



# ***Stanislaus County Candidate Guide***

**PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION**  
***March 5, 2024***



Prepared by the office of Donna Linder, County Clerk-Recorder & Registrar of Voters

## **-DISCLAIMER-**

**THIS CANDIDATE GUIDE IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE** general information for candidates and committees and does not have the force and effect of law, regulation or rule. It is distributed with the understanding that the Registrar of Voters of the County of Stanislaus is not rendering legal advice. This handbook is not intended to be a substitute for legal counsel for the individual, organization or candidate using it. In case of conflict, the law, regulation or rule will apply.

**THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS STRONGLY** recommends that any prospective candidates obtain legal advice to assist in complying with the applicable California laws, including California Elections Code and Government Code.

**CODE REFERENCES** made in this guide, unless otherwise stated, are to the California Constitution and Statutes. California legal code references in this guide include:

- Business and Professions Code (B&P)
- Education Code (ED)
- Elections Code (EC)
- Government Code (GC)
- Health and Safety Code (H&S)
- Insurance Code (IC)
- Penal Code (Penal Code)
- Revenue and Taxation Code (R&T)

**The term E-DATE stands for Election Day.** E-Dates have been used throughout this guide to indicate important dates and deadlines. These dates are the number of days prior to or after an election date. Example: E-88 means E minus 88 days and would be 88 days prior to an election, and E+28 means E plus 28 days and would be 28 days after an election. This type of date is often used in Elections Code to avoid any variance from one election to the next. Refer to the election calendar for guidance as to what actual date the indicated E-Date falls on.

## **\*\*NOTICE TO CANDIDATES\*\***

All information in this guide is subject to change.

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

This guide is intended to provide general information concerning the nomination and election of candidates and does not have the force and effect of law, regulation or rule. It is distributed with the understanding that neither the Secretary of State nor the Office of the Registrar of Voters is rendering legal advice, and, therefore, this information is not to be a substitute for legal counsel for the individual, organization or candidate using it. In case of conflict, the law, regulation or rule will apply.

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

### **LEGISLATIVE CHANGES**

Every year, new laws are introduced that could impact the current rules and processes of candidate filing. If applicable, newly enacted laws will be implemented prior to the nomination period without further notification to ensure our candidate filing process remains in compliance with updated law, regulation and rule.



**OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER**

**Donna Linder**  
COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER  
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS &  
COMMISSIONER OF CIVIL MARRIAGE

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS  
ELECTIONS DIVISION:**  
1021 "I" STREET, SUITE 101, Modesto, CA 95354  
Telephone: (209) 525-5200, ESPAÑOL: (209) 525-5230  
TOLL-FREE: (833) 772-2260, TTY: (833) 646-2136  
Facsimile: (209) 525-5802

July 10, 2023

Dear Officeholders and Candidates:

Welcome to the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election. Your desire to represent your district is admirable and provides voters in Stanislaus County a choice, as well as sustains our democratic process. I hope this handbook will help make this election a positive experience for you. The Elections Division is dedicated to ensuring that the outcome of every election held in this county is fair and accurate.

There are many requirements associated with being a candidate. We have prepared this Candidate Guide to assist you in understanding these requirements. It contains valuable information pertaining to qualifications for office, terms of office, procedures, fees, forms, and important dates and deadlines. Please read this handbook over carefully. Being well advised will help you with your campaign. We hope you find this Candidate Guide useful.

This guide is intended to be a resource and is not comprehensive nor does it constitute or substitute for legal advice. It is intended to provide general information about the nomination and election of candidates and does not have the force and effect of law, regulation or rule. It is distributed with the understanding that the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters is not rendering legal advice, and the guide is not a substitute for legal counsel for the individual using it. In case of conflict, the law, regulation or rule will apply.

We want to provide assistance that will make seeking office easier and an enjoyable learning experience. The Registrar of Voters office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays and office closures. We will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on filing deadline days. You may contact our office with questions by visiting our website at [www.stanvote.com](http://www.stanvote.com) or calling (209) 525-5201.

I wish you the best of luck in your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Donna Linder

Stanislaus County Clerk-Recorder & Registrar of Voters

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## ONLINE CANDIDATE RESOURCES

### Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters online resources:

[www.stanvote.com](http://www.stanvote.com) (in the **Officials/Candidates** tab)

Election Calendars

Candidate Guide

Candidate Filing Overview Presentation - *provides helpful links throughout presentation*

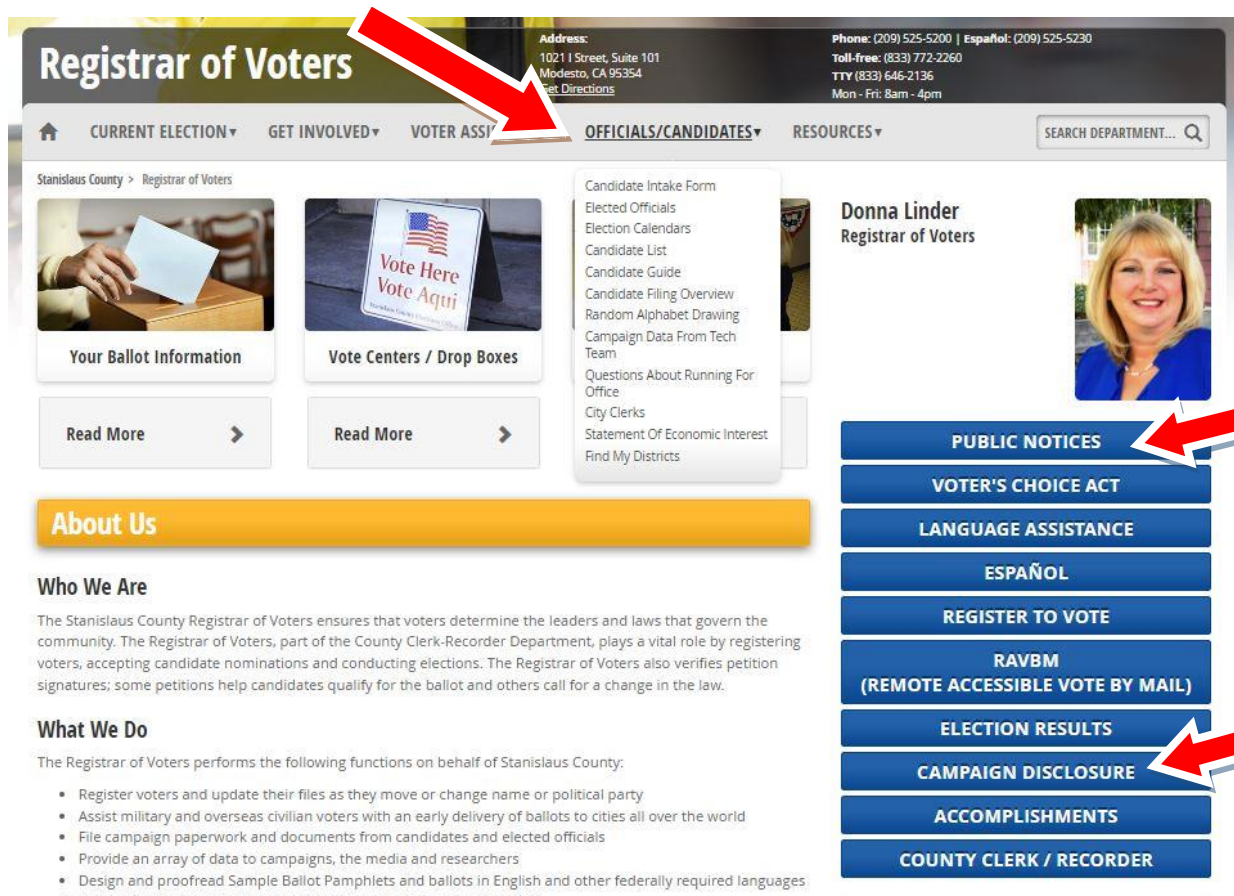
Signature In-Lieu Authorization Form - *required if candidate sends someone else to obtain form*

Candidate Intake Form – *expedites your candidate filing office visit*

Candidate List - *updated daily during the candidate filing period*

FPPC forms filed with the Registrar of Voters are posted under *Campaign Disclosure*

Public Notices – *notices for workshops, presentations, manual tally, publications and more*



### Secretary of State online resources:

[www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov) (in the **Elections** tab)

Candidate Qualifications for federal & state candidates

Ballot Designation Regulations and Ballot Designation Worksheet

### Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) online resources:

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

FPPC Forms

FPPC Filing Schedules

Campaign Filing Manuals

What's New Fact Sheet

News Releases

Up to date campaign regulations



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# Election Website: *www.stanvote.com*

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The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters website contains valuable and important information to assist both candidates and voters

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The website includes:

- Results from past elections
- Candidate List (updated daily during nomination period)
- Candidate Statements and measure information (posted 60 days prior to election)
- Voter registration information
- Vote by mail ballot information and application for local and military / overseas
- Provisional and vote by mail ballot tracker
- Election calendars
- Elected officials list
- Canvass procedures
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section
- Helpful links to other election related websites, including the FPPC website
- Help America Vote Act (HAVA) information
- E-County Voter Information Guide lookup tool
- Vote center and ballot drop box locations
- Interactive map to find nearest vote center or drop box
- Campaign finance disclosure lookup tool



## HELPFUL CONNECTIONS

<b>Secretary of State</b> .....	<a href="http://www.sos.ca.gov">www.sos.ca.gov</a>
<b>Stanislaus County</b> .....	<a href="http://www.stancounty.com">www.stancounty.com</a>
<b>Fair Political Practices Commission</b> .....	<a href="http://www.fppc.ca.gov">www.fppc.ca.gov</a>
<b>California State Attorney General</b> .....	<a href="http://oag.ca.gov">oag.ca.gov</a>
<b>Federal Election Commission</b> .....	<a href="http://www.fec.gov">www.fec.gov</a>
<b>California Law</b> .....	<a href="http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov">leginfo.legislature.ca.gov</a>
<b>California Department of Transportation</b> .....	<a href="http://www.dot.ca.gov">www.dot.ca.gov</a>

## **IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS**



### **Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters**

**1021 "I" Street, Suite 101, Modesto, CA 95354**

**Telephone: (209) 525-5201 / Fax: (209) 525-5802 / E-Mail: [stanvote@stancounty.com](mailto:stanvote@stancounty.com)**

- Campaign Finance Disclosure Forms (FPPC)
- Campaign Materials – Indexes, Walking Lists
- Candidate Filing Requirement Information
- Information on Registering Voters

### **Secretary of State Political Reform Division**

**1500 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 495, Sacramento, CA 95814**

**Telephone: (916) 653-6224 / Fax: (916) 653-5045**

The Secretary of State's Political Reform Division administers provisions of California's Political Reform Act of 1974 that require the disclosure of financial activities related to political campaigns and lobbying. Specific activities of the Political Reform Division include:

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

### **Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC)**

**1102 "Q" Street, Suite 3000, Sacramento, CA 95811**

**Telephone Advice Line: 1-866-ASK-FPPC or 1-866-275-3772 (press 1) / E-Mail: [advice@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:advice@fppc.ca.gov)**

**Campaign Finance Enforcement Complaints: E-Mail: [complaint@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:complaint@fppc.ca.gov)**

**Electronic Enforcement Complaint System: [www.fppc.ca.gov/enforcement.html](http://www.fppc.ca.gov/enforcement.html)**

The FPPC Helpline staff is available by telephone Monday through Thursday from 9:00-11:30 to provide assistance to anyone who has reporting or other requirements under the Political Reform Act (the "Act"). Call toll free **1-866-ASK-FPPC** and follow the prompts to speak to a political reform consultant in the Technical Assistance Division. Political reform consultants field questions in all areas covered by the Act. In addition, the FPPC voicemail has a special prompt that allows you to order forms, manuals and other materials at any time.



## City Clerks in Stanislaus County



<b>City of Ceres</b> City Clerk: Fallon Martin 2720 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Ceres, CA 95307	Telephone: (209) 538-5731
<b>City of Hughson</b> Deputy City Clerk: Ashton Gose 7018 Pine Street Hughson, CA 95326	Telephone: (209) 883-4054
<b>City of Modesto</b> City Clerk: Diane Nayares-Perez 1010 10 <sup>th</sup> Street, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor Modesto, CA 95354	Telephone: (209) 577-5396
<b>City of Newman</b> City Clerk: Mike Maier 938 Fresno Street Newman, CA 95360	Telephone: (209) 862-3725
<b>City of Oakdale</b> City Clerk: Rouze Roberts 280 N. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue Oakdale, CA 95361	Telephone: (209) 845-3573
<b>City of Patterson</b> City Clerk: Aracely Alegre 1 Plaza Patterson, CA 95363	Telephone: (209) 895-8010
<b>City of Riverbank</b> City Clerk: Gaby Hernandez 6707 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street Riverbank, CA 95367	Telephone: (209) 863-7122
<b>City of Turlock</b> City Clerk: Julie Christel 156 S. Broadway, Ste 230 Turlock, CA 95380	Telephone: (209) 668-5540
<b>City of Waterford</b> City Clerk: Patricia Krause 101 "E" Street Waterford, CA 95386	Telephone: (209) 874-2328

## ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters is **NOT** an enforcement agency and is therefore unable to investigate violations. To report a violation, refer to the agencies listed below:

### False or misleading campaign materials

- No agency enforcement – these issues are dealt with in a court of law

### Violations of the Political Reform Act

- Contact: Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) (886) 275-3772 [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov)
- Mass mailing requirements, slate mailers, campaign disclosure, proper use of campaign funds, disclosure of economic interest (*Title 9 of the California Government Code at Sections 81000 through 91014*)

### Election fraud

- Contact: County district attorney (209) 525-5550 *or*
- California Secretary of State (916) 657-2166 [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)

### Unlawful use of public funds, violations of Elections Code, Penal Code or laws other than the Political Reform Act

- Contact: County district attorney (209) 525-5550 *or*
- California State Attorney General (800) 952-5225 [oag.ca.gov](http://oag.ca.gov)

### Federal Campaigns, Congress, U.S. Senate or President of the United States

- Contact: Federal Election Commission (800) 424-9530 [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov)

### Open meeting laws (Brown Act)

- Contact: County district attorney (209) 525-5550 *or*
- California State Attorney General (800) 952-5225 [oag.ca.gov](http://oag.ca.gov)

### Local ordinances

- Contact: Local city attorney *or* county district attorney (209) 525-5550

### Vandalism or requirements concerning campaign signs

- Contact: Local city attorney *or* county district attorney (209) 525-5550

## NEIGHBORING COUNTIES REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

### San Joaquin County

44 N. San Joaquin Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Ste 350  
Stockton, CA 95202  
(209) 468-8683  
[registrar@sjgov.org](mailto:registrar@sjgov.org)

### Santa Clara County

1555 Berger Drive, Bldg. 2  
San Jose, CA 95112  
(408) 299-8683  
[registrar@rov.sccgov.org](mailto:registrar@rov.sccgov.org)

### Tuolumne County

2 S. Green Street  
Sonora, CA 95370  
(209) 533-5570  
[elections@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov](mailto:elections@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov)

### Merced County

2222 "M" Street, Room 14  
Merced, CA 95340  
(209) 385-7541  
[elections@countyofmerced.com](mailto:elections@countyofmerced.com)

### Calaveras County

Government Center  
891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249  
(209) 754-6376  
[electionsweb@co.calaveras.ca.us](mailto:electionsweb@co.calaveras.ca.us)

## Offices up for Election – March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election:

*This list is subject to change*

*Updated 8/21/23*

<b>FEDERAL Party Nominated Offices</b>	<b>INCUMBENT – Party Preference</b>	<b>TERM</b>
President	Joseph Biden – Dem	4 years
<b>FEDERAL / STATE Voter Nominated Offices</b>	<b>INCUMBENT – Party Preference</b>	<b>TERM</b>
U.S. Senate	Dianne Feinstein - Dem	6 years
U.S. Representative – District 5	Tom McClintock - Rep	2 years
U.S. Representative – District 9	Josh Harder - Dem	2 years
U.S. Representative – District 13	John Duarte - Rep	2 years
State Assembly – District 9	Heath Flora – Rep	2 years
State Assembly – District 22	Juan Alanis – Rep	2 years
<b>JUDICIAL OFFICES Nonpartisan</b>	<b>INCUMBENT</b>	<b>TERM</b>
Superior Court Judge – Office 1	Joseph R. Distaso	6 years
Superior Court Judge – Office 2	Valli K. Israels	6 years
Superior Court Judge – Office 3	Sweena Pannu	6 years
Superior Court Judge – Office 4	Maria Elena Ramos Ratliff	6 years
Superior Court Judge – Office 5	Stacy P. Speiller	6 years
Superior Court Judge – Office 6	Carrie M. Stephens	6 years
<b>COUNTY OFFICES Nonpartisan</b>	<b>INCUMBENT</b>	<b>TERM</b>
Board of Supervisors – District 1	Matthew “Buck” Condit	4 years
Board of Supervisors – District 2	Vito Chiesa	4 years
Board of Supervisors – District 5	Channcce A. Condit	4 years
<b>COUNTY OFFICES Party Nominated</b>	<b>Number to be elected per Supervisory District</b>	<b>TERM</b>
Democratic County Central Committee	District 1 – 5 members District 2 – 4 members District 3 – 4 members District 4 – 5 members District 5 – 4 members	4 years
Republican County Central Committee	District 1 – 6 members District 2 – 5 members District 3 – 4 members District 4 – 4 members District 5 – 3 members	4 years
<b>MUNICIPAL and DISTRICT OFFICES Nonpartisan</b>	<b>INCUMBENT</b>	<b>TERM</b>
City of Modesto – Mayor	Sue Zwahlen	4 years
Del Puerto Health Care District – Zone 4	Vacant	2 year short term

# Presidential Primary Election – Tuesday, March 5, 2024

## County of Stanislaus – Registrar of Voters (ROV)

Code references, unless otherwise stated, refer to California Elections Code (EC), Government Code (GC) & Education Code (ED Code)

<b>See Page 4 for Measure Consolidation Calendar</b>	<b>Governing Bodies Requesting Measure Consolidation</b> Pursuant to EC 10403, measure resolutions are to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors requesting consolidation with this election by E-88; however, the Registrar of Voters has <u>administrative deadlines</u> necessary to meet vendor and print deadlines. See last page for <i>Measure Consolidation Calendar</i> for ROV administrative deadlines.
<b>Prior to Soliciting or Accepting Contributions for Campaign Purposes</b>	<b>All candidates must file FPPC Form 501 – Candidate Intention Statement</b> Form 501 must be filed with the appropriate filing officer <b>before</b> soliciting or accepting contributions to a campaign. GC 85200
<b>Financial Disclosure</b>	<b>Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC)</b> For election specific FPPC filing schedules go to <a href="http://www.fppc.ca.gov">www.fppc.ca.gov</a> and view Filing Deadlines
<b><a href="http://www.stanvote.com">www.stanvote.com</a> Officials/Candidates tab</b>	<b>Candidate Filing Overview Presentation</b> An informative candidate filing overview to provide prospective candidates with important information regarding the complex candidacy filing process. <a href="http://www.stanvote.com">www.stanvote.com</a> - <a href="#">Candidate Filing Overview</a>
<b>All Candidates September 14 – November 8 (E-173 to E-118)</b>	<b>Signatures In-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition (SIL)</b> Forms may be obtained from the county elections official during this period. Petition forms may be obtained to secure signatures in-lieu of all or a portion of the filing fee. Signatures submitted on the in-lieu petitions will also be applied to meet the nomination signature requirements. The candidate will be notified of any deficiency within 10 days of filing. EC 8061, 8105, 8106
<b>September 29, 2023 (E-158)</b>	<b>Secretary of State to Prepare Notice of Offices on the Primary Ballot</b> At least 158 days before the primary, the Secretary of State shall prepare and transmit to each county elections official a notice designating all of the state offices for which candidates are to be nominated for this election. EC 12103
<b>September 29, 2023 (E-158)</b>	<b>County Central Committee Nomination Petition Form</b> Nomination petition forms are available for county central committee candidates 158 days prior to the primary election. Completed nomination petition forms must be filed prior to the close of the candidate nomination period on December 8, 2023. EC 8020 (b)
<b>October 26 – November 15 2023 (E-131 to E-111)</b>	<b>Statewide Candidates – Optional Candidate Statement of Qualifications</b> <b>Submittal Deadline</b> Statewide candidates who opt to include a Candidate Statement of Qualifications in the state voter information guide provided to voters by the Secretary of State must submit the appropriate documents and payment to the Secretary of State by this deadline. Forms available from your county elections official or the Secretary of State.
<b>October 30 – November 8 2023 (E-127 to E-118)</b>	<b>Declaration of Intent – Required for Judicial Candidates</b> Every candidate for a judicial office must file a Declaration of Intent with the county elections official. All incumbent judges seeking re-election to the same office must file during this period. The Declaration of Intent will include the seat number designated by the ROV. <u>Nonrefundable filing fees</u> (money, signatures or any prorated combination of both) must be paid at the time the Declaration of Intent is filed. EC 8023, 8105
<b>October 30 – November 13 2023 (E-127 to E-113)</b>	<b>Municipal Notice of Election</b> For cities consolidating with this election, the city clerk shall publish the Notice of Election between these dates. This notice shall contain the date of the election, polling hours and offices to be filled. EC 12101
<b>November 6 – December 6 2023 (E-120 to E-90)</b>	<b>County Notice of Election</b> The county elections official shall publish a Notice of Election between these dates. The notice shall contain the date of the election, name of the offices for which candidates may file, qualifications required for each office, location where Declaration of Candidacy forms will be available, where the forms are to be filed and the deadline for filing these forms. EC 12112

<p><b>November 9 – November 13 2023 (E-117 to E-113)</b></p>	<p><b>Extension of Declaration of Intent Period – Judicial Offices Only</b> If the incumbent for a judicial office does not file a Declaration of Intent to succeed to the same office by the end of the Declaration of Intent filing period, qualified persons other than the incumbent may file a Declaration of Intent for that office during this extension period. Nonrefundable filing fees must be paid at the time the Declaration of Intent is filed. EC 8023, 8105</p>
<p><b>November 12, 2023 (E-114)</b></p>	<p><b>Municipal Calling of Special Election to Fill Vacancy</b> Last date for a city council to call a special election to fill a vacancy on the next regularly established election date, to be held not less than 114 days from the call of the election. If the election is not called by this date, the vacancy cannot go to election on this established election date. GC 36512 (b)</p>
<p><b>November 13 – December 8 2023 (E-113 to E-88)</b></p>	<p><b>Candidate Nomination Period – ALL CANDIDATES</b> All candidates, including incumbents, must file nomination documents with the appropriate elections official during this period. If applicable, the <u>nonrefundable filing fee</u> (money, signatures or a prorated combination of both) shall be paid at the time the candidate obtains nomination forms. No candidate whose Declaration of Candidacy has been filed for a primary election may withdraw as a candidate at that primary election. EC 8020-8021, 8040-8041, 8060-8070, 8100-8107, 8800-8811</p> <p><b>Optional Candidate Statement of Qualifications Submittal Deadline</b> All candidates who opt to include a Candidate Statement of Qualifications in the county voter information guide provided to voters by the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters office must submit a statement and pay the deposit when the candidate's Declaration of Candidacy is filed. Statements may not be changed but may be withdrawn up until 5:00 p.m. of the next business day after the close of the nomination period. EC 13307-13308</p> <p><b>Form 700 Candidate Statement of Economic Interest</b> Filing deadline for candidates who have not submitted a Form 700 within the previous 60 days. U.S. Senate, congressional and central committee candidates are exempt. GC 87100-87314</p>
<p><b>December 8, 2023 5:00 p.m. (E-88)</b></p>	<p><b>Close of Candidate Nomination Period</b> Candidate nomination documents are due. Incumbents who wish to file as a candidate for their own office must file by this date. Form 700 Statements of Economic Interest are due. EC 8020, 8022, GC 87200</p>
<p><b>December 9 – December 18 2023 (E-87 to E-78)</b></p>	<p><b>10-day Public Examination Period for Statement of Qualifications</b> Public examination period for offices that close during the nomination period. Any voter of the jurisdiction or the county elections official may file a writ of mandate or an injunction requiring any or all of the materials to be amended or deleted. EC 13313</p>
<p><b>December 9 – December 13 2023 (E-87 to E-83)</b></p>	<p><b>Candidate Nomination Extension Period – If Applicable</b> For anyone other than the incumbent <u>if</u> the incumbent did not file by E-88. This provision does not apply if there is no eligible incumbent to be elected or if the incumbent has met a term limit. EC 8022, 8024, 8204, 10225, 10407, 10516, 10604</p>
<p><b>December 13, 2023 (E-83)</b></p>	<p><b>Unopposed Superior Court Judge Write-In Campaign Deadline</b> Last day to file a petition indicating that a write-in campaign will be conducted against an unopposed incumbent Superior Court judicial candidate who has filed Nomination Petitions. The petition must be signed by at least 0.1% (at least 100 but no more than 600) qualified registered voters. Once the petition is complete, write-in candidates must file their write-in statement and Nomination Petitions between E-57 and E-14. EC 8203, 8600-8606</p>
<p><b>December 14, 2023 11:00 a.m. (E-82)</b></p>	<p><b>Randomized Alphabet Drawing</b> Conducted by the Secretary of State to determine candidate name order as it will appear on the ballot. The county elections official will also hold a public drawing at 11:00 a.m. for multi-county legislative offices. EC 13112</p>
<p><b>December 28, 2023 (E-68)</b></p>	<p><b>Certified List of Candidates for Federal and State Offices</b> This certified list will be issued by the Secretary of State. EC 8147-8150</p>
<p><b>January 5 – January 20 2024 (E-60 to E-45)</b></p>	<p><b>Military / Overseas Vote by Mail Ballot Delivery Period</b> Mailing and processing period for military and overseas voters. EC 300, 3101-3123</p>

<b>January 8 – February 20 2024 (E-57 to E-14)</b>	<b>Write-In Candidacy</b> Statement of Write-in Candidacy and Nomination Petitions must be filed with the appropriate elections official. EC 8600-8606
<b>January 25 – February 13 2024 (E-40 to E-21)</b>	<b>State Voter Information Guide (SVIG)</b> Mailed by the Secretary of State to households in which voters were registered by E-60. <i>Supplemental mailing of SVIG completed before E-10 for voters registered by E-28.</i> EC 9094
<b>January 25 – February 24 2024 (E-40 to E-10)</b>	<b>County Voter Information Guide (CVIG)</b> Mailed by the county elections official to voters who are registered at least 29 days before the election. EC 13303
<b>February 5 – February 27 2024 (E-29 to E-7)</b>	<b>Vote by Mail Ballot Mailing Period</b> Mailing and processing period for vote by mail ballots. Ballots will be available at the county elections office. EC 3001, 3200-3206
<b>February 5, 2024 (E-29)</b>	<b>Ballot Drop Boxes Will Be Deployed</b> A list of ballot drop box locations is printed in the county voter information guide and is posted at <a href="http://www.stanvote.com - Vote Center / Drop Box">www.stanvote.com - Vote Center / Drop Box</a>
<b>February 19, 2024 (E-15)</b>	<b>15-Day Close of Registration</b> Last day to register for this election. Postmarks, DMV submissions and elections office delivery/drop off are acceptable.
<b>February 20 – March 5, 2024 (E-14 to E)</b>	<b>Conditional Registration Period</b> Eligible persons who missed the 15-day close of registration may appear in person at the county elections official's office or any vote center and register to vote provisionally for this election. EC 2170
<b>February 24, 2024 (E-10)</b>	<b>Vote Centers Open</b> A portion of the vote centers will begin opening 10 days prior to Election Day. A list of vote centers is printed in the county voter information guide and posted at <a href="http://www.stanvote.com - Vote Center / Drop Box">www.stanvote.com - Vote Center / Drop Box</a>
<b>February 27, 2024 (E-7)</b>	<b>Last Day to Request Vote by Mail Ballot</b>
<b>March 2, 2024 (E-3)</b>	<b>Additional Vote Centers Open</b> Additional vote centers will begin opening 3 days prior to Election Day. A list of vote centers is printed in the county voter information guide and posted at <a href="http://www.stanvote.com - Vote Center / Drop Box">www.stanvote.com - Vote Center / Drop Box</a>
<b>March 5, 2024 (E)</b>	<b>ELECTION DAY</b> Vote centers and the county elections office are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. EC 1000, 14212
<b>March 7, 2024 (E+2)</b>	<b>1% Manual Tally Random Draw</b> The random draw will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. at the county elections office. The manual tally is conducted to verify accuracy of vote tabulation machines. The random draw is open to the public. EC 15360 <i>5-Day public notice with specific dates will be posted at <a href="http://www.stanvote.com - Public Notices">www.stanvote.com - Public Notices</a></i>
<b>March 7 – April 4, 2024 (E+2 to E+30)</b>	<b>Official Canvass of the Vote</b> The official canvass of precinct returns shall commence and be completed during this time. The county elections official shall prepare a certified statement of the results and submit it to the governing bodies consolidated with this election. If a judicial or county office candidate does not receive a majority of the vote in the primary election, there will be a run-off in the general election between the top two candidates for that office. EC 15301, 15372

\*Notwithstanding any other provision of law, whenever a date prescribed by law falls on a weekend or holiday, such act may be performed on the next business day. EC 15; GC 6700, 6701, 6707

***This calendar is for general information only and does not have the force and effect of law, regulations or rule  
In case of conflict, the law, regulation or rule will apply***





## **QUALIFICATIONS FOR ALL OFFICES**

(EC 13, 13.5, 20, 201, 349, 2026, GC 52337(a))



### **Elections Code 13 – Legally Qualified Candidate**

(a) A person shall not be considered a legally qualified candidate for an office, for party nomination for a partisan office, or for nomination to participate in the general election for a voter-nominated office, under the laws of this state unless that person has filed a Declaration of Candidacy or statement of write-in candidacy with the proper official for the particular election or primary, or is entitled to have his or her name placed on a general election ballot by reason of having been nominated at a primary election, or having been selected to fill a vacancy on the general election ballot as provided in Section 8807, or having been selected as an independent candidate pursuant to Section 8304.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing or prohibiting any qualified voter of this state from casting a ballot for a person by writing the name of that person on the ballot, or from having that ballot counted or tabulated, nor shall this section be construed as preventing or prohibiting a person from standing or campaigning for an elective office by means of a “write-in” campaign. However, nothing in this section shall be construed as an exception to the requirements of Section 15341 or to permit a person to be a write-in candidate contrary to Sections 8600 and 8606.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature, in enacting this section, to enable the Federal Communications Commission to determine who is a “legally qualified candidate” in this state for the purposes of administering Section 315 of Title 47 of the United States Code. *(Amended by Stats. 2012, Ch. 3, Sec. 1. Effective February 10, 2012.)*

### **Elections Code 20 – Felony Conviction**

(a) A person shall not be considered a candidate for, and is not eligible to be elected to, any state or local elective office if the person has 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.

(b) For purposes of this section, “conviction of a felony” includes a conviction of a felony in this state and a conviction under the laws of any other state, the United States, or any foreign government or country of a crime that, if committed in this state, would be a felony, and for which the person has not received a pardon from the Governor of this state, the governor or other officer authorized to grant pardons in another state, the President of the United States, or the officer of the foreign government or country authorized to grant pardons in that foreign jurisdiction.

### **Elections Code 201 – Registered Voter**

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 Petitions are issued to the person or at the time of the person's appointment.

### **Elections Code 349 - Residence and Domicile**

For voting purposes, “residence” means a person's domicile. The domicile of a person is that place in which his or her habitation is fixed, and the person has the intention of remaining and returning to. At a given time a person may have only one domicile.

### **Elections Code 2026 – Domicile of Member of Legislature or Representative in Congress**

The domicile of a Member of the Legislature or a Representative in the Congress of the United States shall be conclusively presumed to be at the residence address indicated on that person's currently filed affidavit of registration, as long as the address is a residence under subdivision (c) of Section 349, notwithstanding that they may have another residence at which any of 2026(a) through 2026(i) apply. *(Effective January 1, 2019)*

### **Government Code 53227(a) – Employee of District**

An employee of a local agency may not be sworn into office as an elected or appointed member of the legislative body of that local agency unless he or she resigns as an employee. If the employee does not resign, the employment shall automatically terminate upon his or her being sworn into office.

## **QUALIFICATIONS – VOTER NOMINATED OFFICE**

### **UNITED STATES SENATE**

Be at least 30 years of age; citizen of the United States for at least 9 years; resident of the state when he/she would be sworn into office if elected. U.S. Constitution, Article 1,3.

### **UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS**

Be at least 25 years of age; citizen of the United States for at least 7 years; resident of the state when he/she would be sworn into office if elected. U.S. Constitution, Article 1,2.

### **STATE SENATE**

Be a citizen of the United States; registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time nomination papers are issued\*\*, legislative members who were elected before June 2012 may not serve more than two terms in the State Senate or three terms in the State Assembly, for all others, may not serve more than 12 years in the Senate, the Assembly, or both, in any combination of terms. California Constitution, Article 4, Section 2 (a)(c).

### **MEMBER OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY**

Be a citizen of the United States; registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time nomination papers are issued\*\*; legislative members who were elected before June 2012 may not serve more than two terms in the State Senate or three terms in the State Assembly, for all others, may not serve more than 12 years in the Senate, the Assembly, or both, in any combination of terms. California Constitution, Article 4, Section 2 (a)(c).

*\*\*Article 4, Section 2(c) of the California Constitution requires one-year residence in the legislative district and California residence for three years. However, it is the legal opinion of the Secretary of State's office that these provisions violate the U.S. Constitution and are unenforceable.*

## **QUALIFICATIONS – NONPARTISAN LOCAL OFFICE**

### **SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE**

California Constitution Article 6 Judicial Sec. 15. 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.

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

GC 25041. In all other cases each member shall have been a registered voter of the district which he seeks to represent for at least 30 days immediately preceding the deadline for filing nomination documents for the office of supervisor and shall reside in the district during his incumbency.

### **MUNICIPAL OFFICES**

Contact the local city clerk for qualification requirements.



## **QUALIFICATIONS – COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE – PARTY NOMINATED OFFICE**

EC 8001. (a) A declaration of candidacy for membership on a county central committee shall not be filed by a candidate unless (1) at the time of presentation of the declaration and continuously for not less than three months immediately prior to that time, or for as long as the candidate has been eligible to register to vote in the state, the candidate is shown by the candidate's affidavit of registration to have expressed a preference for the political party of that committee, and (2) the candidate has not been registered with a preference for a qualified political party other than that political party within 12 months.

(b) The elections official shall attach a certificate to the declaration of candidacy showing the date on which the candidate registered with a preference for the political party of that committee and indicating that the candidate has not been registered with a preference for any other qualified political party for the period specified in subdivision (a) immediately preceding the filing of the declaration. This section does not apply to a declaration of candidacy filed by a candidate of a political party participating in its first direct primary election subsequent to its qualification as a political party pursuant to Section 5100.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a county central committee, subject to the bylaws of the state central committee, may establish the length of time that a candidate for membership on that committee must be shown by the candidate's affidavit of registration to have expressed a preference for the political party of that committee, and may establish the length of time that a candidate for membership on that committee must not have been registered with a preference for a qualified political party other than the political party of that committee.

(Amended by Stats. 2020, Ch. 106, Sec. 2. (AB 3370) Effective January 1, 2021.)

Nomination petition forms are available for county central committee candidates beginning on  
**September 29, 2023 (E-158)**





## CANDIDATE NOMINATION PROCESS

(EC 8020, 8028(b), 10510, 13307, 13311)

The candidate nomination period for the **March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election** will be:

**Monday, November 13 through Friday, December 8, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**

If the incumbent does not file during the regular nomination period, there will be a 5-day deadline extension for anyone other than the incumbent. This extension does not apply when there is no eligible incumbent or if the incumbent's term limits have been met.

Forms for candidacy are available during the nomination period from the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters office located at 1021 "I" Street, Modesto, CA, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.. The candidate should personally file all papers involved with his or her candidacy. If a candidate cannot obtain or submit his or her nomination paperwork, a specific letter of authorization signed by the candidate is required of any person obtaining or submitting candidacy filing documents on behalf of a candidate.

## CANDIDATE DOCUMENTS

Listed below is a description of the various mandatory and optional forms to be filed as a candidate in the **March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election**:

**It is the obligation of the candidate to ensure that  
all filing requirements and deadlines are met**

Document	Applies To	Filing Period
Signatures In-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition	Optional – All candidates where filing fee applies	September 14 – November 8, 2023
Declaration of Intent Statement	<b>Mandatory</b> – Judicial candidates	October 30 – November 8, 2023
Nomination petition	<b>Mandatory</b> - All candidates	<b>November 13 – December 8, 2023</b> <u>Extension dates, if applicable: **</u> December 9 – December 13
Declaration of Candidacy	<b>Mandatory</b> - All candidates	<b>November 13 – December 8, 2023</b> <u>Extension dates, if applicable: **</u> December 9 – December 13
Candidate Statement of Qualifications – <b>State</b> Voter Information Guide	Optional – U.S. Senate and Constitutional Offices (file with SOS)	November 15, 2023
Candidate Statement of Qualifications – <b>County</b> Voter Information Guide	Optional – U.S. Representative, State Senate, State Assembly and all local offices	Must be filed and paid for when filing the Declaration of Candidacy
Code of Fair Campaign Practices	Optional - All candidates (U.S. Rep. candidates are exempt)	File with Declaration of Candidacy
Campaign Disclosure Statements	<b>Mandatory</b> - All candidates	See FPPC filing schedules in this guide
Statement of Economic Interests – FPPC Form 700	<b>Mandatory</b> - All candidates (U.S. Senate, U.S. Rep. and central committee candidates are exempt)	December 8, 2023, December 13 if extension period applied

\* Date falls on a weekend or holiday; moved to next business day.

\*\* Nomination extension period for anyone other than the incumbent if the incumbent did not file during the regular nomination period. This extension does **not** apply when there is no eligible incumbent or if the incumbent's term limits have been met.

## March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election Filing Fee and Nomination Signature Requirement Chart

**INFORMATION ON THIS PAGE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE – Updated 8/9/23**

The table below sets forth the salary, the filing fee, the number of signatures in lieu of filing fees and their respective monetary value, as well as the required number of nomination signatures for federal, state constitutional, legislative, judicial and local candidates.

Office	Annual Salary	Filing Fee (% of salary)	In-Lieu Signatures (Optional)	Value of each Signature	Nomination Signatures Required
U.S. Senate	\$174,000.00	\$3,480.00 (2%)	7,000	\$0.497143	65 to 100
U.S. Representative	\$174,000.00	\$1,740.00 (1%)	2,000	\$0.87000	40 to 60
State Assembly	\$122,694.00	\$1,226.94 (1%)	1,000	\$1.22694	40 to 60
Judge, Superior Court	\$231,174.00	\$2,311.74 (1%)	6,936	\$0.333333	20 to 40
Board of Supervisors	\$103,750.40	\$1,037.50 (1%)	3,113	\$0.333333	20 to 40
Central Committee	N/A	None	N/A	N/A	20 to 40

**\*update when available** This information is calculated closer to the filing period to ensure accurate/current information is reflected. For state/federal offices, the information is provided to counties by the Secretary of State. Information will be made available, and this page will be updated in the electronic version posted on stanvote.com as soon as the data is final. Revision dates will be noted above. Additional information may be available on the Secretary of State website at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov).

### FILING FEES

(EC 8103 – 8105, 8106(b))



#### When the filing fee is paid:

Candidates for offices that require a filing fee are required to pay the filing fee at the time the Nomination Petition Form is requested. If the candidate meets the nomination signature requirement using signatures in-lieu of filing fee, the filing fee will be required at the time the Declaration of Candidacy form is filed.

Judicial Office - Candidates are required to pay the filing fee at the time you file a Declaration of Intent Form.

#### Where the filing fee is paid:

Pay the filing fee in the county elections office where you will file your Declaration of Candidacy form. If filing in Stanislaus County, the fee will be paid at the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters office.

#### Who the filing fee is paid to:

For state and federal offices: Checks are made payable to the Secretary of State and paid at the county where candidacy papers are filed. Counties will forward the fee to the Secretary of State.

Superior Court Judge / County Offices: Checks are made payable to the Stanislaus County Clerk-Recorder.

#### Amount of the filing fee:

The filing fee is a percentage of the annual salary for the office sought. Refer to the chart above. No filing fee is required for offices with no fixed compensation or those receiving an annual salary of \$2,500 or less. Write-in candidates are not required to pay filing fees.

**The filing fee is not refundable.** If, for any reason, the candidate fails to qualify, the filing fee is forfeited.

#### Returned checks:

If the filing fee is paid with a check that is returned without payment due to insufficient funds, the county elections official will contact the candidate. The candidate must make payment by money order or cashier's check by 4:00 p.m. on the next business day. Failure to do so will invalidate the individual's candidacy, and the candidate's name will not appear on the ballot. A returned check fee may apply. Candidates for state and federal offices will be contacted by the Secretary of State to make arrangements for payment of funds.

## PLACEMENT OF CANDIDATE NAMES ON THE BALLOT

### Random Alphabet Draw

(EC 13112)

The placement of names on the ballot is determined by a random alphabet draw that is held by the Secretary of State and the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters on the 82<sup>nd</sup> day before the election. If more than one candidate has the same first letter of their last name, this draw applies throughout the name.

### Rotation of Candidate Names on the Ballot

(EC 13111)

After placing the names according to the random alphabet drawing (see above), the rotation of certain offices is as follows:

Office	Rotation
Federal and State Candidates  <i>*The Secretary of State provides each county with the Assembly District Rotation List to be used for the ballots in that county.</i>	Candidates who are voted on statewide rotate by Assembly District, starting with Assembly District 1 where the names appear as first determined by the random alphabet draw. In Assembly District 2, the candidate who appeared first in Assembly District 1 drops to the bottom and the other candidates move up one position and so on throughout the 80 districts.
U.S. Representative to Congress, State Board of Equalization  <i>*The Secretary of State provides each county with the Assembly District Rotation List to be used for the ballots in that county.</i>	Candidates rotate within their districts with the lowest numbered Assembly district leading the rotation.
State Senate and State Assembly	The county elections official shall conduct a random drawing to determine the candidate order.
Superior Court Judges & All Countywide Offices	Candidates rotate beginning with the lowest numbered Supervisorial District and for each succeeding Supervisorial District, the name appearing first shall be placed last, the order of the other names remaining unchanged.
Other Offices	No rotation.



## **TOP TWO CANDIDATES OPEN PRIMARY ACT OF 2010**

### **Voter-Nominated Offices**

On June 8, 2010, California voters approved Proposition 14, which created the *Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act* (Top Two System). Offices that used to be known as “partisan offices” are now known as either a “voter-nominated” office or a “party nominated” office.

The offices of U.S. President and County Central Committees remain “party nominated” offices. The state constitutional offices, U.S. Representative and legislative offices are now known as “voter-nominated” offices.

The *Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act* alters the way elections are conducted for all statewide “voter-nominated” offices including:

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

**The *Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act* does not affect the election of President and party central committees, which remain party nominated.**

Under the *Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act*, all candidates for a voter-nominated office in a primary election, regardless of their political party preference, will appear on a single combined primary election ballot and voters can vote for any candidate from any political party. The candidates for voter-nominated offices who receive the highest and second highest number of votes cast at the primary election, regardless of political party, will appear on the ballot as candidates at the ensuing general election.

Candidates for voter-nominated offices list their party preference on the primary and general election ballots. Political parties no longer formally nominate candidates for voter-nominated offices, so a candidate who finishes in the top two at the primary election in June and advances to the general election in November is not the official nominee of any party for the office.

In the “Top Two” system, two candidates from the same party may now be nominated to run in the general election if they receive the highest and second highest number of votes in the primary election.

Write-In candidates for voter-nominated contests are only allowed in the primary election and must be among the top two vote-getters to advance to the general election. In the general election, write-in votes are only allowed for party nominated contests.

The following page explains how a candidate’s party preference will apply under the *Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act*.

## CANDIDATE DESIGNATION OF POLITICAL PARTY TOP TWO CANDIDATES OPEN PRIMARY ACT OF 2010

(EC 8002.5, 8040, 13105(a))

Elections Code section 13105(a) addresses how a candidate for a voter-nominated office is permitted to designate his or her political party preference on the ballot.

With the implementation of EC 13105(a), to ensure that each candidate's political party designation is provided to voters in a uniform fashion substantially like the form prescribed by Elections Code 13105, the Secretary of State's office has provided the following format for use by the county elections official:

- For a candidate who designated a qualified political party pursuant to Sections 8002.5 and 8040, **"Party Preference: \_\_\_\_\_."**
- For a candidate who did not designate a party preference for a qualified political party pursuant to Sections 8002.5 and 8040, **"Party Preference: None."**

In cases where limitations in voting systems and/or ballot layout capacity necessitates abbreviating qualified political party names where a candidate is permitted to express a preference as identified above, the Secretary of State's office has provided the following format:

- Utilize the following list of approved abbreviations:
  - AI – American Independent
  - DEM – Democratic
  - GRN – Green
  - LIB – Libertarian
  - Not Given – Not Given (this designation should not be abbreviated)
  - PF – Peace and Freedom
  - REP – Republican

Should a county utilize the abbreviation option, it must provide a list of the abbreviations to voters in the County Voter Information Guide, in postings at the polling places and in information mailed to vote by mail voters.

- Utilize political party abbreviations for each candidate in a particular contest and throughout the entire ballot on a countywide basis, even though only one candidate may require the use of an abbreviation.



## Top Two Candidates

### Moving forward from Primary Election to General Election

**Voter nominated offices:** The candidates who receive the highest and second highest number of votes cast in the primary election will move forward to the November general election.

**County offices:** If the candidate receiving the highest number of votes does not receive more than 50% of the votes cast, the candidates who receive the highest and second highest number of votes in the March primary election will move forward to the November general election.

**City of Modesto Mayor:** If the candidate receiving the highest number of votes does not receive more than 50% of the votes cast, the candidates who receive the highest and second highest number of votes in the March primary election will move forward to the November general election. Contact the City Clerk for all candidate filing information.

**It is the obligation of the candidates moving forward to be aware of the filing deadlines  
for the November 5, 2024, Presidential General Election**

Document	Applies To	Filing Period
<b>Ballot Designation Change Request</b> <i>A new ballot designation worksheet must accompany your request.</i>	Optional – All candidates moving forward from March	<b>July 30, 2024</b> E-98 <i>Filing deadline pursuant to EC 13107(h)</i>
<b>Candidate Statement of Qualifications</b> <i>If you would like your Candidate Statement printed in the County Voter Information Guide for the November general election, you must file your statement and submit the required deposit payment during this filing period.</i>	Optional – All candidates moving forward from March	<b>July 15, 2024 – August 9, 2024</b> E-113 through E-88
<b>FPPC Pre-Election Statements</b> <i>Candidates moving forward in the Top Two must file pre-election campaign disclosure statements for both the March and November election.</i>	<b>Mandatory</b> – All candidates with an open FPPC campaign finance committee	<b>See FPPC Form 460 filing schedule</b>

Election calendars are available online at [stanvote.com](https://stanvote.com)  
under the “Officials/Candidates” tab

## SIGNATURES IN-LIEU OF FILING FEE PETITIONS

(EC 8020, 8061, 8105-8106.5)

### Signatures In-Lieu (SIL) of Filing Fee Petition

A candidate may submit a petition containing signatures of registered voters' in-lieu of paying the filing fee in order to run for office. Signatures submitted may cover all, or a portion, of the filing fee. Any registered voter may sign an in-lieu petition for any candidate for whom he or she is eligible to vote. File petitions with the county elections official in the county where circulated no later than 5:00 p.m. on the SIL filing deadline day. Each valid signature will be applied as a credit to the filing fee AND the nomination signature requirement.

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 5:00 p.m. on the filing deadline date. A monetary credit for each valid signature will be applied toward the filing fee. **All filing fees are non-refundable.** The names of candidates who are issued Signatures In-Lieu Petitions are considered public information and their names will be listed on the "Candidate List" posted online at [www.stanvote.com](http://www.stanvote.com) under the "Official/Candidates" tab. The candidate list will be updated daily throughout the candidate filing period.

### Obtaining the Petition Form

A master Signatures In-Lieu (SIL) petition form will be available from the county elections official. The form will be issued directly to the candidate or to someone bearing written authorization from the candidate. An authorization form is available online at [www.stanvote.com](http://www.stanvote.com) under the "Officials/Candidates" tab. There is no charge for the master form. The candidate is responsible for duplicating as many copies as he/she needs. Copies must be made front to back to ensure that the pages will not be separated. The county elections official cannot accept petition forms that are not printed front to back.

## SIGNATURES IN-LIEU APPLY TOWARD NOMINATION SIGNATURES

(EC 8020, 8040-8042, 8061-8063, 8105-8106.5)

If a candidate submits a Signatures In-Lieu Petition (also referred to as Petitions In-Lieu of Filing Fee) 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.

If the Signatures In-Lieu Petition contains the requisite number of valid signatures required for the Nomination Petition, the candidate is NOT required to circulate and file a separate Nomination Petition. All other required documents (i.e., Declaration of Candidacy, etc.) must still be filed during the appropriate time frame.

If the Signatures In-Lieu Petition does not contain the requisite number of valid signatures required for the Nomination Petition, the candidate must circulate and file a separate Nomination Petition signed by qualified registered voters during the nomination period.

## NOMINATION PETITION

(EC 8020, 8040-8042, 8060-8070)

Most candidates running in a primary election will be required to file nomination signatures. The Nomination Petition must contain the minimum number of valid signatures based on the office sought. Deliver the completed Nomination Petitions to the county elections official of the county in which the signer resides and is a voter.

No more signers shall be secured for any candidate than the maximum specified for the office you are seeking. If, however, through miscalculation or otherwise, more signers are secured than the maximum number allowed, the filing officer with whom the Nomination Petitions are filed will request the candidate to withdraw or block out the excess number of signatures prior to accepting the Nomination Petition.

Signers must be voters in the district or political subdivision in which the candidate is to be voted on and shall be affiliated with the party, if applicable, in which the nomination is proposed.

The county elections official will transmit to the Secretary of State the nomination document for each candidate for state office, U.S. Senate, U.S. Representative, and member of the Senate or Assembly.

# **GUIDELINES FOR GATHERING PETITION SIGNATURES**

(EC 100-108, 8060-8070, 8100-8106.5)

Many types of petitions require valid voter signatures. These guidelines have been created to assist circulators in gathering signatures and are for general information only and do not have the force and effect of law, regulation or rule. They are distributed with the understanding that the Registrar of Voters of the County of Stanislaus is not rendering legal advice. These guidelines are not a substitute for legal counsel for the individual, organization or candidate using them. In case of conflict, the law, regulation or rule will apply. Information is subject to change.

## **A brief description of the types of petitions:**

### Ballot Question Petitions:

- Statewide Initiative Petition - to place a statewide proposition on the ballot.
- Local Petition (county, city, school or special district) - to place a measure on the ballot.
- Recall Petition - to force an election to ask voters to remove an official from an elected office.

### Candidacy Petitions:

- Signatures In-Lieu of Filing Fee Petition (SIL) - an optional candidacy petition that gives a monetary credit for each valid signature to be applied toward a filing fee to run for office (if there is a filing fee).
- Nomination Petition (NOM) - some elected offices require a candidate to obtain a specified number of nomination signatures as part of qualifying as a candidate.

Circulators perform the important duty of obtaining signatures of registered voters for all types of petitions. If the signatures are not obtained properly and in accordance with the law, the signatures can be invalidated and will not count. If the petition is for a candidate, you should obtain the maximum number of signatures as soon as possible and return the candidacy petitions to the office of the Registrar of Voters in the county where the signers reside and are registered to vote.

If you distribute affidavit of registrations as part of the signature gathering process, you should submit the affidavits of registration when filing the petition. Inform the elections staff accepting the petition that the registration cards are signers on the petition so our staff can process the registration cards prior to processing the petition. Petition signer information is compared to the current voter record, so it is important that voter registration cards gathered as part of your petition signature gathering efforts are received and processed before we begin processing the petition.

## **Petition Circulator Information**

Anyone who is circulating a petition must be a minimum of 18 years of age. A candidate for any office may obtain signatures and sign his or her own Nomination Petition or Signatures In-Lieu Petition. His or her signature will be given the same effect as that of any other qualified signer. The candidate may circulate the petitions throughout the election jurisdiction regardless of his or her county of residence.

## **Affidavit of Circulator**

Each petition circulator must complete, in his or her own handwriting:

- Printed name of the circulator.
- Residence address of the circulator, giving street and number, or if no street or number exists, adequate designation of residence so that the location may be readily ascertained.
- Dates between which all the signatures to the petition or paper were obtained.

Each declaration submitted pursuant to this section shall also set forth the following:

- That the circulator circulated that section and witnessed the signatures being written.
- That according to the best information and belief of the circulator, each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be. The circulator shall certify under penalty of perjury to the truth and correctness of the content of the declaration. Certification requires the signature of the circulator. The circulator shall state the date and the place of execution on the declaration immediately preceding his or her signature.
- That the circulator is 18 years of age or older.

### **Political Party Affiliation**

The party affiliation of the signer is not relevant and is not used in determining the validity of the signature. The only exception to this is when the petition is a partisan candidacy petition, described below.

### **Partisan Candidacy Petition - Political Party Affiliation**

Partisan office candidacy petitions require the signer to be registered with the same political party as the candidate for whom they are signing. This rule only applies when signing a candidacy petition for the office of U.S. President or County Central Committee.

### **Ballot Question Petitions - Voters May Sign Only Once**

Signers can have only one valid signature count for a specific petition. If they sign multiple times, only the first valid signature will be counted. Each additional signature for that voter will be invalid.

### **Candidacy Petitions - Voters May Sign Only One Petition Per Office**

Signers may only sign one candidate's Signatures In-Lieu and/or Nomination Petition per office unless the race has more than one seat to be filled.

Examples:

If the office is a "Vote for One" signers may sign only one candidate Nomination Petition.

If the office is a "Vote for Two" signers may sign up to two candidates' Nomination Petitions.

If the office is a "Vote for Three" signers may sign up to three candidates' Nomination Petitions.

### **Qualified Signers**

At the time of signing the petition **each voter shall PERSONALLY affix their own signature, print their own name and print their full residence address** unless they require assistance.

Residence address must include the house number, street name and the city and/or ZIP Code. If no street or house number exists, then a designation of the place of residence that will enable the location to be readily ascertained, including the city.

- **Voter-nominated office** - Signatures In-Lieu and Nomination Petitions - Any registered voter within that jurisdiction. Signers are not required to be of the same political party as the candidate for whom they are signing.
- **Party nominated office** - Signatures In-Lieu and Nomination Petitions - Must be a registered voter within that jurisdiction and registered with the same political party as the candidate for whom they are nominating. The office of U.S. President and County Central Committee are partisan (party nominated) offices.
- **Nonpartisan office** - Signatures In-Lieu and Nomination Petitions – Any registered voter within that jurisdiction.
- **Non-candidacy petitions** – Any registered voter within that jurisdiction.



## Validation of Signatures

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) created guidelines to assist counties with a more uniform way of processing petition signatures. We are providing a brief summary of the most common reasons signatures are found to be valid or invalid to assist you in obtaining valid signatures on your petition.

### The following guidelines will be used when validating signatures on all petitions:

A petition signature is **VALID** and will be **counted** if all of the following apply.

The signer:

- is a registered voter.
- provides a residence address on the petition matching the voter's record at the time the petition was signed.
- provides a complete residence address on the petition including the house number, street name AND city or ZIP Code.
- affixes a signature affixed to the petition comparable to the signature on the voter's record.
- is registered in the district boundaries, if applicable.
- is registered with the same political party when signing a candidacy petition for a candidate running for the partisan office of U.S. President or County Central Committee.

A petition signature is **INVALID** and **will NOT be counted** if any of the following apply.

The signer:

- is not registered to vote.
- affixes a signature on the petition that does not compare to the signature on the voter's record.
- provides a P.O. Box or mailing address instead of the required residence address.
- provides an address that does not match the voter record at the time of signing the petition.
- provides an incomplete residence address, street address and city or Zip Code must be present.
- does not reside in the appropriate district (if applicable).
- signs a Nomination Petition for a party nominated office and is not registered with the same political party as the candidate seeking office.
- prints their name instead of providing a signature unless the voter's record is also a printed signature.
- uses ditto marks for an address, street address and city or zip code must be present.
- authorizes someone else to sign on voter's behalf (Power of Attorney). The voter must sign for themselves.
- does not reside in the county where the petition was filed.
- writes illegibly, and a search for the voter cannot be completed.
- signed the same petition multiple times (only the first valid signature will be counted).



## DECLARATION OF INTENT – JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

(EC 8020-8028)

Candidates for judicial offices are required to file a Declaration of Intent form to become a candidate prior to filing their nomination documents consisting of a Declaration of Candidacy and Nomination Petition with the requisite number of signatures.

The Declaration of Intent form must be obtained from and filed with the county elections official of the county in which the candidate is seeking office and must be filed not more than 14 days nor less than 5 days prior to the first day on which his or her Nomination Petitions may be circulated and signed.

The filing fee for judicial office must be paid at the time the Declaration of Intent is filed. EC 8105 (b)

## DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

(EC 333, 8020-8028, 8100-8106.5, 10510-10516, GC 85200-85201)

The Declaration of Candidacy is the official nomination document wherein the candidate (an incumbent or challenger) indicates how his or her name and ballot designation is to appear on the ballot. Additionally, the candidate declares that he/she meets the statutory and/or constitutional qualifications for the office sought and, if nominated, the candidate will accept the nomination and not withdraw.

The Oath of Office on the Declaration of Candidacy form must be taken and signed by the candidate before a person authorized to administer oaths. The elections official, district secretary and public notaries are authorized administrators.

The Declaration of Candidacy for party nominated offices must also contain the date on which the candidate registered with the political party for which he or she is now seeking nomination to office.

The candidate is required to execute the Declaration of Candidacy in the office of the county elections official unless a written statement is signed and dated by the candidate designating a person to receive the Declaration of Candidacy form from the county elections official and deliver it to the candidate. The written statement from the candidate should include language indicating that the candidate is aware that the Declaration of Candidacy and all required nomination documents must be properly executed and delivered to the county elections official in the county of the candidate's residence by the 88th day prior to the primary election or the 83<sup>rd</sup> day prior to the election for candidates other than the incumbent if there is an extension to that office.

## WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDACY

(EC 8800-8811, 10220-10230, 10602-10604)

**Primary election:** No candidate whose Declaration of Candidacy has been filed for any primary election may withdraw as a candidate at that primary election.

No candidate nominated at any primary election may withdraw as a candidate at the ensuing general election except those candidates permitted to withdraw by EC 8800-8801.

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

No vacancy on the ballot for a voter-nominated office at a general election shall be filled. If a candidate who is entitled to appear on the general election ballot dies, the name of that candidate shall appear on the general election ballot and any votes cast for that candidate shall be counted in determining the results of the election for that office. If the deceased candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for the office, he or she shall be considered elected to that office and the office shall be considered vacant at the beginning of the term for which the candidate was elected. The vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as if the candidate had died after taking office for that term. EC 8803(b)

## STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS – FPPC FORM 700

(GC 87100, 87200–87210, 87500–87505, 81004–81008)

Candidates must file statements of economic interests disclosing their investments, interests in real property and any income received during the preceding 12 months at the time of filing the Declaration of Candidacy with the local filing official during the nomination period. Statements of Economic Interests are public record.

Exception: The statement is not required if the candidate has filed such a statement within the past 60 days for the same office. Federal candidates and Municipal Advisory Council candidates are exempt and are not required to file this form.

## WRITE-IN CANDIDACY

(GC 82007, EC 305, 8601–8606, 8650–8653, 10510–10516)

**Filing Period: (E-57) to (E-14) – See calendar for specific dates**

### **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. The number of all write-in votes (both qualified and unqualified) will be included in the Statement of Vote to account for all voter activity. The votes cast for **qualified write-in candidates** will be tabulated separately for that office or nomination and reported in the certified Statement of Vote. The county elections official will forward the forms to the Secretary of State in the case of offices that must be certified by the Secretary of State. Voters may write in any person they wish for any office regardless of whether the person is qualified or not. However, only the votes for qualified write-in candidates will be separately tabulated.

**To qualify as a write-in candidate** a person must file with the county elections official the following documents during the write-in filing period:

- 1) A **Statement of Write-In Candidacy** that shall contain the candidate's name, residence address, a declaration stating that he or she is a write-in candidate, the title of the office for which he or she is running and the date of the election.
- 2) A **Nomination Petition** (*if applicable*) with the requisite number of sponsor signatures required for the office sought. Signers of Nomination Petitions for write-in candidates shall be voters in the district or political subdivision in which the candidate is to be voted on. In addition, if the candidate is seeking a party nomination for an office, the signers shall also be affiliated with the party whose nomination is sought.

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

No filing fee will be paid by a write-in candidate. Write-in candidates are subject to the same requirements as other candidates regarding disclosure of economic interests and campaign disclosure. The county elections official will provide voting locations with a list of qualified write-in candidates.

### **Write-in candidacy for voter-nominated office:**

Under the Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act, write-in candidates are not eligible to participate in the general election in November for voter-nominated offices unless they received the highest or second highest number of votes in the primary election.

### **Write-in candidacy for municipal, school or special district office:**

The write-in filing period will be made available for all municipal, school and special district offices that have had a sufficient number of candidates to cause a contest to appear on the ballot.

If the office will not appear on the ballot because there was not a sufficient number of candidates to cause a contest, and if a petition signed by 10 percent of the voters or 50 voters, whichever is the smaller number, in the district or division if elected by division, requesting that the general district election be held has not been presented to the officer conducting the election, no write-in period will apply. EC 10515

## CANDIDATE'S BALLOT DESIGNATION

(EC 13107, 13107.5)

**EC 13107** (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 Section 7228, 7423, 7673, 10229, or 10515 of this code.

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

- (A) Words designating the city, county, district, state, or federal office held by the candidate at the time of filing the nomination documents.
- (B) The word "incumbent" if the candidate is a candidate for the same office that he or she holds at the time of filing the nomination papers.
- (C) No more than three words designating either the current principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate, or the principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents.

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

- (A) Words designating the actual job title, as defined by statute, charter, or other governing instrument.
- (B) One of the following ballot designations: "Attorney," "Attorney at Law," "Lawyer," or "Counselor at Law." The designations "Attorney" and "Lawyer" may be used in combination with one other current principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate, or the principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents.

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

- (A) If the candidate is an official or employee of a city, the name of the city shall appear preceded by the words "City of."
- (B) If the candidate is an official or employee of a county, the name of the county shall appear preceded by the words "County of."
- (C) If the candidate is an official or employee of a city and county, the name of the city and county shall appear preceded by the words "City and County."
- (D) If the candidate performs quasi-judicial functions for a governmental agency, the full name of the agency shall be included.

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

(d) For purposes of this section, all California geographical names shall be considered 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 Section 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 Section 17100.

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

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

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

**EC 13107.5** A candidate may use "community volunteer" as a ballot designation subject to the following conditions: A candidate's community volunteer activities constitute his or her principal profession, vocation, or occupation. A candidate is not engaged concurrently in another principal profession, vocation, or occupation. A candidate may not use the designation of "community volunteer" in combination with any other principal profession, vocation, or occupation designation. The Secretary of State shall by regulation\* define what constitutes a community volunteer for purposes of this section. (\*See *California Administrative Code 20714.5*)

*Ballot designation guidelines:*

*California Elections Code 13107, 13107.3 and 13107.5*

*California Administrative Code - Title 2, Division 7, Chapter 7 (20710 through 20719)*

## **BALLOT DESIGNATION WORKSHEET**

(EC 13107.3)

Each candidate who submits a ballot designation pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 13107 shall file, in addition to the nomination documents filed pursuant to Section 8020, a ballot designation worksheet that supports the use of that ballot designation by the candidate in a format prescribed by the Secretary of State. The ballot designation worksheet shall be filed with the elections official at the same time that the candidate files his or her Declaration of Candidacy. 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.



## CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

(EC 13307-13317, 18350, 18351)

A statement by the candidate describing his or her education and qualifications is optional and can be printed in the voter information pamphlet section of the County Voter Information Guide. The candidate statement and full deposit must be submitted at the same time and must be received by the Registrar of Voters office prior to the close of the nomination filing period. The candidate's statement is designed to acquaint voters with a candidate's qualifications for the office he/she is seeking.

Pursuant to EC 13308, a candidate statement 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, their qualifications, character or activities.

### **Statements should not contain any demonstrably false, slanderous or libelous statements.**

The candidate is responsible for the content of the statement submitted for inclusion in the County Voter Information Guide. It is a misdemeanor for a candidate to knowingly make a false statement of a material fact in a candidate statement with intent to mislead voters in connection with his or her campaign for election to a nonpartisan office.

Stanislaus County candidate statements are required by the Voting Rights Act to be in the English and Spanish languages.

**Time Period for Filing:** The Candidate Statement of Qualifications is optional and must be filed during the candidate nomination period.

Primary Elections: Candidate statement must be filed at the same time the candidate files their official Declaration of Candidacy.

General Elections: Candidate statement must be filed prior to the close of the candidate filing period.

**Submitting Statement:** Submit your candidate statement following the **TO SUBMIT YOUR CANDIDATE STATEMENT** instructions provided on the top of **Page 34**. Your statement will be reviewed prior to your visit to the ROV to officially file and pay for the candidate statement. This review provides an opportunity for corrections to formatting, word count, documentation needed, etc.

**Authorized Agent:** If the candidate is sending an authorized agent to complete the candidate statement process, a letter of authorization is required. The letter should include the candidate's name, election date, office sought, the name of the authorized agent and should be specific in stating the agent is authorized to submit, approve and pay the required deposit on behalf of the candidate. The letter must include the candidate's signature. The letter of authorization will be attached to the official Candidate Statement of Qualifications Form to be signed by the authorized agent.

**Restrictions:** Candidate statements are limited to the candidate's own personal background and qualifications and shall not in any way make reference to other candidates. The elections official shall not print or circulate any statement that the elections official determines does not meet this restriction. (EC 13308)

Candidate statements for local nonpartisan office shall not include the political party affiliation of the candidate nor membership or activity in partisan political organizations. Candidate photographs are not permitted. (13307(a)(1))



- Contents:** The statement may contain the name, age and occupation of the candidate and a brief description of the candidate's education and qualifications expressed by the candidate. The spacing for the statement is to be uniform and conform to the current guidelines provided in this guide. Statements not in compliance will not be accepted.
- Withdrawal:** The statement may be withdrawn **but not changed** during the candidate nomination and until 5:00 p.m. of the next business day after the close of the nomination period. Any request for withdrawal of a candidate's statement must be in writing and signed by the candidate. (EC 13307(a)(3))
- Endorsements:** If your statement contains endorsements you must file written authorization with your statement from the person(s) giving you the endorsement. Letters must be signed and dated.
- Confidentiality of Statements:** Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, candidates' statements filed pursuant to EC 13307 shall remain confidential until the close of the nomination period for the office sought. (EC 13311)
- Public Examination:** During the 10-calendar day period commencing the day after the close of the nomination period, anyone may examine a candidate's statement and may purchase copies. During this period any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held or the county elections official may seek a writ of mandate or an injunction requiring any or all of the material in a candidate's statement to be amended or deleted. (EC 13313-13314)
- Word Count:** Candidates for local nonpartisan elective office may file a statement of no more than 200 words.  
Candidates for State Senate and State Assembly who have accepted the voluntary spending limits and candidates for U.S. Representative may file a statement of no more than 250 words.
- Cost:** An estimated printing cost deposit is required when a candidate statement is filed. Candidates will be invoiced for the difference if the actual cost exceeds the deposit and will receive a refund if the actual cost is less than the deposit. The deposit table is located on **Page 37** of this guide.

For shared county districts, it is the responsibility of the candidate to contact other counties for their prices and formatting restrictions. The candidate is responsible for submitting his or her statement with each county involved in the shared district.

**It is recommended that a candidate not wait until the last minute to draft and submit a candidate statement! Check the statement carefully for errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar. Neither the candidate nor the elections official can make any corrections to a statement once the candidate statement is filed.**



**PREPARATION OF THE CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT  
FORMATTING GUIDELINES**  
(EC 13307)



**TO SUBMIT YOUR CANDIDATE STATEMENT**

- Candidate statement **MUST** be emailed **PRIOR** to visiting the elections office to officially file candidate statement and pay the required deposit.
- Submit the statement to **CampaignDocs@stancounty.com** with “*Candidate Statement*” in the email subject line.
- Submit the statement in a WORD or text format copied into the email or attach the WORD or text document to the email. Statements cannot be accepted in pdf format.
- Candidate Services will respond to the email to acknowledge receipt of the statement and will respond again with results of the manager review process.
- Contact us at 209-525-5237 if you are having difficulty submitting the statement as required or if you did not receive an email to confirm receipt of the statement within 24 hours of submission.

**The candidate statement is not considered “filed” until the content and format have been approved by an elections manager, the required deposit is paid and the candidate statement authorization form is signed.**

**You MUST complete the entire process before the filing deadline.**

To ensure uniformity of all candidate statements, all candidates must prepare their statements using the following guidelines:

- Brief statement of not more than 200 words (*250 for Congressional, State Senate and Assembly*). See “*How to Count Words*” in the following pages.
- Block paragraph format in Arial 10 font.
- Limit your statement to **6 paragraphs or less** to ensure it will fit within the allotted ¼ page space.
- Statement is limited to recitation of candidate’s own education, qualification and background and should make no reference to other candidates or their activities.
- The statement must be written in the first person.
- **Do not use any of the following:**
  - *Italics*
  - **Bold type**
  - Underlines
  - ALL CAPS (exception: acronyms and abbreviations)
  - Indents
  - “Quotation marks”
  - Bullet points or numbering
  - Lists or tables
  - Repetitive punctuation!!!
  - Unusual s p a c i n g

The following standard header format of the statement will include the district office, candidate name, age (optional) and occupation. This standard header will appear above all candidate statements and is **not** counted as part of the word limit:

<b>STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR CONSOLIDATED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT – AREA 4</b>	
<b>Fred Businessman</b> <b>Occupation:</b> Health Facility Director	<b>Age:</b> 38
<b>Education and Qualifications:</b> <i>(Your word count starts here)</i>	

**The format of your statement may need to be changed by the Registrar of Voters office to conform to these formatting guidelines for inclusion in the County Voter Information Guide.**

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT EXAMPLES

Fictitious examples of Candidate Statement of Qualifications

<p><b><u>ACCEPTABLE</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR CONSOLIDATED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT – AREA 4</p> <p><b>Joseph W. Candidate</b> <b>Occupation:</b> Businessman / Teacher</p> <p><b>Education and Qualifications:</b> I have lived here my entire life and I love this community. I would like to get more involved in our community affairs. I believe that I am the best person for this position, and I am willing to work very hard to make our lovely little community the best that it can possibly be.</p> <p>If you elect me I promise that I will dedicate all of my time to fulfilling the requirements of this position and pushing forward the special projects that are in desperate need of my time and attention. I believe that by improving our community we can provide a safe and secure environment for our children and families to enjoy a quality of life that is no longer available in the big overgrown metropolis to the west of us.</p> <p>I have years of experience in planning and organizing, and I am willing to use all of this experience and all of my training and education to do the best job that I can. I will make myself readily available to the public for all needs. A vote for me is a vote for change!</p> <p>I appreciated your support!</p>	<p><b><u>NOT ACCEPTABLE</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR CONSOLIDATED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT – AREA 4</p> <p><b>Joseph W. Candidate</b> <b>Occupation:</b> Businessman / Teacher</p> <p><b>Education and Qualifications:</b> I have lived here my entire life and I love this community. I would like to get more involved in our community affairs. I believe that I am the best person for this position, and I am willing to work very hard to make our lovely little community the best that it can possibly be.</p> <p>If you elect me I promise that I will dedicate all of my spare time to fulfilling the requirements of this position and pushing forward the special projects that are in desperate need of my time and attention. I believe that by improving our community we can provide a safe and secure environment for our children and families to enjoy a quality of life that is no longer available in the big overgrown metropolis to the west of us.</p> <p><i>Unlike my opponent...</i> I have years of experience in planning and organizing, and I am willing to use all of this experience and all of my training and education to do the best job that I can. I will make myself readily available to the public for all needs.</p> <p><i>A vote for Joseph W. Candidate is a vote for change!!!</i></p> <p>I APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!!</p>
<p><b><u>ACCEPTABLE</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR CONSOLIDATED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT – AREA 4</p> <p><b>Fred Businessman</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Age: 38</b></span> <b>Occupation:</b> Health Facility Director</p> <p><b>Education and Qualifications:</b> I have lived here my entire life and I love this community. I would like to get more involved in our community affairs and believe that I am the best person for this position. I am willing to work very hard to make our lovely little community the best that it can possibly be.</p> <p>If you elect me I promise that I will dedicate all of my spare time to fulfilling the requirements of this position and pushing forward the special projects that are in desperate need of my time and attention. I believe that by improving our community we can provide a safe and secure environment for our children and families to enjoy a quality of life that is no longer available in the big overgrown metropolis to the west of us.</p> <p>I have years of experience in planning and organizing, and I am willing to use all of this experience and all of my training and education to do the best job that I can. I will make myself readily available to the public for all needs. I appreciate your support!</p>	<p><b><u>NOT ACCEPTABLE</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR CONSOLIDATED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT – AREA 4</p> <p><b>Fred Businessman</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Age: 38</b></span> <b>Occupation:</b> Health Facility Director</p> <p><b>Education and Qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have lived here my entire life and I love this community.</li> <li>• I would like to get more involved in our community affairs.</li> <li>• I believe that I am the best person for this position.</li> <li>• I am willing to work very hard to make our lovely little community the best that it can possibly be.</li> </ul> <p>If you elect me I promise that I will dedicate all of my spare time to fulfilling the requirements of this position and pushing forward the special projects that are in desperate need of my time and attention. I believe that by improving our community we can provide a safe and secure environment for our children and families to enjoy a quality of life that is no longer available in the big overgrown metropolis to the west of us.</p> <p>I have years of experience in planning and organizing, and I am willing to use all of this experience and all of my training and education to do the best job that I can. I will make myself readily available to the public for all needs.</p> <p><b><i>VOTE FOR FRED BUSINESSMAN!!!</i></b></p>

## HOW TO COUNT WORDS (EC 9)

Listed below are the guidelines specified in Elections Code 9 for counting the number of words submitted on any document whose content is limited by statute, such as candidate statements:

### Count as one word:

**Punctuation:** Punctuation is not counted.

**Proper Nouns:** All proper nouns, including geographical names, will be counted as one word. For example, "County of Stanislaus" will be counted as one word.

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

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

**Dates:** Dates will be counted as one word.

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

**Telephone & Internet:** Website addresses and telephone numbers are one word.

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

### Examples:

Category	Example	Word Count
Acronyms and abbreviations	CSUS, C.S.U.S., Nov., etc.	One
Dates	01/01/2014 or January 1, 2014	One
E-Mail	stanvote@stancounty.com	One
Geographical name	Stanislaus County or City of Modesto	One
Hyphenated words - Published in U.S. dictionary within the past 10 years	Mother-in-law	One
Hyphenated words - <u>Not</u> published in U.S. dictionary within the past 10 years	Taxpayer-advocate	One for each (Two)
Internet address	www.stanvote.com	One
Numbers using digits	1, 10, 100, etc.	One
Numbers spelled out	One Hundred Thousand	One for each (Three)
Numerical computations	50%, 1/2, 2.3, etc.	One
Telephone numbers	209-525-5200	One

## ADVANCE PAYMENT FOR CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

(EC 13307(d))

The required deposit is an estimation of the total prorated cost of printing, handling, translating and mailing the 1/4 page candidate statements. This estimated cost is due upon filing the statement. Cost of the statement will double if the candidate statement extends beyond the allotted 1/4 page space.

Make checks payable to: **Stanislaus County Clerk-Recorder.**

If the actual cost is less than the deposit, you will receive a refund. If the actual cost is more than the deposit, you will receive an invoice for the difference and are required to pay the balance upon receipt of the invoice. It can take up to 3 months to produce a refund or invoice. In the case of a shared county district it is the responsibility of the candidate to contact each county involved and establish their costs and formatting restrictions. The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters does not accept candidate statements or statement fees on behalf of other counties.

### COST TABLE FOR CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

(This cost estimate includes printing charges for both the English and Spanish languages.)

Number of Registered Voters in District	Deposit Amount Required
1 - 5,000	\$750
5,001 - 25,000	\$1,000
25,001 - 50,000	\$1,250
50,001 - 100,000	\$1,500
100,001 - 150,000	\$2,250
150,001 - 200,000	\$2,750
201,000 and over	\$3,250

The estimates quoted above are based on a 200-word statement formatted to fit within the allotted 1/4 page space. Costs may vary depending upon the number of candidates who file a statement for the same office, number of ballot types in the district, number of pages in the various County Voter Information Guides and number of registered voters who will be receiving the various County Voter Information Guides. These variables may cause actual costs to vary significantly from estimated costs.



## **INDIGENT CANDIDATES**

(EC 13309)

When advance payment is required for a candidate statement but the candidate alleges to be indigent and unable to pay the required deposit in advance, the candidate must submit to the county elections official a statement of financial worth to be used in determining whether or not he/she is eligible to submit a candidate's statement without advance payment. The statement of financial worth is submitted by the candidate together with the candidate's statement during the filing period. The Statement of Financial Worth forms are available at the county elections official's office and will be furnished upon request. The Statement of Financial Worth form should be filed with a copy of the candidate's most recent federal income tax returns, candidate's employer, income, real estate holdings, tangible personal property and financial obligations. The candidate will certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the contents of the statement are true and correct.

If the county elections official determines that the candidate is indigent, his or her statement will be printed and mailed without advance payment. If the county elections official determines that the candidate is not indigent, the candidate has three days to withdraw the candidate's statement or pay the estimated deposit amount. The Registrar of Voters is not obligated to print and mail the statement if payment is not received.

An indigent candidate will be invoiced and must pay the full cost of the candidate's statement following the election. The "Statement of Financial Worth" is a public record and is available for review.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY OF CANDIDATE STATEMENTS**

Ten Calendar Day Public Examination Period

(EC 13311, 13313)

Candidate statements filed pursuant to EC 13307 shall remain confidential until the expiration of the filing deadline. Candidate statements are available for viewing after the filing deadline has passed. There is a 10 day public examination period when the documents may be reviewed, and copies obtained for \$3.00 per statement. During this 10-calendar day examination period, any voter of the affected jurisdiction may take legal action to challenge the contents of the candidate's statement pursuant to EC 13313. A peremptory writ of mandate or an injunction will issue only upon clear and convincing proof that the material in question is false, misleading or inconsistent with the requirements of this chapter, and that issuance of the writ or injunction will not substantially interfere with the printing or distribution of official elections materials as provided by law.

## **FALSE STATEMENTS IN CANDIDATE STATEMENT- PENALTY**

(EC 18351)

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

## **VOTER'S EDGE**

~~All qualified candidates who appear on the ballot are invited to participate in Voter's Edge, an online voter guide produced by the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund in partnership with MapLight. The site provides free space for candidates to highlight their issues, priorities and biographical information. See letter on following page for more information.~~

**MapLight is not available for the March Primary Election**

Dear Candidate:

We write to invite you to participate in [Voter's Edge](#), an online voter guide produced by the [League of Women Voters of California Education Fund](#) in partnership with [MapLight](#). The site provides voters with all the candidates and measures on their ballot, along with general election information. It's unbiased and easy to read, with an intuitive, modern interface.

On Voter's Edge, you can reach thousands of voters with a direct, unfiltered message - **at no charge**. You populate your profile with in-depth information like priorities, a biography, achievements, endorsements, a political vision, and goals. And highlight your candidacy with a photo, videos, and links to social media.

In 2022 Voter's Edge reached over 2.3 million voters, partnered with media and community organizations across the state, and was found to have been extremely or very helpful by 92% of users surveyed.

***We level the playing field for candidates through a source that voters trust.***

Soon after the close of the candidate filing period you will receive an email with information about getting started on [votersedge.org](#). If you do not receive an invitation within three weeks after the close of filing, feel free to send an inquiry through [join.votersedge.org](#).

If you have questions, please feel free to get in touch. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Sharon Stone  
Membership & Technology Manager  
League of Women Voters of California  
(916) 442-7215  
[sstone@lwvc.org](mailto:sstone@lwvc.org)





## REGISTRATION AND ELECTION DATA

(EC 2187, 2188, 2194)



### VOTER FILES

Voter registration information is available to persons or groups for election, scholarly, journalistic, political or governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State. Each written request to view, purchase or use voter registration information must be submitted in person and with identification on an application available at the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters office.

### PERMISSIBLE USAGE

The California Code of Regulations, Division 7, Article 1, Section 19003, specifies permissible uses for any data obtained from voter registration files. Permissible usage includes, but is not limited to, using registration information for purposes of communicating with others in connection with any election; sending communications, including but not limited to, mailings that campaign for or against any candidate or ballot measure in any election; sending communications, including but not limited to, mailings by or on behalf of any political party; provided however, that the content of such communications shall be devoted to news and opinions of candidates, elections, political party developments and related matters; sending communications, including but not limited to, mailings, incidental to the circulation or support of, or opposition to any recall, initiative or referendum petition; sending of newsletters or bulletins by any elected public official, political party or candidate for public office; conducting any survey of voters in connection with any election campaign; conducting any survey of opinions of voters by any government agency, political party, elected official or political candidate for election or governmental purposes; conducting an audit of voter registration lists for the purposes of detecting voter registration fraud; soliciting contributions or services as part of any election campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office or any political party or in support of or opposition to any ballot measure; any official use by any local, state or federal governmental agency.

### PROHIBITED USAGE

Prohibited usage includes: Any communication or other use solely or partially for any commercial purpose; solicitation of contributions or services for any purpose other than on behalf of a candidate or political party or in support or opposition of a ballot measure; conducting any survey of opinions of voters other than those permitted by California Code of Regulations Section 19003. EC 18109 states: "(a) It is a misdemeanor for any person in possession of information obtained pursuant to Article 5 (commencing with EC 2183) of Chapter 2 of Division 2, or Section 6254.4 of the Government Code, knowingly to use or permit the use of all or any part of that information for any purpose other than as permitted by law. (b) It is a misdemeanor for a person knowingly to acquire possession or use of voter registration information from the Secretary of State or a County Elections Official without first complying with EC 2188."

### PRICE LIST

**Allow 2 working days for all data requests.**

(Price list subject to change, check with ROV office for current prices.)

- Printed Indexes / Walking Lists: \$20.00 plus \$0.50 per 1,000 names. (CD add \$0.35)
- Voter Labels: \$26.00 plus \$0.005 per label, contact the Registrar of Voters office for a quote.
- Statement of Vote: Online version is available free at [www.stanvote.com](http://www.stanvote.com) starting with the November 6, 2007, Consolidated District Election.
- Statement of Vote: Printed copy version is \$20.00 plus \$0.10 per page.
- GIS Precinct Maps: Price varies by size. Contact the Registrar of Voters office for a quote.
- Master Voter File: \$155.00

**To obtain voter registration and election data, call (209) 525-5201 and ask for the Tech Team.**



## CONDUCTING THE CANVASS

(EC 15301)

The canvass will commence no later than the Thursday following the election. It is open to the public. State or statewide election results are reported to the Secretary of State. The canvass is continued daily, except for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, for not less than six hours each day until completed.

## ELECTION NIGHT RESULTS

There are three ways to obtain Election Night, Update and Final results of the vote from the Registrar of Voters office. Upon release of results, this information is immediately available as follows:

**WEBSITE:** [www.stanvote.com](http://www.stanvote.com) click the “Election Results” link  
**IN PERSON:** Office of the Registrar of Voters, 1021 “I” Street, Suite 101, Modesto  
**TELEPHONE:** (209) 525-5201

## REQUESTING A RECOUNT

(EC 15620)

A written request for a recount must be filed within five days following certification of the official canvass. The canvass is complete when the Registrar of Voters signs the Certification of the Election Results. The requestor is responsible for paying all costs associated with the recount.



# CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

(EC 20400 - 20444)

It is the ultimate intent of the Legislature that every candidate for public office in California 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.

**This is a voluntary form. Candidates are not required to sign this form in order to run for office.**

## Code of Fair Campaign Practices

Elections Code 20440

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Office Sought

**ELECTIONS CODE**  
**SECTION 20400**

**Chapter 5. Fair Campaign Practices**

**Article 1. General Intent**

20400. Intent of legislature. 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. Definition of "Code". As used in this chapter, "Code" means the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

**Article 3. Code of Fair Campaign Practices**

20440. Subscription to code; form. At the time an individual is issued his or her declaration of candidacy, nomination papers, or any other paper evidencing an intention to be a candidate for public office, the elections official shall give the individual a blank form of the code and a copy of this chapter. The elections official shall inform each candidate for public office that subscription to the code is voluntary. In the case of a committee making an independent expenditure, as defined in Section 82031 of the Government Code, the Secretary of State shall provide a blank form and a copy of this chapter to the individual filing, in accordance with Title 9 (commencing with Section 81000) of the Government Code, an initial campaign statement on behalf of the committee.

20441. Supply of forms. 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 election officials in quantities and at times requested by the election officials.

20442. Retention of forms; public inspection. 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. Public record. Every code subscribed to by a candidate for public office pursuant to this chapter is a public record open for public inspection.

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



## **MASS AND SLATE MAILING REQUIREMENTS**

(GC 82041.5, 82048.3, 84305, 84305.5)

### **Pursuant to Elections Code (EC) 16:**



**GC 82041.5 “Mass mailing”** means over 200 substantially similar pieces of mail but does not include a form letter or other mail that is sent in response to an unsolicited request, letter or other inquiry.

**GC 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 mass mailing or mass electronic mailing that is paid for by an independent expenditure.

**GC 82048.3 "Slate mailer"** means a mass mailing which supports or opposes a total of four or more candidates or ballot measures.

**GC 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), NOT AN OFFICIAL POLITICAL PARTY ORGANIZATION. Appearance in this mailer does not necessarily imply endorsement of others appearing in this mailer, nor does it imply endorsement of, or opposition to, any issues set forth in this mailer. Appearance is paid for and authorized by each candidate and ballot measure which is designated by an \*.

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

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

# City Sign Code Summary

The following information is a brief summary of the municipal codes for political signage for cities within Stanislaus County. For complete municipal code information contact the city clerk.

**City of Ceres** – *Contact Ceres city clerk for complete code / full text information (209) 538-5731*

18.26.060(E) EXEMPT SIGNS Yard Signs: Nonilluminated and noncommercial yard signs are permitted in any number either freestanding or attached, limited to a total sign area of six (6) square feet per sign in residential zones and thirty-two (32) square feet per sign in other zones. No single yard sign shall be erected for more than one hundred thirty (130) days. No sign shall be erected on private property without the property owner's consent. Ground-mounted yard signs may be placed within City right of way or within a public utility easement (excluding canal easements/ownership) provided that such signs: (1) shall not be placed any closer than ten (10) feet from the edge of the paved portion of a roadway where no sidewalk is present or five (5) feet back from the edge of sidewalk; (2) shall comply with Code Section 18.27.020 (Clear Vision Triangle); and (3) shall not create a safety hazard for vehicles exiting existing commercial and residential driveways. Yard signs are not permitted at any time within canal easements or /ownership or on utility poles located in a utility easement. Yard signs that are installed within City right of way or within a public utility easement may be removed by the City/utility authority as necessary to accommodate work within said right of way or utility easement. In such an event, neither the City nor the utility removing the sign shall have any liability to the owner(s) of such yard signs.

**City of Hughson** – *Contact Hughson city clerk for complete code / full text information (209) 883-4054*

Erect signs no sooner than 90 days prior to an election and remove within 10 days after election.

Chapter 17.03.080(5) REGULATION OF SIGNS E. Temporary Political Signs. Nonilluminated signs intended to influence the vote for the passage or defeat of a measure, or nomination, election or defeat of a candidate in any governmental elections are permitted in any number, either freestanding or attached, limited to a total sign area of six square feet per sign in residential zones and not exceeding 32 square feet in other zones. Any such sign shall be erected not earlier than 90 days prior to an election and shall be removed within 10 days after such election. No such sign shall be erected on private property without the property owner's consent. No such sign shall be located within 100 feet of a polling place.

A statement of responsibility shall be filed with the State Department of Transportation certifying who will be responsible for removing the temporary sign(s) and who will reimburse the Department of Transportation for any cost involved to remove same.

**City of Modesto** – *Contact Modesto city clerk for complete code / full text information (209) 577-5396*

Erect signs no sooner than 120 days prior to an election and remove within 10 days after election.

Modesto Municipal Code Title X Chapter 6, Article 1. Sign Requirements by Zone.

Modesto Neighborhood Preservation Unit form must be completed prior to posting signs within the city limits.

**City of Newman** – *Contact Newman city clerk for complete code / full text information (209) 862-3725*

Erect signs no sooner than 120 days prior to an election and remove within 10 days after election.

5.18.050 Exempt signs Political Signs. Nonilluminated signs intended to influence the vote for the passage or defeat of a measure, or nomination, election or defeat of a candidate in any governmental election are permitted in any number, either freestanding or attached, limited to a total sign area of six square feet per sign in residential zones and not exceeding 32 square feet in other zones. Any such sign shall be erected not earlier than 120 days prior to an election and shall be removed within 10 days after such election. No sign shall be erected on private property without the property owner's consent. No sign shall be located within 100 feet of a polling place.

**City of Oakdale** – *Contact Oakdale city clerk for complete code / full text information (209) 845-3573*

Erect signs no sooner than 60 days prior to an election and remove within 7 days after election.

POLITICAL SIGN: Any temporary sign used in connection with a local, state or national election, referendum or measure.

36-26.5A

R-A, R-1 AND R-3 ZONES:

a. Political signs may be erected as follows:

(1) Political signs shall not be lighted either directly or indirectly, and are subject to the provisions of Section 36-18.23 Vision Obstructions (2) Political signs shall be erected no more than sixty (60) days prior to the date of election and shall be removed within seven (7) days after the date of the election.

C-1 AND C-2 ZONES:

1. All signs allowed without a permit as specified in Section 36-26.4, subject to the following additional restrictions:

c. Political signs may be erected, maintained and displayed provided each such sign does not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area, does not exceed eight (8) feet in height and the combined area of all such signs shall not exceed sixty-four (64) square feet. Such signs shall be erected no more than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the election and shall be removed within seven (7) days after the election.

**City of Patterson – Contact Patterson city clerk for complete code / full text information (209) 895-8010**

Erect signs no sooner than 45 days prior to an election and remove within 10 days after election.

"Political sign" means any impermanent sign or advertising device or display, with or without letters, words, numbers or figures thereon, which is designed to advertise a candidate for political office, a political party or a measure scheduled for an election.

Section 18.90.080 Standards for Specific Types of Signs.

3. Political Signs. Temporary political signs shall comply with the following requirements:

a. Deposit Required. Candidates or political committees desiring to post signs within the city shall first post a refundable deposit of two hundred dollars with the City Clerk.

b. Maximum Size. No political sign shall exceed eight square feet in area in a residential zone and thirty-two square feet in a non-residential zone; and if freestanding, no more than six feet in height.

c. Prohibited Locations for Posting. No political sign shall be a roof sign, and no political sign shall be posted on, under, above or across any public property, or within or above a public right-of-way.

d. Property Owner Approval Required. No political sign shall be posted without the approval of the property owner, provided that no property owner shall approve or allow more than an aggregate of eighty square feet of political signs per lot of record.

e. Time Limits. No political signs shall be posted earlier than forty-five days prior to the election at which the candidates or measures will be voted upon, and each sign shall be removed within ten days after the election.

f. Enforcement of Removal Requirements. If a sign is not removed, notice shall be issued and the responsible party shall remove the sign within seven days of the notice to remove the sign. If not removed within that time, violations are punishable in compliance with Title 1, Chapter 1.16 of this code. 18.90.040 Sign permit requirements

5. Political Signs. Political signs are allowed without a sign permit provided that the signs:

a. Are placed on private property, and shall not exceed eight square feet in area within residential zoning districts and thirty-two square feet in area within nonresidential zoning districts;

b. May be installed on private property with the property owner's consent for up to forty-five days prior to an election; and

c. Shall be removed within ten days following the election. Signs not removed shall be removed by the city at the expense of the political candidate or organization involved.

**City of Riverbank – Contact Riverbank city clerk for complete code / full text information (209) 863-7122**

Remove within 15 days after election.

Municipal Code §153.285(A)(1)(i) states (i) Political signs, which may be erected, maintained and displayed as follows:

1. Political signs placed in a residential zone district with a dwelling shall not exceed eight square feet, not to exceed in any dimension four feet, and such improved lot with a dwelling shall not be limited to the number of political signs but shall be limited as to the total cumulative area not to exceed 32 square feet.

2. Any one political sign shall not exceed 32 square feet on vacant residential parcels. There shall be no restrictions as to the number of political signs posted on vacant residential property.

3. Political signs shall be removed within 15 days after the date of the election.

4. Under no circumstance shall political signs interfere with driver expectations for sight distances on any particular street as determined by the Community Development Director.

The City of Riverbank's Municipal Code is silent on when candidates may begin posting political signs; therefore the City defers to the California Department of Transportation's regulations. Signs may be posted ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled election date.

**City of Turlock – Contact Turlock city clerk for complete code / full text information (209) 668-5540**

Remove within 5 days after election.

Sec. 9-2-513, 9-2-514 and 9-2-521

1. Residential properties maximum height 4 feet, maximum size 6 square feet.

2. Non-Residential properties maximum height 6 feet, maximum size 32 square feet.

3. Shall not be located closer than five feet to any property line, within the clear vision triangle, in or over the public right-of-way and shall not be illuminated.

4. Shall not be displayed on traffic or street signs, utility poles, public property, parks, or rights-of-way or on private property without the owners' permission and shall be removed within five (5) days after the election. Signs placed in violation of the provisions of this subsection may be removed without notice.

5. Inflatable signs and signs mounted on a motor vehicle that are not an integral part of the vehicle are prohibited.

**City of Waterford – Contact Waterford city clerk for complete code / full text information (209) 874-2328**

Remove within 10 days after election.

17.60.140 Special purpose signs. The following special purpose signs shall be permitted:

A. Direction signs. In any zone, one parking directional sign not exceeding ten square feet in area or six (6) feet in height at each parking area entrance or exit.

B. Political sign.

1. In any residential zone, one unlit sign for each building not exceeding eight (8) square feet. In all other zones, one unlit sign for each building not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet;

2. Freestanding signs shall not exceed six (6) feet in height and thirty-two (32) square feet in size;

3. No sign shall be located in public right-of-way or on unoccupied premises (without consent of the property owner) or be attached to a tree or utility pole;

4. A political sign shall not be displayed more than ten (10) days after election to which it pertains.

**Unincorporated Areas – Contact the California Department of Transportation at (916) 654-6473.**

Erect signs no sooner than 90 days prior to an election and remove within 10 days after election.

To post signs along state highways or freeways in the **unincorporated areas** of Stanislaus County, The California Department of Transportation requires that you file a "Statement of Responsibility for Temporary Political Signs" form with their office PRIOR to posting signs. The form is available at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/oda/political-signs>



## POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT REQUIREMENTS

(EC 20008)

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

For further information on political advertising, refer to the FPPC website at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov).

## FALSE OR FORGED CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

(Penal Code 115.2)

No person shall knowingly publish or cause to be published any campaign advertisement containing false or fraudulent depictions or representations of official public documents or purported official public documents with intent to deceive.

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

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

## TRUTH IN ENDORSEMENTS LAW

(EC 20000-20010)

This code section provides information regarding restrictions on endorsements, representation requirements, etc. To reference California Elections Code visit: [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml)

## OUTDOOR POLITICAL ADVERTISING

The California Department of Transportation Outdoor Advertising Branch regulates political sign placement along state highways and freeways in the **unincorporated areas** of Stanislaus County. A "*Statement of Responsibility for Temporary Political Signs*" must be signed and submitted to the California Department of Transportation before placing signs in these areas. The form is available at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/oda/political-signs>. For more information call the California Department of Transportation at (916) 654-6473.

The City of Modesto requires a *Neighborhood Preservation Unit* form be filed with the city clerk prior to posting signs within the city limits of Modesto.

The City of Patterson requires a deposit be filed with the city clerk prior to posting signs within the city limits of Patterson.

The Registrar of Voters does not have jurisdiction over the placement or removal of campaign lawn signs or other outdoor advertising. Contact the city clerk's office for information concerning requirements or restrictions for local municipal jurisdictions.

**Public utilities prohibit the posting of signs on their property; this includes telephone poles.**







## **ELECTIONEERING - 100 Feet Rule**

(EC 319.5, 18370)

No person on either Election Day or at any time a voter may be casting a ballot, within 100 feet of a polling place, vote center, satellite location, outdoor voting site which includes a curbside voting area at which a voter may cast or drop off a ballot, or an election official's office may do any of the following:

- Circulate an initiative, referendum, recall or nomination petition or any other petition.
- Solicit a vote or speak to a voter on the subject of marking their ballot .
- Place a sign relating to voters' qualifications or speak to a voter on the subject of his or her qualifications except as provided in EC 14240.
- Do any passive or active electioneering as defined in EC 319.5; this includes displaying a candidate's name, likeness or logo, wearing buttons, T-shirts, hats, signs, stickers, etc. or disseminating audible electioneering information that promotes a candidate or measure on the ballot.
- At vote by mail drop boxes, loiter near or disseminate visible or audible electioneering information.

As used in this section "100 feet from a polling place" means a distance of 100 feet from the entrance to a building that contains a polling place as defined by Section 338.5, an elections official's office, a vote center, or an outdoor site, including a curbside voting area, at which a voter may cast or drop off a ballot. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

## **ELECTIONEERING DURING VOTE BY MAIL VOTING**

(EC 18371)

While in the residence or in the immediate presence of a vote by mail voter who is voting his or her ballot, it is illegal for a candidate, opponent, proponent or representative to electioneer or solicit the voter's vote.

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

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

## **MISREPRESENTATION BY CANDIDATES**

(EC 18350, 18351)

### **MISLEADING VOTERS / INCUMBENCY / PUBLIC OFFICER**

A person is guilty of a misdemeanor who, with intent to mislead the voters in connection with their 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, shall do either of the following acts:

- 1) Assume, pretend, or imply, 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) Assume, pretend, or imply, by his or her statements, conduct, or campaign materials that he or she has been acting in the capacity of a public officer when that is not the case.

Any violation of this section may be enjoined in a civil action brought by a candidate for the public office involved. (EC 18350)

### **FALSE STATEMENTS IN CANDIDATE STATEMENTS / FINES**

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



## **VOTING LOCATION OBSERVERS**

Observers at voting locations must obey the law and election procedures. Persons may observe all activities at voting locations providing they do not interfere with the normal processing of voters and election officer duties.

## **CORRUPTION OF VOTERS**

(EC 18403, 18500, 18520, 18521, 18522, 18523, 18524)

### **FINE FOR SOLICITATION REQUESTING VOTER DISCLOSURE OF HIS OR HER BALLOT**

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. (EC 18403)

### **FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH VOTE CAST**

Any person who commits fraud or attempts to commit fraud, and any person who aids or abets fraud or attempts to aid or abet fraud in connection with any vote cast, to be cast or attempted to be cast is guilty of a felony. (EC 18500)

### **PROMISE OF EMPLOYMENT**

Any person who directly or indirectly offers any office or place of employment to any voter in order to induce that voter to refrain from voting, vote for any particular person or to refrain from voting for any particular person is guilty of a violation punishable by imprisonment. (EC 18520)

### **CONSIDERATION FOR VOTING**

A person cannot persuade any other person through use of money, gift, loan, office, employment or other valuable consideration for himself or any other person because he or any other person:

- 1) Voted, agreed to vote, refrained from voting or agreed to refrain from voting for any particular person or measure.
- 2) Remained away from the polls.
- 3) Refrained or agreed to refrain from voting.
- 4) Induced any other person to remain away from the polls, refrain from voting and vote or refrain from voting for any particular person or measure.

A violation of any of the provisions of this section is punishable by imprisonment. (EC 18521)

## **CONSIDERATION FOR VOTING (continued)**

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

Induce any voter to:

- 1) Refrain from voting at any election.
- 2) Vote or refrain from voting in an election for any particular person or measure.
- 3) Remain away from vote centers at an election.

Reward any voter for having:

- 1) Refrained from voting.
- 2) Voted for any particular person or measure.
- 3) Refrained from voting for any particular person or measure.
- 4) Remained away from vote centers at an election.

A violation of any of the provisions of this section is punishable by imprisonment. (EC 18522)

## **BRIBERY AT ELECTION**

It is punishable by imprisonment to directly or through another person, knowingly pay money or other valuable consideration with the intent that it will be used in bribery at any election. (EC 18523)

## **PAYMENT FOR SECURING VOTE**

It is punishable by imprisonment to directly or through another person, knowingly pay money or other valuable consideration with the intent that it will be used for boarding, lodging or maintaining a person at any place or domicile in any election precinct, ward or district with intent to secure the vote of that person or to induce that person to vote for any particular person or measure. (EC 18524)

## **INTIMIDATION OF VOTERS**

(EC 18001, 18540, 18541, 18542, 18543)

## **COMPELLING ANOTHER IN VOTING**

Every person who makes use of or threatens to make use of, or 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.

## **DISSUADING PERSONS FROM VOTING**

Within 100 feet of a polling place no person can do the following with the intent of dissuading another person from voting:

- Solicit a vote or speak to a voter on the subject of marking his or her ballot.
- Place a sign relating to voters' qualifications or speak to a voter on the subject of his or her qualifications except as provided in EC 14240.
- Photograph, videotape or otherwise record a voter entering or exiting a polling place.

Any person who violates this section or conspires to violate this section is guilty of a felony.

For purposes of this section, "100 Feet" means a distance of 100 feet from the entrance to a building that contains a polling place as defined by Section 338.5, an elections official's office, a vote center, or an outdoor site, including a curbside voting area, at which a voter may cast or drop off a ballot. (EC 18541)

### **REVEAL CONTENTS OF BALLOT**

After the ballot is marked, the voter should not show their vote to anyone in a manner that reveals its contents with the exception that an individual voter may voluntarily disclose how he/she voted if that voluntary act does not violate any other law. (EC 14291)

### **PAY ENVELOPES MAY NOT CONTAIN POLITICAL MATERIAL**

No employer may threaten, influence or attempt to influence an employee's choice of candidate by adding campaign or candidate information to an employee pay envelope. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. (EC 18542)

### **CHALLENGE WITHOUT PROBABLE CAUSE**

Every person who knowingly challenges a person's right to vote without probable cause or on fraudulent or spurious grounds, or who engages in mass, indiscriminate and groundless challenging of voters solely for the purpose of preventing voters from voting or to delay the process of voting, or who fraudulently advises any person that he/she is not eligible to vote or is not registered to vote when in fact that person is eligible or is registered, or who violates the conditions for challenge stated in EC 14240, or conspires to violate this section is guilty of a felony. (EC 18543)

### **IMPOSITION OF FINE**

Upon a conviction for any crime punishable by imprisonment in any jail or prison, in relation to which no fine has been prescribed, the court may impose a fine on the offender not exceeding \$1,000 in cases of misdemeanors or up to \$25,000 in cases of felonies, in addition to the imprisonment prescribed. (EC 18001)





## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Is your office open during the lunch hour?** Yes. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The office remains open during lunch hours. Our office will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on all filing deadline days.

**What if I change my mind about being a candidate after filing a Declaration of Candidacy?**

Local nonpartisan office: Candidates may withdraw their Declaration of Candidacy prior to the close of the nomination filing period pursuant to EC 10510. Filing fees (if any) are non-refundable.

Voter-nominated office: No candidate whose Declaration of Candidacy has been filed for any primary election may withdraw as a candidate at that primary election. No candidate nominated at any primary election may withdraw as a candidate at the ensuing general election except those candidates permitted to withdraw by EC 8800-8811.

**May a second party pick up or deliver my Declaration of Candidacy for me?**

The candidate is required to execute the Declaration of Candidacy in the office of the county elections official unless a written statement is signed and dated by the candidate designating a person to receive the Declaration of Candidacy form from the county elections official and deliver it to the candidate. The written statement from the candidate should include language indicating that the candidate is aware that the Declaration of Candidacy must be properly executed and delivered to the county elections official in the county of the candidate's residence by the 88th day prior to the primary election or the 83<sup>rd</sup> day prior to the election if there is an extension to that office. **Candidates are urged to file in person.** The reasons are twofold: 1) A candidate must take an Oath of Office before a person who is authorized to administer the oath. Stanislaus County elections office staff and notaries public are so authorized. The Oath of Office is typically administered at the time the candidate files the Declaration of Candidacy as it is part of the form. 2) If there are errors or omissions on the form resulting in the document not being properly executed, the problem can be easily rectified when a candidate files in person. Improperly executed documents are not accepted for filing.

**Is there a filing fee to run for office?**

Federal, state, judicial and county office filing fees, when applicable, are listed in this guide.

School district and special district offices do not require a filing fee.

Municipal office filing fee information can be obtained by contacting the respective city clerk.

There is a deposit required for placing an optional Candidate Statement of Qualifications in the County Voter Information Guide.



## **Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC)**

### **Candidate and Committee**

### **Financial Disclosure Campaign Statements**

The Fair Political Practices Commission provides a Toll-Free Helpline.  
Contact the FPPC directly with all questions regarding campaign finance.

Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC)  
Toll Free Helpline **1-866-ASK-FPPC**

Monday - Thursday  
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

FPPC Forms and Campaign Manuals  
are available at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov) under the  
“Campaign Rules, Forms & Manuals” link.

## **IMPORTANT UPDATE**

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 571, the state campaign contribution limit will by default apply to city and county candidates when the city or county has not already enacted a contribution limit on such candidates.

Stanislaus County has not enacted a contribution limit for candidates for county offices and will default to current state contribution limits.

See Page 63 for state contribution limit chart.

## All FPPC Filing Schedules were obtained from the FPPC at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov)

### Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Filing schedule for candidates and controlled committees for LOCAL office Listed on the March 5, 2024, ballot

<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>1/31/24**</b> <i>Semi-Annual</i>	<b>* – 12/31/23</b>	460	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All committees must file this statement.</li> <li>May be filed on January 25, 2024</li> </ul>
<b>Within 24 Hours</b> <i>Contribution Reports</i>	<b>12/6/23 – 3/5/24</b>	497	<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 another candidate or measure being voted on the March 5, 2024 ballot.</li> <li>The recipient of a non-monetary contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate must file a Form 497 within 48 hours from the time the contribution is received.</li> <li>File by personal delivery, e-mail, guaranteed overnight service, or fax. The committee may also file online, if available.</li> </ul>
<b>1/25/24</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Pre-Election</i>	<b>1/1/24 – 1/20/24</b>	460 <b>or</b> 470	<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>2/22/24</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Pre-Election</i>	<b>1/21/24– 2/17/24</b>	460	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All committees must file this statement.</li> <li>Paper copies must be filed by personal delivery or guaranteed overnight service only. (Stanislaus County filers filing electronically via CampaignDocs do not submit paper copy)</li> </ul>
<b>7/31/24</b> <i>Semi-Annual</i>	<b>2/18/24 – 6/30/24</b>	460	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All committees must file this statement unless the committee terminated before June 30, 2024.</li> </ul>

#### Additional Notes:

- **\*Period Covered:** The period covered by any statement begins on the day after the closing date of the last statement filed, or January 1, if no previous statement has been filed.
- **\*\*Deadlines:** Due to the election being held earlier in the year, the deadline for the first pre-election statement for calendar year 2024 is earlier than the deadline for the semi-annual statement for calendar year 2023. A candidate/committee may file the 2023 semi-annual statement on January 25, 2024.
- **Local Ordinance:** Always check whether additional local rules apply. **STANISLAUS COUNTY HAS NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY ORDINANCES**
- **Deadline Extensions:** Deadlines are extended when they fall on a Saturday, Sunday or an official state holiday. This extension does not apply to a 24-Hour/10-Day Contribution Report (Form 497) that is due the weekend before the election, and this extension never applies to any 24-Hour/10-Day Independent Expenditure Report (Form 496). Such reports must be filed within 24 hours, regardless of the day of the week.
- **Method of Delivery:** All paper filings may be filed by first-class mail unless otherwise noted. A paper copy of a statement may not be required if a local agency requires online filing pursuant to a local ordinance.
- **Form 501:** All candidates must file Form 501 (Candidate Intention Statement) before soliciting/receiving contributions.
- **Form 460:** Candidates who have raised/spent \$2,000 or more file Form 460. The Form 410 (Statement of Organization) must also be filed once \$2,000 or more has been raised/spent.
- **Form 470 (2024):** Candidates who do not raise or spend \$2,000 or more (or anticipate raising or spending \$2,000 or more) in 2024 and do not have an open committee may file Form 470 on or before January 25, 2024. If the candidate raises or spends \$2,000 or more, later during the calendar year, a Form 470 Supplement and a Form 410 must be filed.
- **Independent Expenditures:** Committees making independent expenditures totaling \$1,000 or more to support or oppose other candidates or ballot measures also file:
  - o 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.
  - o Form 462: This verification form must be e-mailed to the FPPC within 10 days.
- **After the Election:** Reporting requirements will depend on whether the candidate is successful and whether a campaign committee is open. See Campaign Disclosure Manual 2 for additional information.
- **Public Documents:** All statements and reports are public documents.
- **Resources:** Campaign manuals and other instructional materials are available on the Campaign Rules page. Or, visit [fppc.ca.gov/](http://fppc.ca.gov/) Learn > Campaign Rules.



# Important Items to Remember:

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

1. **FPPC forms, manuals, filing schedules and webinars:** The FPPC website at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov) provides forms, manuals, filing schedules, help tips and now FREE webinars! It is highly recommended that new candidates and their treasurers review this helpful information.
2. **Be informed:** Study FPPC Information Manual 2 for Local Candidates. All candidates, including unopposed candidates, are subject to the campaign disclosure provisions of the Political Reform Act.
3. **Free FPPC Helpline:** The FPPC toll free Helpline at 1-866-275-3772 can answer specific questions and provide advice on campaign disclosure rules.
4. **Before raising or spending any money:** File FPPC Form 501 Candidate Intention Statement. A separate Form 501 is required for each election, including re-election to the same office.
5. **If less than \$2,000 will be raised or spent:** File FPPC Short Form 470 prior to the 1st pre-election filing deadline. No additional forms will be required unless you later exceed the \$2,000 threshold.
6. **If more than \$2,000 will be raised or spent:** Open a separate bank account for campaign purposes. File FPPC Form 410 Statement of Organization with the Secretary of State and a copy with your local filing officer. The Secretary of State will issue a committee number.
7. **Keep committee information up to date:** File an FPPC Form 410 Amendment if changes are made to treasurer, committee name, addresses, etc.
8. **\$50 annual fee:** The Secretary of State imposes an annual \$50 fee for all open FPPC committees. This fee is payable directly to the Secretary of State and must be paid within **10 days** of receiving \$2,000 and thereafter, before **January 15** of each year until the committee terminates. Failure to timely pay the annual fee is subject to a penalty of \$150. For questions contact the Secretary of State's office at 916-653-6224.
9. **Mark your calendar:** Know the filing deadlines for campaign statements and file on time! All open committees must file periodic disclosure statements that are subject to late fees and fines if deadlines are not met.
10. **Keep good records:** Maintain details on contributions and expenditures of \$25 or more. Refer to record keeping guidelines in FPPC Information Manual 2. It's a good idea to keep copies of all contributor checks received.
11. **\$100 or more in cash?** Never accept or spend \$100 or more in cash.
12. **Don't spend personal funds:** Any personal funds used for campaign purposes must first be deposited into your campaign bank account, unless they are used for a candidate statement published in the County Voter Information Guide and/or for a filing fee. You have a choice of depositing your personal funds into your campaign bank account as either a contribution or a loan to your committee.
13. **Purchases:** If any campaign goods or services are purchased, disclose sub-vendors and the amounts they were paid.



14. **Itemize contributors:** For contributions of \$100 or more including loans and in-kind contributions, you must disclose the contributor's name, address, occupation and employer.
15. **Report late contributions:** If \$1,000 or more is received from one contributor during the last 90 days before the election, disclose receipt within **24 hours**, even if the contribution is from your personal funds. Each late contribution report FPPC Form 497 must have a unique report number to be issued by the filer.
16. **Multiple contributions from one source:** Keep track of each check. Report the aggregate amount.
17. **If an agent or campaign consultant buys goods or services for the campaign:** Itemize expenditures of \$500 or more made by the agent or consultant. Make sure to always keep receipts of all purchases.
18. **Identify candidate/committee on mailings:** Include the words "paid for by" and your committee name and campaign address in at least 6-point type on the outside of all mass mailings (more than 200 pieces) and on at least one insert in a color that contrasts with the background. No newsletter or other mass mailing can be sent at public expense.
19. **Disclose original loan sources:** List any loan, even a personal loan to the candidate, all or partly used for the campaign. Also disclose all loan guarantors of \$100 or more.
20. **No personal use of campaign funds:** Use campaign funds only for political, legislative or governmental purposes.
21. **Where to file:** Statewide, legislative and judicial offices file with the Secretary of State and a copy with the county of domicile. Local district offices file with the county elections office and municipal offices file with their city clerk.
22. **Tax ID number requirement:** The FPPC does not require a tax ID number; however, some banks may require one in order to open a campaign bank account. A tax ID number may be requested through the Internal Revenue Service website at <http://www.irs.gov>

23. **State contribution limits:** The FPPC website provides annual charts for state contribution limits and state voluntary expenditure limits.
24. **Gifts, meals and travel:** There are special reporting rules for candidate controlled committees when reporting expenditures for gifts, meals and travel. Restrictions and detailed information can be found in FPPC Information Manual 2.
25. **Ready to close your committee?** Filing requirements for open committees do not automatically terminate when activity ceases or when an officeholder vacates the office. You must file an FPPC Form 460 Termination Statement showing a zero balance AND an FPPC Form 410 Termination Statement to stop future filing obligations.



The FPPC website at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov) provides detailed and up to date information to help you navigate the highly complex campaign disclosure rules and requirements. The "Campaign Rules, Forms & Manuals" link provides access to many detailed and easy to read resources such as election specific filing deadlines, fast facts, frequently asked questions and all of the necessary forms and manuals. The newest addition to the resources offered is **FREE WEBINARS!** We highly recommend all new candidates and their campaign treasurers take advantage of the free tools and information provided by the FPPC.

Toll Free Helpline: 1-866-275-3772 (1-866-ASK-FPPC)  
Monday - Thursday 9:00-11:30  
*Press 2 to speak to a political reform consultant in the Technical Assistance Division.*

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

Assistance by Mail (Formal Advice):  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
1102 "Q" Street, Suite 3000  
Sacramento, CA 95811

## CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE INFORMATION (FPPC FILINGS)

(GC 84200)

The Political Reform Act of 1974 requires all candidates for elective office, all officeholders and all committees supporting or opposing candidates, measures and petition circulation drives to file campaign disclosure statements disclosing contributions received and expenditures made. The filing deadlines for this election are listed in this guide.

A candidate is not required to file any itemized disclosure forms for the candidate's campaign if the candidate does not receive any contributions and the only expenditures will be from the candidate's personal funds and expenditures are limited to a filing fee and/or candidate's statement.

**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. Late statements are subject to a \$10 per day late fine. All statements are considered public record. Copies can be obtained at the cost of \$0.10 per page from the Registrar of Voters office. (GC 81008)

<b>WHAT:</b>	<b>Form 501 (Candidate Intention Statement)</b> This form is used for declaring the formation of a financial campaign.
<b>WHEN:</b>	Form 501 must be filed <u>prior</u> to the solicitation or receipt of any contribution or expenditure, including any personal funds, used for the election. A new form 501 must be filed for each election even if a candidate is running for re-election.
<b>WHERE:</b>	The filing officer who receives the candidate's original campaign disclosure statements.
<b>WHO:</b>	All candidates who intend to raise or spend money on behalf of their campaign.

<b>WHAT:</b>	<b>Form 410 (Statement of Organization Recipient Committee)</b> A recipient committee is any individual, officeholder, candidate, group of individuals, organization or any other entity that receives contributions totaling \$2,000 or more during a calendar year.  <i>The name for all committees must include the candidate's name, office sought and year of the election as part of the committee name. Example: "Smith for Assembly 2010" or "Committee to Support Smith for Senate 2010."</i>
<b>WHEN:</b>	The initial Form 410 must be filed within 10 days of raising \$2,000; however, it can be filed prior to receiving \$2,000, then amended within 10 days of reaching the \$2,000 threshold. Form 410 is filed with the Secretary of State to create a committee, to amend information listed on the initial Form 410 and/or to terminate a committee. The Secretary of State's Political Reform Division will issue the committee ID number.
<b>WHERE:</b>	The original and one copy with the Secretary of State's Political Reform Division <u>and</u> one copy with the local filing official, if any, with whom you file the originals of your campaign disclosure statements.
<b>WHO:</b>	<b>All candidates who receive or spend \$2,000 or more on their campaign.</b> Candidates must open a separate bank account dedicated to their campaign.

<b>WHAT:</b>	<b>Form 470 (Officeholder and Candidate Campaign Statement-Short Form)</b> This form shall be used when a candidate does not have a controlled committee and does not anticipate raising or spending \$2,000 or more in a calendar year.
<b>WHEN:</b>	Must be filed no later than the deadline for the first required campaign disclosure statement.
<b>WHERE:</b>	The original with your filing officer, <u>and</u> (if applicable) one copy with each additional county filing official(s) for your elective office.
<b>WHO:</b>	All candidates who do not plan on spending or raising more than \$2,000 on their campaign in a calendar year.

<b>WHAT:</b>	<b>Form 470 (Supplement)</b> An officeholder or candidate who has filed Form 470 in connection with an election and subsequently receives contributions or expenditures totaling \$2,000 or more is required to send written notification.
<b>WHEN:</b>	Must be filed within 48 hours of reaching \$2,000 threshold.
<b>WHERE:</b>	The original with the Secretary of State's Political Reform Division, one copy with your local filing official <u>and</u> one copy to each candidate seeking the same office.
<b>WHO:</b>	All candidates who have filed a 470 and then reach the \$2,000 threshold for contributions or expenditures.

<b>WHAT:</b>	<b>Form 460 (Recipient Committee Campaign Statement - Long Form)</b> This form is used by candidates and their controlled committees to disclose itemized receipts and expenditures.  <u>Local candidates file this form with the local elections official only, not the Secretary of State.</u>
<b>WHEN:</b>	Must be filed according to applicable filing schedules. (See the <i>FPPC Filing Schedule</i> shown in this guide).
<b>WHERE:</b>	The original copy with your filing officer <u>and</u> (if applicable) one copy with each additional county filing official(s) for your elective office.
<b>WHO:</b>	All candidates who have filed a Form 410 and have raised or spent \$2,000 or more in a calendar year.

<b>WHAT:</b>	<b>Form 497 (Late Contribution Report)</b> This report must be filed if a committee controlled by the candidate or a primarily formed committee receives or makes a contribution totaling \$1,000 or more during the <b>90 days</b> before the candidate's election.
<b>WHEN:</b>	Within 24 hours of receiving the contribution via personal delivery, fax or guaranteed overnight delivery.
<b>WHERE:</b>	The original with your filing officer, <u>and</u> (if applicable) one copy with each additional county filing official(s) for your elective office.
<b>WHO:</b>	All candidates where applicable.

<b>WHAT:</b>	<b>Form 496 (Late Independent Expenditure Report)</b> This form must be filed if the committee makes independent expenditures totaling \$1,000 or more to support or oppose a single candidate during the <b>90 days</b> prior to the election.
<b>WHEN:</b>	Within 24 hours of receiving the contribution via personal delivery, fax or guaranteed overnight delivery.
<b>WHERE:</b>	The original with your filing officer and (if applicable) one copy with each additional county filing official(s) for your elective office.
<b>WHO:</b>	All candidates where applicable.

<b>WHAT:</b>	<b>Form 700 (Statement of Economic Interest)</b> This form is used for disclosure of certain personal financial interests under the Political Reform Act's conflict of interest rules. Investments and real property held on the day the Declaration of Candidacy is due, as well as income received during the 12 months prior to the date of filing the Declaration of Candidacy, must be reported.
<b>WHEN:</b>	Before the end of the nomination period.
<b>WHERE:</b>	With your local elections official.
<b>WHO:</b>	All candidates who have not filed this form for the same office within 60 days prior to the nomination period.

For more information regarding the financial campaign reporting process see "Campaign Disclosure **Manual 1** – Information for State Candidates, Their Controlled Committees, and Primarily Formed Committees for State Candidates" and "Campaign Disclosure **Manual 2** - Information for Local Candidates, Superior Court Judges, Their Controlled Committees, and Primarily Formed Committees for Local Candidates" located at the Fair Political Practices Commission website at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov)

## California Fair Political Practices Commission

# Recent Campaign Changes to the Political Reform Act



What's  
new?

Every year legislative changes are made to the campaign provisions of the Political Reform Act (Act). Below are just a few changes that we think may have an impact on candidates in the upcoming election and are based on FPPC update. To review all effective changes, Visit [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov) > Learn > What's New

**This is NOT a complete list of all of the regulatory changes; therefore, we strongly recommend you visit the FPPC website for complete and updated information on FPPC rules and regulations.**

### **Recurring Contributions** - (AB 775 (Berman) - Chapter 942, Statutes of 2022.)

Requires a candidate or committee to obtain affirmative consent from a person making a recurring contribution at the time of the initial contribution and would require solicitations for recurring contributions to be in a form that requires affirmative consent. The bill requires improperly solicited contributions to be returned within 14 days, as provided. The bill requires a candidate or committee that accepts a recurring contribution to provide a receipt for each contribution, provide information necessary to cancel the recurring contribution, and immediately cancel a recurring contribution upon request. This bill is operative on January 1, 2023

### **Paper Filings with Secretary of State (SOS)** - (AB 2172 (Cervantes) – Chapter 328, Statutes of 2022.)

Allows a person required to file a report or statement by paper with the SOS to instead file by email with a digital signature or other digital means as prescribed by the SOS. For a person that files by paper, the bill eliminates the requirement to file a copy along with the original filing. This bill is operative on January 1, 2023.

### **Excessive Contributions** - (SB 794 (Glazer) – Chapter 816, Statutes of 2022.)

Authorizes a committee that receives a contribution with actual knowledge that the contribution is over the applicable contribution limit in the Act to return the contribution or attribute the portion in excess of the limit to another election within 72 hours of receipt or before the date of the election, whichever is sooner without violating contribution limits. The bill prohibits a committee from using the excessive contribution prior to returning or attributing it and caps the amount of a contribution that may be accepted pursuant to this bill at twice the applicable limit. The bill requires a committee that receives an excessive contribution to provide certain information to the contributor. The bill also codifies an existing regulation allowing the return of contributions within 14 days if the committee does not have actual knowledge that the contribution exceeds the applicable contribution limit and expands this existing rule to allow attribution of the excess amount to another election within 14 days in the case the excess contribution was not deposited or not allowed to be deposited with actual knowledge that the contribution exceeded the applicable limit. This bill is operative January 1, 2023

### **Contributions to Local Government Agency Officers – Disqualification** - (SB 1439 (Glazer) – Chapter 848, Statutes of 2022.)

Existing law under the Act prohibits an officer of an agency from accepting, soliciting, or directing a contribution of more than \$250 from any party, participant, or a party or participant's agent, while a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use is pending before the agency and for 3 months following the date a final decision is rendered in the proceeding, if the officer knows or has reasons to know that the participant has financial interest, as defined. The Act also prohibits a party, participant, or participant's agent from making a contribution of more than \$250 to an officer of the agency during the proceeding and 3 months following the date of the final decision. Additionally, an officer may be disqualified from participating in a decision when, prior to making the decision, a party or participant in a proceeding made a contribution of more than \$250 to an officer within the preceding 12 months if the officer knows or has reason to know that the party or participant has a financial interest in the decision. The Act exempts certain entities from these requirements, including local government agencies whose members are directly elected by the voters. This bill removes that exception for local government agencies making them subject to the \$250 contribution prohibition. The bill additionally extends the prohibition on contributions from 3 to 12 months following the date a final decision is rendered in the proceeding and allows an officer to cure a violation for an improper contribution accepted after the proceeding by returning the contribution within 14 days if the acceptance was not knowing and willful. This bill is operative January 1, 2023

## California Fair Political Practices Commission

### Voluntary Expenditure Ceilings for State Candidates

(Effective January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2024)

State candidates may voluntarily accept expenditure limits for elections. They must declare on the Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501) whether they accept the voluntary expenditure ceiling established for each election. Candidates who accept the ceiling are designated in either the state ballot pamphlet (statewide candidates) or the voter information portion of the sample ballot (Senate and Assembly candidates) and may purchase space to place a 250-word statement there. The voluntary expenditure ceilings are effective for elections held between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2024. (Regulation 18545.)

#### Voluntary Expenditure Ceilings for State Candidates

Office	Primary/Special Election	General/Special Runoff Election
Assembly	\$727,000	\$1,273,000
Senate	\$1,091,000	\$1,636,000
Board of Equalization	\$1,818,000	\$2,727,000
Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, Controller, Secretary of State, Supt. of Public Instruction, Treasurer	\$7,272,000	\$10,908,000
Governor	\$10,908,000	\$18,181,000
CalPERS/CalSTRS (Section 85400)	N/A	N/A



## California Fair Political Practices Commission

### California State Contribution Limits

(Effective January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2024)

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

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

Candidate or Officeholder	Contributor Sources		
	Person (individual, business entity, committee/PAC)	Small Contributor Committee (see definition on page 2)	Political Party
City and County Candidates subject to Section 85301 (d)	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500
Senate and Assembly	\$5,500	\$10,900	No Limit
CalPERS/CalSTRS	\$5,500	\$10,900	No Limit
Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, Controller, Supt. of Public Instruction, Insurance Commissioner, and Board of Equalization	\$9,100	\$18,200	No Limit
Governor	\$36,400	\$36,400	No Limit

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

#### Contributions to Other State Committees Per Calendar Year

Committee	Contributor Sources	
	Person (individual, business entity, committee/PAC)	
Committee (Not Political Party) that Contributes to State Candidates (PAC)	\$9,100	
Political Party Account for State Candidates	\$45,500	
Small Contributor Committee	\$200	
Committee Account NOT for State Candidates (Ballot Measure, PAC, Political Party)	No Limit*	

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

#### Contributions to State Officeholder Committees Per Calendar Year

Committee	Contributor Sources	
	Any Source (Person, Small Contributor Committee or Political Party)	Aggregate From All Sources
Senate and Assembly	\$4,500	\$75,500
CalPERS/CalSTRS	\$4,500	\$75,500
Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, Controller, Supt. of Public Instruction, Insurance Commissioner, and Board of Equalization	\$7,500	\$151,000
Governor	\$30,200	\$301,900

# WHERE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

## State Candidates

Those candidates/officeholders who have a controlled committee for a state elected office (e.g. California Assembly, California Senate, Superior Court Judge, etc.).

**Electronic Filing:** State candidates who raise or spend \$25,000 or more are required to file electronically with the Secretary of State. Once the California Access Replacement System (CARS) system is live, all state committee filings will be done, online or electronically, with the Secretary of State.

Form	Where to File	Filing Method
<b>Form 501</b> (Candidate Intention Statement)	Secretary of State	Paper original*
<b>Form 410</b> (Statement of Organization)	Secretary of State	Paper original*
<b>Form 460</b> (Recipient Committee Campaign Statement)	Secretary of State	<b>Electronic Filers</b> Electronically <i>and</i> Paper original* <b>Non-Electronic Filers</b> Paper original*
	County of Domicile	One copy if the committee is formed for a local election
<b>Form 497</b> (24-Hour Contribution Report)	Secretary of State	All Form 497s are filed electronically even if the \$25,000 electronic filing threshold has not been met

\*For paper filings filed with **Secretary of State:** All paper filings may be filed by first-class mail or by email with a verified digital signature unless otherwise noted. Effective January 1, 2023, persons required to file a report or statement by paper with the Secretary of State's Office may instead file by email (digitalfiling@sos.ca.gov) with a verified digital signature or other 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, or our [Filing with a Digital Signature fact sheet](#).

## Local Candidates

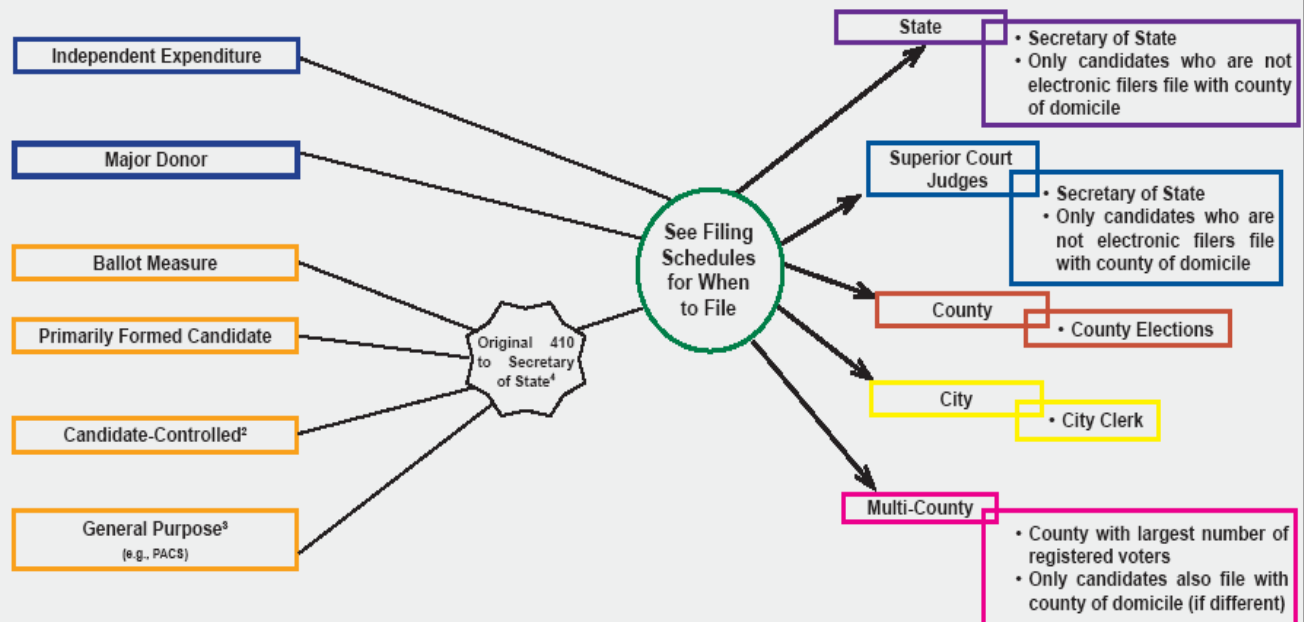
Those candidates/officeholders who have a controlled committee for a local elected office (e.g. county office, school district, irrigation district, etc.).

Form	Where to File	Filing Method
<b>Form 501</b> (Candidate Intention Statement)	County Elections Office	Paper original or Electronically (check with your County)
<b>Form 410</b> (Statement of Organization)	Secretary of State	Paper original*
	County Elections Office	One copy
<b>Form 460</b> (Recipient Committee Campaign Statement)	County Elections Office	Paper (original and one copy) or Electronically (check with your County)
<b>Form 497</b> (24-Hour Contribution Report)	County Elections Office	Paper or Electronically (check with your County)

\*For paper filings filed with **Secretary of State:** All paper filings may be filed by first-class mail or by email with a verified digital signature unless otherwise noted. Effective January 1, 2023, persons required to file a report or statement by paper with the Secretary of State's Office may instead file by email (digitalfiling@sos.ca.gov) with a verified digital signature or other 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, or our [Filing with a Digital Signature fact sheet](#).



# Where to File Campaign Reports<sup>1</sup>



1 This flow chart represents the filing locations for Forms 410, 425, 450, 460 and 461. See instructions for filing locations of other campaign forms.  
 2 Cross-filing may be required for candidates controlling more than one committee.  
 3 Manual under review, pending publication.  
 4 Local committees must also file a copy of the Form 410 with the local filing officer.

www.fppc.ca.gov  
 866.275.3772 or 916.322.5860  
 FPPC TAD • 025 09-2011

## Helpful FPPC links:

FPPC Home Page: <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/>

FPPC Filing Schedule: <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/campaign-rules/where-and-when-to-file-campaign-statements/when-to-file-campaign-statements-state-local-filing-schedules.html>

FPPC Forms: <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/forms.html>

FPPC Fact Sheets: <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/media/factsheets.html>

What's New: <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/whats-new.html>

Frequently Asked Questions: Campaign Activity: <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/content/dam/fppc/NS-Documents/TAD/Campaign%20Documents/Campaign%20FAQs.pdf>

## Campaign Disclosure Manuals:

State Candidates:

<https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/campaign-rules/campaign-disclosure-manuals.html#title1>

Local Candidates, Superior Court Judge:

<https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/campaign-rules/campaign-disclosure-manuals.html#title2>

# CAMPAIGN BASICS

For candidates spending \$2,000 or more



## CAMPAIGN RULES PAGE:

Bookmark the [Campaign Rules](#) page to find resources and answers to campaign-related questions throughout your campaign. All links noted below can be reached through the [Campaign Rules](#) page.

[FPPC Home Page](#) > [Learn](#) > [Campaign Rules](#)

## TWO IMPORTANT RULES TO REMEMBER:

- Candidates **MUST** file Form 501 before soliciting or accepting contributions.
- Candidates **MUST** deposit funds into the campaign bank account before spending money on the campaign. Candidates may not spend money out of pocket for campaign expenses.

## FORMS TO START:

- Form [501](#) – Candidate Intention Statement
- Form [410](#) – Statement of Organization (No bank account yet? Enter “Pending” where asked.)
- Form [700](#) – Statement of Economic Interests (See your elections official for filing date.)

## ID NUMBER:

1. Send completed Form 410 to CA Secretary of State (SOS) and a copy to your local filing official.
2. SOS issues the committee ID number and posts it to their website, usually within 1-2 business days after receiving your completed Form 410.
3. To find your committee ID number, go to [cal-access.sos.ca.gov](http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov).
4. Enter your committee name in the search bar at top left of the screen.
  - If your committee ID number is not available, SOS may not have posted it yet. Or, the Form 410 may be incorrect and SOS will send you a notice via USPS.
  - To find out the status of your ID number, contact the SOS at (916) 653-6224.

## FILING SCHEDULES & DEADLINES:

Determine what campaign reports are due, and when they’re due, by reviewing your [filing schedule](#).

## MOST COMMON CAMPAIGN REPORTS:

- Form [460](#) – Recipient Committee Campaign Statement
- Form [497](#) – 24-Hour Contribution Report

## MANUALS:

- Disclosure [Manual 1](#) – State Candidates
- Disclosure [Manual 2](#) – Local Candidates and Judges

## CANDIDATE/TREASURER VIDEO:

Watch the [Candidate/Treasurer video](#) and print the accompanying [slides](#).

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

In addition to the video above, you may learn more by registering for [webinars and workshops](#).

[FPPC Home Page](#) > [Learn](#) > [Campaign Rules](#) > [Training & Outreach](#) > [Candidate, Treasurer, or Committee?](#)

## QUESTIONS?

- [advice@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:advice@fppc.ca.gov)
- (866) 275-3772 Mon-Thurs, 9-11:30 a.m.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

## Local Candidate/Committee Checklist

### ☐ File Form 501 (Candidate Intention)

You must file [Form 501](#) before soliciting, raising or spending any money in connection with your election. The only exception to this requirement is if you use personal funds to pay a filing fee or ballot statement fee.

## Candidates Raising and Spending Less than \$2,000

### ☐ File Form 470 (Officeholder and Candidate Campaign Statement Short Form)

The [Form 470](#) is filed by candidates who do not have a controlled committee and do not anticipate receiving or spending \$2,000 or more, including personal funds, in a calendar year. These candidates generally do not file a Form 410 or other campaign statements or reports related to their campaign unless they receive or anticipate receiving or spending \$2,000 or more.

## Candidates Raising \$2,000 or More

### ☐ File Form 410 (Statement of Organization)

Once you receive or spend \$2,000 or more in a calendar year, you must file a [Form 410](#) as a recipient committee within 10 days of qualifying. File the original and one copy of the Form 410 with the Secretary of State and a copy with your local filing officer. The Secretary of State's address is on the Form 410.

### ☐ Open a Campaign Bank Account

All monetary contributions (including all personal funds you use for your campaign) must be deposited in the campaign bank account before being spent. Never deposit campaign contributions in your personal bank account.

### ☐ Committee Treasurer

The Act requires that every committee appoint a treasurer. The individual listed on the most recent Form 410 with the Secretary of State continues to be legally responsible until an amendment is filed to designate a new treasurer. Please note a candidate may act as his or her own treasurer.

### ☐ File Campaign Statements

You must file campaign statements ([Form 460](#)) disclosing the committee's activity during a specified period. Please access the Commission's filing schedules to find the schedule that applies to you/your election. Committees are required to file campaign statements as well as other reports including semi-annual campaign statements until the committee terminates.

### ☐ 24-Hour Reports

Within 90 days before the election, including the date of the election, if a committee receives a contribution(s) of \$1,000 or more from a single source, including loans from the candidate, the [Form 497](#) must be filed within 24 hours.

### ☐ Local Campaign Contribution Limits

Make sure you are aware of any local contribution limits before accepting contributions.

### ☐ After the Election

Following the election, your duty to file campaign statements continues until your committee terminates. In order to terminate, you must file a Form 460 with your local filing officer reporting a zero balance AND a Form 410 indicating the termination with the Secretary of State's Office and a copy with your local filing officer.

*This factsheet provides guidance and a general overview of the rules for campaigns, but it does not replace any requirements under the [Political Reform Act](#) or [Fair Political Practices Commission Regulations](#). Information here should be used in conjunction with a careful review of the applicable laws.*

www.fppc.ca.gov  
FPPC Advice: [advice@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:advice@fppc.ca.gov) (866.275.3772)  
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# TERMINATING YOUR COMMITTEE

For local candidates



## YOU MAY TERMINATE IF:

*(All the following criteria must be met.)*

- You have filed all required campaign statements.
- Your final campaign statement has a \$0 balance.
- You do not anticipate receiving further contributions.
- You do not anticipate making further expenditures.
- You are not expecting a refund for filing or ballot statement fees paid from committee funds.

## FORMS TO COMPLETE:

*In addition to checking the appropriate "Type of Statement" box, remember to check the "Termination" box on all termination statements.*

- Form 410 – File original with the Secretary of State (SOS) and a copy with your local filing officer
- Form 460 – File original with your local filing officer

## REMEMBER:

- Form 460 Semi-Annual Statements are due **January 31** and **July 31** (or next business day).
- Funds become surplus 90 days after the end of the semi-annual reporting period.
- Terminate by **December 31** to avoid paying next year's \$50 annual fee to the SOS.
- Verify if your local jurisdiction has campaign ordinances with additional requirements other than those imposed the Political Reform Act.

## BUT WHAT IF...

**I filed a Form 470 (Officeholder and Candidate Campaign Statement - Short Form)?**

**Defeated** candidates who filed the Form 470 have no reporting obligations after the election if they did not raise or spend \$2000 or more during the election.

**Successful** candidates (officeholders) who filed the Form 470 and who do not raise or spend \$2,000 or more during the calendar year are required to file the Form 470 by July 31 each year if their elected position pays them \$200 or more per month.

**Judges** who filed a Form 470 should contact their filing officer for filing requirements.

**I still have funds in my campaign bank account?**

Until the funds become surplus, you may use campaign funds for political, legislative, or governmental purposes. You may also donate funds to bona fide charitable, educational, civic, religious, or similar tax exempt, non-profit organizations. The donation may not personally benefit the candidate, treasurer, or his/her spouse or dependent children.

**I have outstanding debt?**

You may file your termination statements showing outstanding debt. In doing so, you are declaring that you do not have the ability to discharge debts, loans, or other obligations. If you wish to continue fundraising, you may not terminate the committee.

**I need more information?**

See FPPC Campaign Disclosure [Manual 2](#) for Local Candidates. You may also e-mail the FPPC for advice at [advice@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:advice@fppc.ca.gov) or call 866-275-3772 Mon-Thurs., 9-11:30 a.m.

# Exciting News Regarding Online Campaign Finance Reporting with Stanislaus County!

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters is now using **CampaignDocs**. This online campaign finance reporting filing system provides filers with the ease and convenience of submitting campaign finance disclosure forms online!

This free online filing service is available to all committees, candidates and officeholders required to file campaign disclosure documents with the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters. **CampaignDocs** is an easy, convenient, and user-friendly way to file your campaign disclosure forms. With **CampaignDocs** you can track contributions and expenditures as they occur and conveniently file online when your filing is due.

All financial disclosure forms filed with the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters after January 1, 2018, are posted online. Street addresses and signatures are redacted from financial disclosure forms posted online; however, unredacted copies are still available at the elections office for 10 cents per page.

To sign up for online filing with Stanislaus County **CampaignDocs** system, contact the Candidate Services Unit at (209) 525-5237 or send an email request to **campaigndocs@stancounty.com** and be sure to include an email address for the candidate and treasurer for activation!

All FPPC documents that are required to be filed with other jurisdictions and/or the Secretary of State must be filed in paper format with that jurisdiction. Documents required to be filed with the Secretary of State must be original wet signature forms mailed directly to the Secretary of State.

**To view online campaign disclosure documents, go to [stanvote.com](http://stanvote.com) and click the “Campaign Disclosure” blue bar on the right side of the home page**

**Registrar of Voters**

Address: 1021 I Street, Suite 101  
Modesto, CA 95354  
Get Directions

Phone: (209) 525-5200  
Fax: (209) 525-5802  
Mon - Fri: 8am - 4pm

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**About Us**

**Who We Are**

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters ensures that voters determine the leaders and laws that govern the community. The Registrar of Voters, part of the County Clerk-Recorder Department, plays a vital role by registering voters, accepting candidate nominations and conducting elections. Each election, the Registrar of Voters recruits and trains over 700 poll workers who get an interesting look behind the scenes at election time. This is especially valuable for high school students, who may qualify for school credit and earn a monetary stipend as they learn about the democratic process. The Registrar of Voters also verifies petition signatures; some petitions help candidates qualify for the ballot and others call for a change in the law.



**STANISLAUS COUNTY  
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS  
1021 "I" Street, Suite 101  
Modesto, CA 95354**

**Phone: (209) 525-5201  
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Website: [www.stanvote.com](http://www.stanvote.com)**