A-341 adding chapter 2.130 to title 2 of the County of Kern campaign finance reform can be obtained at the Kern County Elections Office or at [www.kernvote.com](http://www.kernvote.com), select Candidate Information and then click on Text of Ordinance.

Amendments to the Contribution Limits must be completed within 14 days following the General Election.

A copy of the acceptance form is provided on the following page and can also be found at [www.kernvote.com](http://www.kernvote.com), select Candidate Information and then click on Candidate Intention Statement Form.

**Campaign Reporting – NetFile:**

Candidates can now file electronically on our website by using NetFile – Campaign Filer Portal. Please visit our website at: [www.kernvote.com](http://www.kernvote.com) and under Candidate Information, click on Campaign Filer Portal and create a NetFile User account for filing of campaign forms.

**FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE ELECTIONS OFFICE OR ON THE FPPC’s WEBSITE  
AT**

[FPPC Home \(ca.gov\)](http://FPPC Home (ca.gov))

**Campaign Reporting/Electronic Filing – NetFile:**

Candidates can now file electronically on our website by using NetFile – Campaign Filer Portal. Please visit our website at: [www.kernvote.com](http://www.kernvote.com) and under Candidate Information, please create a NetFile User account for filing of campaign forms.

**Campaign Statements for Federal Office**

The Political Reform Act of 1974 does not apply to the following federal office candidates: U.S. Senator or Representative in Congress. Candidates for federal offices are subject to federal disclosure statements.

Candidates need to contact the following for information and forms:

Federal Elections Commission  
999 “E” Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20463  
1 (800) 424-9530

**Provision of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices**  
**as found in Chapter 5 of Division 20 of the California Elections Code**

**Chapter 5. Fair Campaign Practices**

Article 1. General intent

20400. The Legislature declares that the purpose of this chapter is to encourage every candidate for public office in this state to subscribe to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

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

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

Article 2. Definitions

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

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

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

The text of the code shall read, as follows:

**"CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES**

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

THEREFORE:

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

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

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

(4) I SHALL NOT USE OR PERMIT any dishonest or unethical practice that tends to corrupt or undermine our American system of free elections, or that hampers or prevents the full and free

expression of the will of the voters including acts intended to hinder or prevent any eligible person from registering to vote, enrolling to vote, or voting.

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

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

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

I, the undersigned, candidate for election to public office in the State of California or treasurer or chairperson of a committee making any independent expenditures, hereby voluntarily endorse, subscribe to, and solemnly pledge myself to conduct my campaign in accordance with the above principles and practices.”

Date	Signature
------	-----------

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

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

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

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

## **Regulations/Prohibitions Concerning Political Campaigns**

Political Advertising Disclaimers, go to the Fair Political Practices Commission Website for information: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn.html> (under Learn - select Campaign Rules)

### **Nomination Of Candidates**

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. (E.C. § 18200)

No person shall falsely make or fraudulently deface or destroy all or any part of a nomination paper. (E.C. § 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 or her possession, entitled to be filed under the provisions of this code. (E.C. § 18202)

No person shall file or submit for filing a nomination paper or Declaration of Candidacy knowing that it or any part of it has been made falsely. (E.C. § 18203)

No person shall willfully suppress all or any part of a nomination paper or Declaration of Candidacy either before or after filing. (E.C. § 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. (E.C. § 18205)

Any paid political advertisement which refers to an election or to any candidate for State or Local elective office and which 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". Such words shall be set apart from any other printed matter.

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

### **Mass Mailings**

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

### **Government Code 84305**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Gov. C. § 84305)

For questions regarding compliance contact:

<b>FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION (FPPC)</b>	
Technical Assistance (Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.)	1(866) ASK-FPPC or 1(916) 322-5660
Fax	1(916) 322-0886
Enforcement Complaints	1(866) 275-3772 (press 1)
Website	<a href="http://www.fppc.ca.gov">www.fppc.ca.gov</a>
Political Advertising Disclaimers	<a href="http://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn.html">http://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn.html</a> (under Learn - select Campaign Rules)

Every person who violates the provisions of Section 84305 of the Government Code relating to mass mailing is subject to the penal provisions set forth in Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 91000) of Title 9 of the Government Code. (E.C § 18303)

### **Slate Mailers – Requirements**

#### **Government Code 82048.3**

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

#### **Government Code 84305.5**

(a) No slate mailer organization or committee primarily formed to support or oppose one or more ballot measures shall send a slate mailer unless:

(1) The name, street address, and city of the slate mailer organization or committee primarily formed to support or oppose one or more ballot measures are shown on the outside of each piece of slate mail and on at least one of the inserts included with each piece of slate mail in no less than 8-point roman type which shall be in a color or print which contrasts with the background so as to be easily legible. A post office box may be stated in lieu of a street address if the street address of the slate mailer organization or the committee primarily formed to support or oppose one or more ballot measure is a matter of public record with the Secretary of State's Political Reform Division.

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

**Notice to Voters**

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

(3) The name, street address, and city of the slate mailer organization or committee primarily formed to support or oppose one or more ballot measures as required by paragraph (1) and the notice required by paragraph (2) may appear on the same side or surface of an insert.

(4) Each candidate and each ballot measure that has paid to appear in the slate mailer is designated by an \*. Any candidate or ballot measure that has not paid to appear in the slate mailer is not designated by an \*.

The \* required by this subdivision shall be of the same type size, type style, color or contrast, and legibility as is used for the name of the candidate or the ballot measure name or number and position advocated to which the \* designation applies except that in no case shall the \* be required to be larger than 10-point boldface type. The designation shall immediately follow the name of the candidate, or the name or number and position advocated on the ballot measure where the designation appears in the slate of candidates and measures. If there is no slate listing, the designation shall appear at least once in at least 8-point boldface type, immediately following the name of the candidate, or the name or number and position advocated on the ballot measure.

(5) The name of any candidate appearing in the slate mailer who is a member of a political party differing from the political party which the mailer appears by representation or indicia to represent is accompanied, immediately below the name, by the party designation of the candidate, in no less than 9-point roman type which shall be in a color or print that contrasts with the background so as to be easily legible. The designation shall not be required in the case of candidates for nonpartisan office.

(b) For purposes of the designations required by paragraph (4) of subdivision (a), the payment of any sum made reportable by subdivision (c) of Section 84219 by or at the behest of a candidate or committee, whose name or position appears in the mailer, to the slate mailer organization or committee primarily formed to support or oppose one or more ballot measures, shall constitute a payment to appear, requiring the \* designation. The payment shall also be deemed to constitute authorization to appear in the mailer.

**Government Code 84305.7**

(a) If a slate mailer organization sends a slate mailer or other mass mailing that displays a logo, insignia, emblem, or trademark that is identical or substantially similar to the logo, insignia, emblem, or trademark of a governmental agency, and that would reasonably be understood to imply the participation or endorsement of that governmental agency, the slate mailer organization shall obtain express written consent from the governmental agency associated with the logo, insignia, emblem, or trademark prior to using the logo, insignia, emblem, or trademark in the slate mailer or other mass mailing.

(b) If a slate mailer organization sends a slate mailer or other mass mailing that displays a logo, insignia, emblem, or trademark that is identical or substantially similar to the logo, insignia, emblem, or trademark of a nongovernmental organization that represents law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medical, or other public safety personnel, and that would reasonably be understood to imply the participation or endorsement of that nongovernmental organization, the slate mailer organization shall obtain express written consent from the nongovernmental organization associated with the logo, insignia, emblem, or trademark prior to using the logo, insignia, emblem, or trademark in the slate mailer or other mass mailing.

(c) If a slate mailer organization sends a slate mailer or other mass mailing that identifies itself or its source material as representing a nongovernmental organization with a name that includes the term "peace officer," "reserve officer," "deputy," "deputy sheriff," "sheriff," "police," "highway patrol," "California Highway Patrol," "law enforcement," "firefighter," "fire marshal," "paramedic," "emergency medical technician," "public safety," or any other term that would reasonably be understood to imply that the nongovernmental organization is composed of, represents, or is affiliated with, law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medical, or other public safety personnel, the slate mailer or mass mailing shall disclose the total number of law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medical, or other public safety members in the nongovernmental organization identified in the slate mailer or mass mailing, as provided in paragraph (1) of subdivision (d). If the slate mailer organization is not composed of or does not represent any members who are law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medical, or other public safety personnel, the slate mailer or mass mailing shall disclose that the slate mailer organization does not represent public safety personnel, as provided in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d).

(d) A disclosure pursuant to subdivision (c) shall include one of the following statements:

(1) If the slate mailer organization represents public safety personnel members: "This organization represents \_\_\_\_ public safety personnel." The slate mailer organization shall fill in the blank part of the statement with the number of public safety personnel members it represents.

(2) If the slate mailer organization does not represent public safety personnel members: "This organization does not represent any public safety personnel."

(e) A disclosure pursuant to subdivision (d) shall be in a format that satisfies all of the following:

(1) Printed in roman type that is no less than 14-point font.

(2) Located on the outside of the slate mailer or mass mailing within one-half of an inch of the recipient's name and address.

(3) Contained in a box with an outline that has a line weight of at least 3.25 pt. The background color of the box shall be in a contrasting color to the background of the slate mailer or mass mailing. The outline of the box shall be in a contrasting color to both the background color of the mailing and the background color of the box. The color of the text of the disclosure shall be in a contrasting color to the background color of the box.

(f) (1) For purposes of subdivision (c), "member" means any of the following:

(A) A person who, pursuant to a specific provision of an organization's articles or bylaws, may vote directly or indirectly for the election of a director or officer or for the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the organization in a merger or dissolution.

(B) A person designated as a member in the articles or bylaws of an organization that is tax exempt under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)) and who has the right to vote to change the organization's articles or bylaws or has paid dues to the organization.

(C) Members of a local union are considered to be members of any national or international union of which the local union is a part and of any federation with which the local, national, or international union is affiliated.

For questions regarding Slate Mailers compliance contact:

<b>FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION (FPPC)</b>	
Technical Assistance (Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.)	1(866) ASK-FPPC or 1(916) 322-5660
Fax	1(916) 322-0886
Enforcement Complaints	1(866) 275-3772 (press 1)
Website	<a href="http://www.fppc.ca.gov">www.fppc.ca.gov</a>
Political Advertising Disclaimers	<a href="http://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn.html">http://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn.html</a> (under Learn - select Campaign Rules)

### **Solicitation Of Funds**

It is unlawful for any person that includes in any part of its name the name of any political party that was qualified to participate in the last preceding primary election, to directly or indirectly solicit funds for any purpose whatsoever upon the representation either express or implied that the funds are being solicited for the use of that political party unless that person shall have previously obtained the written consent of one of the following: a member of the national committee from California or the majority of the members of the national committee if there are more than two national committee members from California, chairman of the state central committee, executive committee of the state central committee, or executive committee of the county central committee of the party whose name is being used in the county in which the solicitation is to be made. If the county central committee of the party in that county does not have an executive committee, the written consent of the chairman and secretary of that county central committee is sufficient.

All persons soliciting funds in accordance with this section shall be furnished with adequate credentials bearing the name of the solicitor and a copy of the written consent that bears the signature of the person authorizing the solicitation.  
(E.C. § 20201)

### **Campaign Literature**

Use of Seal in Campaign Literature –

- (a) Any person who uses or allows to be used any reproduction or facsimile of the seal of the county or the seal of a local government agency in any campaign literature or mass mailing, as defined in Section 82041.5 of the Government Code, with intent to deceive the voters, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- (b) For purposes of this section, the use of a reproduction or facsimile of a seal in a manner that creates a misleading, erroneous, or false impression that the document is authorized by a public official is evidence of intent to deceive.
- (c) For purposes of this section, the term “local government agency” means a school district, special or other district, or any other board, commission, or agency of local jurisdiction. (E. C. § 18304)

### **Authorization to Use Candidate or Committee Name**

It is unlawful for any person who solicits funds for the purpose of supporting or promoting any candidate or committee to include in any part of its name, the name of that candidate, or committee unless that

person shall have previously obtained the authorization of the candidate or committee or the candidate's or committee's designated agent to use the candidate's or committee's name in the name of that person.

Authorization by a candidate or committee shall not be construed as rendering the person soliciting funds a controlled committee as defined by Section 82016 of the Government Code. (E.C. § 20202)

**Notice Of Non-Authorization To Be Included In Fund Raising Communication**

Any person who solicits or receives contributions on behalf of any candidate or committee for the purported and exclusive use of that committee or the candidate's election campaign and who is not authorized by the candidate or committee or the candidate's or committee's designated agent to do so, shall include a notice in any fundraising communication, whether through any broadcasting station, newspapers, magazine, printed literature, direct mailing, or any other type of general public advertising, or through telephone or individual oral fundraising appeal, clearly and conspicuously stating that the person is not authorized by the candidate or committee and that the candidate or committee is not responsible for the actions of that person. (E.C. § 20203)

**TRUTH IN ENDORSEMENTS LAW**

Provides information regarding restrictions on endorsements of candidates, representation requirements, etc. (E.C. §§ 20000-20010)

**False Or Misleading Information To Voters**

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

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

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

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

(E.C. § 18350)

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

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

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

(E.C. § 20007)

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

**Notice to Voters**

(Required by Law)

This is not an official ballot or an official county voter information guide prepared by the county elections official or the Secretary of State.

“This is an unofficial, marked ballot prepared by \_\_\_\_ (insert name and address of the person or organization responsible for preparation thereof).

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

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

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

In addition to any other penalty, a person who prints or otherwise duplicates, or causes to be printed or duplicated, a simulated ballot or simulated county voter information guide that does not contain the statement required by Section 20009, or that uses an official seal or insignia in violation of Section 20009, is guilty of a misdemeanor. (E.C. § 18301)

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

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

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

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

(3) False or misleading information regarding the qualifications to apply for, receive, or return a vote by mail ballot.

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

(E.C. § 18302)

**Electioneering**

(a) “Electioneering” means the visible display or audible dissemination of information that advocates for or against any candidate or measure on the ballot within the 100 foot limit specified in subdivision (b).

(b). Prohibited electioneering information or activity includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

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

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

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

(4) Dissemination of audible electioneering information.

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

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

(1) The entrance to a building that contains a polling place as defined by 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.

(E.C. § 319.5)

(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.

(E.C. § 18370)

### **Intimidation of Voters**

(a) Every person who makes use of or threatens to make use of any force, violence, or tactic of coercion or intimidation, to induce or compel any other person to vote or refrain from voting at any election or to vote or refrain from voting for any particular person or measure at any election, or because any person voted or refrained from voting at any election or voted or refrained from voting for any particular person or measure at any election is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years.

(b) Every person who hires or arranges for any other person to make use of or threaten to make use of any force, violence, or tactic of coercion or intimidation, to induce or compel any other person to vote or refrain from voting at any election or to vote or refrain from voting for any particular person or measure at any election, or because any person voted or refrained from voting at any election or voted or refrained from voting for any particular person or measure at any election is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years.

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

(E.C. § 18540)

(a) A person shall not, with the intent of dissuading another person from voting, within the 100 foot limit specified in subdivision (b), do any of the following:

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

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

(3) Photograph, video record, or otherwise record a voter entering or exiting a polling place.

(4) Obstruct ingress, egress, or parking.

- (b) The activities described in subdivision (a) are prohibited within 100 feet of either of the following:
- (1) The entrance to a building that contains a polling place as defined by Section 338.5, an elections official's office, or a satellite location.
  - (2) An outdoor site, including a curbside voting area, at which a voter may cast or drop off a ballot.
- (c) A person shall not, with the intent of dissuading another person from voting, do any of the following within the immediate vicinity of a voter in line to cast a ballot or drop off a ballot:
- (1) Solicit a vote.
  - (2) Speak to a voter about marking the voter's ballot.
  - (3) Disseminate visible or audible electioneering information.
- (d) A violation of this section is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than 12 months, or in state prison. Any person who conspires to violate this section is guilty of a felony.  
(E.C. § 18541)

- (a) Any person in possession of a firearm or any uniformed peace officer, private guard, or security personnel or any person who is wearing a uniform of a peace officer, guard, or security personnel, who is stationed in the immediate vicinity of, or posted at, a polling place without written authorization of the appropriate city or county elections official is punishable by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years, or in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.
- (b) This section shall not apply to any of the following:
- (1) An unarmed uniformed guard or security personnel who is at the polling place to cast his or her vote.
  - (2) A peace officer who is conducting official business in the course of his or her public employment or who is at the polling place to cast his or her vote.
  - (3) A private guard or security personnel hired or arranged for by a city or county elections official.
  - (4) A private guard or security personnel hired or arranged for by the owner or manager of the facility or property in which the polling place is located if the guard or security personnel is not hired or arranged solely for the day on which an election is held.
- (E.C. § 18544)

### **Ballot Secrecy**

Any person other than an elections official or a member of the precinct board who receives a voted ballot from a voter or who examines or solicits the voter to show their voted ballot is punishable by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years, or in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment. This section does not apply to persons returning a vote by mail ballot pursuant to Section 3017 or persons assisting a voter pursuant to Section 14282.  
(E.C. § 18403)

### **Political Signs**

The placement of political signs may be regulated by the State, County, or City depending upon the location of such signs. Candidates need to check with the City Clerk of the City in which they wish to place political signs to make sure such signs are not in violation of any city ordinance.

No political signs may be placed within the right-of-way of any State Highway or County Road.

Except for temporary political signs, all other political signs within view of State or County highways are subject to the provision of the Outdoor Advertising Act and must be placed upon structures that are either already under State outdoor advertising permit or for which such permits are first secured. Displays visible to interstate or primary highways may only be placed on property zoned primarily for commercial or industrial activities and must be within 1000 feet of a commercial or industrial building

or activity and must not be closer than 500 feet from another billboard visible to a freeway or 300 feet from another billboard visible to a conventional highway.

Temporary political signs (pursuant to §5405.3 of the Business and Professions code) may 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 landscaped freeway.

Temporary political sign is also one which:

- (a) Encourages a particular vote in a scheduled election.
- (b) Is placed not 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 of Transportation certifying a person who will be responsible for removing the sign.

A Statement of Responsibility form is on page 59. **This form may be copied or removed from this book and mailed to the Department of Transportation or can be found on Caltrans website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/oda/forms> for an interactive pdf form.**

The Outdoor Advertising Branch in Sacramento will gladly answer any questions in respect to the form. Their number is (916) 654-6473. Please note that the Statement of Responsibility requires a notarized signature.

Because the law directs the Department of Transportation to remove signs that do not comply with the regulations before an election and to bill the responsible party for removal costs after the election, we are calling these provisions to your attention to avoid possible embarrassment to you and your supporters.

For further laws and regulations on political signs, please visit the following:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/oda/political-signs>

**City of Bakersfield Municipal Code:**

Title 17 Zoning - Chapter 17.60 Signs at: <https://bakersfield.municipal.codes/Code/17.60.070>

**Political Advertising Disclaimers**, go to the Fair Political Practices Commission website for information: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn.html> (under Learn - select Campaign Rules)

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](http://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

ODA-0027

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

STATE OF CALIFORNIA • DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR TEMPORARY POLITICAL SIGNS**  
ODA-0027 (REV 10/2022)

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.



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](mailto:ODA@dot.ca.gov)

ADA Notice This document is available in alternative accessible formats. For more information, please contact the Forms Management Unit at (79) 234-2284, TTY 711, in writing at Forms Management Unit, 1120 N Street, MS-89, Sacramento, CA 95814, or by email at [Forms.Management.Unit@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Forms.Management.Unit@dot.ca.gov).

## **Kern County Ordinance Code**

### **19.84.100 - Design and development standards—Temporary campaign signs.**

Temporary political, religious and civic campaign signs may be erected for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days and shall comply with the following standards:

- A. The signs shall be removed within fifteen (15) days following the conclusion of the campaign.
- B. In residential districts, each sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area or a height of four (4) feet.

### **19.34.110 - Signs.**

Agricultural signs advertising agricultural products raised or produced on the subject property may be erected in all agricultural zoning districts, provided they comply with the following standards:

- A. There shall be no more than one (1) agricultural sign per legal lot.
- B. The sign shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in area for parcels less than five (5) acres nor exceed twenty-four (24) square feet for parcels exceeding five (5) acres. The sign shall not exceed six (6) feet in height.
- C. The sign shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet from any street right-of-way.
- D. The sign shall not be illuminated.
- E. The sign shall be stationary.
- F. The sign shall not be an off-site sign.

### **19.22.110 - Signs.**

The following types of signs are permitted in the R-3 district in accordance with the requirements of [Chapter 19.84](#) of this title:

- A. Apartment or bed and breakfast identification signs, not exceeding thirty-six (36) square feet;
- B. Temporary real estate signs advertising the property for sale or rent, not to exceed eight (8) square feet, excluding the area of any vertical and/or horizontal support members;
- C. Temporary subdivision signs;
- D. Permanent subdivision signs;
- E. Temporary construction signs;
- F. Temporary political, religious and civic campaign signs;
- G. Institutional identification signs, approved in conjunction with a conditional use permit.

### **19.06.020 - Authority to administer.**

The planning director shall be vested with the authority to administer this title. In the course of these duties, the planning director shall have the authority to interpret the provisions of this title. Where there is a question as to the meaning or the intent of any requirement of this title, including interpretations of conditions of approval required in conjunction with the approval of any ministerial or discretionary permit authorized therein, the planning director shall provide any necessary interpretation, and the decision of the planning director shall be final.

### **Information Regarding Voting By Mail For Voters**

**Personally, delivered ballots:** Must be delivered by close of polls on June 2, 2026, to the Kern County Elections Office, or to any polling place.

**Mailed ballots:** Must be postmarked on or before June 2, 2026, and received by our office no later than June 9, 2026.

Any vote by mail voter, who because of illness or other physical disability is unable to return their ballot, may designate any person to return their ballot for them. (E.C. §§ 3017, 3020)

### **Information Regarding Voting by Mail for Candidates and Campaigns**

#### **Voter File Information**

To purchase voter registration information, contact the Elections Office. It will be necessary for you to complete the Application, pay the fee for the items ordered and show proper identification.

Information obtained will be used **ONLY** for Election, Scholarly, Journalistic, Political or Governmental purposes as defined by Elections Code Section 2194.

You must further agree **NOT** to sell, lease, loan or deliver possession of the registration information, or a copy thereof, or any portion thereof, in any form or format, to any person, organization or agency without **FIRST** received written authorization from the Secretary of State to release such registration information.

This information **MAY NOT** be used, taken or transmitted outside of the United States. (E.C. § 2188.5)

**Willful violation of these provisions is a misdemeanor and complaints regarding improper use is referred to the District Attorney and the Secretary of States Fraud Unit.** (E.C. § 18109)

#### **Receiving A Vote by Mail Ballot From a Voter**

Any person other than an elections official or a member of the precinct board who receives a voted ballot from a voter or who examines or solicits the voter to show his or her voted ballot is punishable by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), by imprisonment 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. This section shall not apply to persons returning a vote by mail ballot pursuant to E.C. Sections 3017 and 3021 or persons assisting a voter pursuant to E.C. Section 14282. (E.C. § 18403)

#### **Penal Provisions Relating to Vote by Mail Voting**

##### Fictitious Signatures

Any person who applies for, or who votes or attempts to vote, a vote by mail ballot by fraudulently signing the name of a fictitious person, or of a regularly qualified voter, or of a person who is not qualified to vote, is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years, by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment. (E.C. § 18578)

##### Electioneering During Vote by Mail Voting

(a) No candidate or representative of a candidate, and no proponent, opponent, or representative of a proponent or opponent, of an initiative, referendum, or recall measure, or of a charter amendment, shall solicit the vote of a vote by mail voter, or do any electioneering, while in the residence or in the immediate presence of the voter, and during the time he or she knows the vote by mail voter is voting.

(b) Any person who knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(c) This section shall not be construed to conflict with any provision of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, nor to preclude electioneering by mail or telephone or in public places, except as prohibited by Section 18370, or by any other provision of law.

(E.C. § 18371)

Notice regarding the prohibitions on electioneering set forth in this article shall be provided to the public. The Secretary of State shall promulgate regulations specifying the manner in which such notice shall be provided.

(E.C. § 18372)

#### Return of Vote by Mail Ballots

Every person is guilty of a misdemeanor who does any one of the following:

(a) Removes or defaces any posted copy of the results of votes cast within the period of 48 hours from the official time fixed for the closing of the polls.

(b) Delays delivery of or changes the copy of the result of votes cast that is to be delivered to the city or county elections official.

(E.C. § 18570)

Every person is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years who furnishes any voter wishing to vote, who cannot read, with a ballot, informing or giving that voter to understand that it contains a name written or printed thereon different from the name which is written or printed thereon, or defrauds any voter at any election by deceiving and causing him or her to vote for a different person for any office than he or she intended or desired to vote for. (E.C. § 18573)

(a) It is a misdemeanor for a person who is providing care or direct supervision to an elder in a state-licensed or state-subsidized facility or program to coerce or deceive the elder into voting for or against a candidate or measure contrary to the elder's intent or in the absence of any intent of the elder to cast a vote for or against that candidate or measure.

(b) For purposes of this section, "elder" has the same meaning as set forth in Section 15610.27 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(c) A violation of this section is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed six months or by a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per ballot containing a vote cast by the elder as a result of the coercion or deception or by both that imprisonment and fine.

(d) Nothing in this section shall preclude prosecution under any other provision.

(E.C. § 18573.5)

Any person having charge of a completed vote by mail ballot who willfully interferes or causes interference with its return to the local elections official having jurisdiction over the election is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months, by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or by both the fine and imprisonment. (E.C. § 18577)

## **Election Night Results**

### **Where:**

Ballots will be delivered to and tabulated at the central counting center located at:

Kern County Elections Office

1115 Truxtun Ave., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Bakersfield, CA 93301

### **Election Night Returns:**

Voted Vote by Mail and Mail ballots are the first results announced on election night. Results will be posted shortly after 8 pm and continuously updated until the last polling place ballot is counted. The first results released on election night will be from the vote by mail returns.

[Results](#) will be made available on KernVote.com.

### **Semi Official Results:**

Once the last polling place ballot is counted, the Semi-Official Results will be released and available at the Elections Division, from KernVote.com, and on KGOV.

### **Final Official Results:**

The official canvass of returns will begin no later than the Thursday following Election Day and by law must be completed no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> day following the election.

Upon completion of the official canvass, the final results will be certified by the elections official and made available KernVote.com.

**Fair Political Practices Commission**  
**Filing Schedule for**  
**State Candidates and their Controlled Committees**  
**Listed on the June 2, 2026 Ballot**

<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<b>Feb 2, 2026</b> <i>Semi-Annual</i>	<b>* – 12/31/25</b>	<a href="#">460</a> or <a href="#">470</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>460:</b> All committees must file this statement.</li> <li>• <b>470:</b> If a candidate raised or spent less than \$2,000 during 2025, file Form 470 (see below).</li> <li>• The January 31 deadline falls on a Saturday, so the deadline is extended to the next business day.</li> </ul>
<b>Within 10 Business Days</b> <i>\$5,000 Report</i>	<b>Ongoing – File any time other than the 90-day election cycle</b>	<a href="#">497</a>	<p><b>Only E-filers file this report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• File if a contribution of \$5,000 or more is received from a single source.</li> <li>• No paper copy is required.</li> <li>• File within ten business days of receipt of the contribution.</li> </ul>
<b>Within 24 Hours</b> <i>Election Cycle Reports</i>	<b>3/4/26 – 6/2/26</b>	<a href="#">497</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is received from a single source.</li> <li>• File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is made to or in connection with <i>another</i> candidate or measure listed on the June 2, 2026, ballot, or made to a political party committee.</li> <li>• The recipient of a non-monetary contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate must file a Form 497 within 48 hours from the time the contribution is received.</li> <li>• E-file only. No paper copy is required.</li> </ul>
<b>Apr 23, 2026</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> pre-Election</i>	<b>1/1/26 – 4/18/26</b>	<a href="#">460</a> or <a href="#">470</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each candidate listed on the ballot must file Form 460 or Form 470 (see below).</li> </ul>
<b>May 21, 2026</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Pre-Election</i>	<b>4/19/26 – 5/16/26</b>	<a href="#">460</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All committees must file this statement.</li> <li>• Paper copies must be filed by personal delivery, guaranteed overnight service, or by email with a verified digital signature.</li> </ul>
<b>Jul 31, 2026</b> <i>Semi-Annual</i>	<b>5/17/26 – 6/30/26</b>	<a href="#">460</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All committees must file Form 460 unless the committee filed termination Forms 410 and 460 before June 30, 2026.</li> </ul>

**See the next page for additional reporting information.**

**Fair Political Practices Commission**

**Additional Reports**

Depending on committee activity, one or more of the following statements may also be required:

- **Payments Related to a State Ballot Measure (E-filers only):** File Form 496 (24-hour/10-day Independent Expenditure Report) or Form 497 (24-hour/10-day Contribution Report) within ten business days of making payments totaling \$5,000 or more in connection with a single state ballot measure. No paper copy is required.
- **Form 511:** File within 10 days of making either of the following expenditures related to an advertisement to support or oppose a ballot measure: 1) A payment totaling \$5,000 or more to an individual to appear in an advertisement, or 2) A payment of any amount to an individual portraying a member of a licensed occupation (e.g., nurse, doctor, firefighter). **E-filers must also file a paper copy.\*\***
- **Form E-530:** File within 48 hours of making a payment, or a promise of payment, of \$50,000 or more during the 45 days prior to an election for a communication that identifies a state candidate listed on the ballot but does not expressly advocate the election or defeat of the candidate. No paper copy is required.

**Additional Notes:**

- **\*Period Covered:** The period covered by any statement begins on the day after the closing date of the last statement filed, or January 1, if no previous statement has been filed.
- **\*\*Paper Filings:** All paper filings *may* be filed by first-class mail or by email with a verified digital signature unless otherwise noted. Persons required to file a report or statement by paper with the Secretary of State's Office *may* instead file by email ([digitalfiling@sos.ca.gov](mailto:digitalfiling@sos.ca.gov)) with a verified digital signature or other digital means as prescribed by the Secretary of State's Office. Please visit the Secretary of State's [website](#) for more information on how to file with a digital signature.
- **Deadline Extensions:** Deadlines are extended when they fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or an official state holiday. This extension does not apply to a 24-hour/10-day Contribution Report (Form 497) that is due the weekend before the election, and this extension never applies to any 24-hour/10-day Independent Expenditure Report (Form 496). Such reports must be filed within 24 hours, regardless of the day of the week.
- **Where to File:** State committees file statements with the Secretary of State. Candidate-controlled committees that are not e-filers file paper copies with the elections official at the candidate's county of domicile.
- **Form 501:** All candidates must file Form 501 (Candidate Intention Statement) before soliciting/receiving contributions.
- **E-File:** A state committee that has received contributions or made expenditures totaling \$25,000 or more.
- **Form 460:** All state committees, including e-filers, must also file paper copies.\*\*
- **Form 470 (2025):** Non-incumbent candidates who raised or spent less than \$2,000 during 2025 and did not have an open committee must file Form 470 by February 2, 2026.
- **Form 470 (2026):** Candidates who do not raise or spend \$2,000 or more (or anticipate raising or spending \$2,000 or more) in 2026 and do not have an open committee may file Form 470 on or before April 23, 2026. If the candidate raises or spends \$2,000 or more later during the calendar year, a Form 470 Supplement and a Form 410 must be filed.

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

Email Advice:  
[advice@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:advice@fppc.ca.gov)

Phone Advice:  
1-866-ASK-FPPC

Campaign Filing Schedule

01 State Candidate 2026 – 5/1/25

Page 2 of 3

### Fair Political Practices Commission

- **Forms 496 and Form 497:** All reports filed online only.
- **Independent Expenditures:** Committees making independent expenditures totaling \$1,000 or more to support or oppose other candidates or ballot measures also file:
  - **Form 496:** This form is due within 24 hours if made in the 90-day, 24-hour reporting period of the candidate's or measure's election. Refer to the applicable filing schedule. Form 496 is filed with the filing officer in the jurisdiction of the affected candidate or measure.
  - **Form 462:** This verification form must be e-mailed to the FPPC within 10 days.
- **Multiple Committees:** All committees controlled by a state candidate listed on the June ballot must file statements on the pre-election filing deadlines, in addition to the committee formed for this election. For example, a candidate for Senate listed on the June 2, 2026, ballot maintains an Assembly officeholder committee must file pre-election statements for both committees even if the Assembly committee has not received or made payments.
- **State Contribution Limits:** Refer to the [contribution limits chart](#) on the FPPC website.
- **Penalties:** Late statements and reports are subject to a fine of \$10 per day on both paper and the e-filed version (i.e., \$20 per day for a late Form 460). Failure to file a statement or report could result in an enforcement penalty of \$5,000 per violation.
- **After the Election:** Reporting requirements will depend on whether the candidate is successful and whether a campaign committee is open. See [Campaign Disclosure Manual 1](#) for additional information.
- **Public Documents:** All statements and reports are public documents.
- **Resources:** Campaign manuals and other instructional materials are available on the [Campaign Rules](#) page. Or, visit [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov) > Learn > Campaign Rules.