

Candidate Filing Guidelines



June 2, 2026, Primary
and
November 3, 2026, General

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San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

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www.slovote.gov

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IMPORTANT NOTICE:

These guidelines are intended to provide general information concerning the nomination and election of candidates and do not have the force and effect of law, regulation, or rule. In addition, these guidelines are not considered final and are subject to additional updates and revisions.

This packet is distributed with the understanding that neither the Secretary of State, the County Elections Official or their staff 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.

No duty is imposed upon the County Elections Official or their staff 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.).

In the case of a conflict or amendments to a law, regulation, or rule that takes effect after publication of this document, the law, regulation, or rule will apply.

All references contained in this guide are to the [California Elections Code \(EC\)](#), [California Code of Regulations \(CCOR\)](#), [California Government Code \(GC\)](#) or [California State Constitution \(CaCONS\)](#).

CODE REFERENCE KEY:

The following abbreviations are used throughout these guidelines:

California Code of Regulations	CCOR
Election Code	EC
Education Code	EDC
Government Code	GC
Health and safety Code	HSC
Harbors and Navigation Code	HNC
Insurance Code	IC



Congratulations on your decision to run for public office!

Choosing to step forward and serve your community is a meaningful and commendable decision, and we appreciate your willingness to participate in the democratic process. We hope this journey proves to be a rewarding experience for you and everyone involved in your campaign.

This informational guide is designed to provide an overview of key forms, deadlines, and requirements for candidates participating in the June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election and the November 3, 2026, Gubernatorial General Election. We encourage you to take time to carefully review the information included, as it addresses many of the common questions candidates have regarding the rules and procedures for seeking public office. Timely participation and attention to filing requirements are essential to a smooth and successful nomination process.

While our office is unable to provide legal advice related to campaigns or candidate filing, we are always happy to assist by offering general guidance and practical tips to help make the process as efficient as possible:

- **Review this guide in its entirety**
- **Make an appointment with our office**
- **File early whenever possible**

We sincerely wish you the very best as you move forward, and we thank you for your interest in serving the public.

Sincerely,

Elaina Cano

County Clerk-Recorder
Registrar of Voters

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I. Introduction

Welcome to the County of San Luis Obispo Candidate Guidelines for the **June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election** and the **November 3, 2026, Gubernatorial General Election**. This resource is designed to provide essential information for individuals seeking elected office, including filing requirements, campaign regulations, and election procedures.

Our goal is to ensure transparency, accessibility, and confidence in the local electoral process by guiding candidates through each step. Whether you are running for a federal, state, or local office, this document outlines the key dates, required forms, and rules that govern candidacy and campaigning in SLO County.

Please review this guide carefully and then reach out to the Elections Office with any questions. Your engagement is vital to the democratic process.

Please note: As of January 1, 2026, California Elections Code § 2166.9 requires all elected officials and candidates to become confidential voters. For any office for which nomination papers are filed with the county elections official, the county elections official shall make confidential that elected official/candidate's residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on the affidavit of registration within five business days of the filing of nomination papers.

This law also provides an option for elected officials and candidates to choose *not* to become confidential (i.e., opt out). For more information, please visit slovote.com/june2026.

II. Overview of the 2026 Election Cycle

In 2026, voters in SLO County will participate in two major elections:

- Primary Election: **Tuesday, June 2, 2026**
 - Voters nominate candidates for statewide, legislative, and congressional offices and vote on local offices.
 - For top-two contests, the two highest vote-getters—regardless of party—advance to the General Election.
- General Election: **Tuesday, November 3, 2026**
 - Voters select among the top-two candidates from the Primary, local offices that do not hold a Primary, statewide propositions, and ballot measures.

- Some local offices may be filled in the Primary if one candidate receives a majority (50% + 1) of votes.

III. Key Dates and Deadlines

Candidate Filing Periods

- **Primary Election Filing:** February 9 – March 6, 2026
 - Deadline extended to March 11, 2026, if the incumbent does not file.
- **General Election Filing:** July 13 – August 7, 2026 (*only for candidates advancing from the Primary and for those running for school board, community services district, or special district office*)
 - Deadline extended to August 12, 2026, if the incumbent does not file.

Write-In Candidacy Periods

- **Primary Election:** April 6 – May 19, 2026
- **General Election:** September 7 – October 20, 2026

Voter Registration Deadlines

- **Primary Election:** May 18, 2026 (registration closes)
 - Conditional (same day) voter registration is available through Election Day, June 2, 2026.
- **General Election:** October 19, 2026 (registration closes)
 - Conditional registration remains available through Election Day, November 3, 2026.

Other Important Dates

- Ballots mailed: Week of May 4 (Primary) and October 5 (General)
- First day of early in-person voting at the Elections Offices in SLO and Atascadero: May 23 (Primary) and October 24 (General)
- Last day to request a replacement Vote-by-Mail ballot by mail: May 26 (Primary) and October 27 (General)

A more extensive calendar for each election can be found in the Appendix.

IV. Candidate Filing Requirements & Appointments



Running for office in San Luis Obispo County requires prospective candidates to submit specific forms and meet key deadlines. California's election system includes a **Top-Two Primary** for most statewide and congressional offices, which means that all candidates for these offices—regardless of party preference—appear on the same ballot. The two candidates who receive the most votes move on to the General Election, even if one candidate receives a majority of the votes in the Primary.

Offices Impacted by the Top-Two Primary System:

- U.S. Senate
- U.S. House of Representatives
- State Constitutional Offices (e.g., Governor, Secretary of State, State Superintendent of Public Instruction)
- State Senate and Assembly
- Local nonpartisan offices including Superior Court Judges, County Board of Supervisors, Assessor, Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector Administrator, Clerk-Recorder and County Superintendent of Schools

For some of these local offices, the election may be decided in the Primary if a candidate receives more than 50% of the vote. Otherwise, a runoff between the top two candidates will be held during the General Election.

List of all offices up for election in 2026

The offices listed below will be on the  **June 2, 2026, Primary Election ballot**, and those requiring a run-off will also appear on the  **November 3, 2026, General Election ballot** (*subject to change due to unexpected vacancies*):

VOTER-NOMINATED OFFICES

Office	Term	Term Begins
U.S. Representative, 19 th District	2 Years	1/3/2027
U.S. Representative, 24 th District	2 Years	1/3/2027
State Assembly, 30 th District	2 Years	1/4/2027
State Assembly, 37 th District	2 Years	1/4/2027
Governor, State of California	4 Years	1/4/2027
Lieutenant Governor, State of California	4 Years	1/4/2027
Secretary of State, State of California	4 Years	1/4/2027
Controller, State of California	4 Years	1/4/2027
Treasurer, State of California	4 Years	1/4/2027
Attorney General, State of California	4 Years	1/4/2027
Insurance Commissioner, State of California	4 Years	1/4/2027
State Board of Equalization, 2 nd District	4 Years	1/4/2027

NON-PARTISAN OFFICES

Office	Term	Term Begins
State Superintendent of Public Instruction	4 Years	1/5/2027
Superior Court Judge (Offices 3 and 11)	6 Years	1/5/2027
County Board of Supervisors (Districts 2 and 4)	4 Years	1/5/2027
Assessor	4 Years	1/5/2027
Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector-PA	4 Years	1/5/2027
Clerk-Recorder	4 Years	1/5/2027
County Superintendent of Schools	4 Years	1/5/2027

Offices listed below will appear **only** on the  **November 3, 2026, General Election** ballot:

SCHOOL BOARD/DISTRICT (Ed Code §5000 & 5017)				
District	Trustee Area	Positions	Term Begins	Term Ends
San Luis Obispo County Board of Education	TA #2 TA #4 TA #5	3 Full Terms	12/11/26 12/11/26	12/13/30 12/13/30 12/13/30
SLO County Community College District (Cuesta College)	TA #3 TA #4	2 Full Terms	12/11/26 12/11/26	12/13/30 12/13/30
Allan Hancock Joint Community College District	TA #5	1 Full Term	12/11/26	12/13/30
Atascadero Unified School District	At-Large	4 Full Terms	12/11/26 12/11/26 12/11/26 12/11/26	12/13/30 12/13/30 12/13/30 12/13/30
Coast Unified School District	TA#2 TA#3	2 Full Terms	12/11/26 12/11/26	12/13/30 12/13/30
Cuyama Joint Unified School District	At-Large	5 Full Terms	12/11/26 12/11/26 12/11/26 12/11/26 12/11/26	12/13/30 12/13/30 12/13/30 12/13/30 12/13/30
Lucia Mar Unified School District	TA #3 TA #5 TA #6 TA #7	4 Full Terms	12/11/26 12/11/26 12/11/26 12/11/26	12/13/30 12/13/30 12/13/30 12/13/30
Paso Robles Joint Unified School District	TA#1 TA#2 TA#4	3 Full Terms	12/11/26 12/11/26 12/11/26	12/13/30 12/13/30 12/13/30
San Luis Coastal Unified School District	TA #1 TA #2 TA #4 TA #5	4 Full Terms	12/11/26 12/11/26 12/11/26 12/11/26	12/13/30 12/13/30 12/13/30 12/13/30
San Miguel Joint Union School District	TA #1 TA #3	2 Full Terms	12/11/26 12/11/26	12/13/30 12/13/30
Santa Maria Bonita School District	TA #1	1 Full Term	12/11/26	12/13/30
Shandon Joint Unified School District	TA #2	1 Full Term	12/11/26	12/13/30

Templeton Unified School District	At-Large	2 Full Terms	12/11/26	12/13/30
Cayucos Elementary School District	TA #1	3 Full Terms	12/11/26	12/13/30
	TA #2		12/11/26	12/13/30
	TA #3		12/11/26	12/13/30
Pleasant Valley Joint Union Elem. School District	At-Large	2 Full Terms	12/11/26	12/13/30
			12/11/26	12/13/30
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT (GC §61042)				
District	Divisions	Positions	Term Begins	Term Ends
Avila Beach Community Services District	At-Large	4 Full Terms	12/04/26	12/06/30
			12/04/26	12/06/30
			12/04/26	12/06/30
			12/04/26	12/06/30
California Valley Community Services District	At-Large	2 Full Terms	12/04/26	12/06/30
			12/04/26	12/06/30
Cambria Community Services District	At-Large	2 Full Terms	12/04/26	12/06/30
			12/04/26	12/06/30
Ground Squirrel Hollow Community Services District	At-Large	2 Full Terms	12/04/26	12/06/30
			12/04/26	12/06/30
Heritage Ranch Community Services District	At-Large	3 Full Terms	12/04/26	12/06/30
			12/09/26	12/06/30
			12/09/26	12/06/30
Independence Ranch Community Services District	At-Large	2 Full Terms	12/04/26	12/06/30
			12/04/26	12/06/30
Linne Community Services District	At-Large	3 Full Terms	12/04/26	12/06/30
			12/04/26	12/06/30
			12/04/26	12/06/30
Los Osos Community Services District	Div 1	3 Full Terms	12/04/26	12/06/30
	Div 2		12/04/26	12/06/30
	Div 4		12/04/26	12/06/30
Nipomo Community Services District	At-Large	3 Full Terms	12/04/26	12/06/30
			12/04/26	12/06/30
			12/04/26	12/06/30
Oceano Community Services District	Div 2	2 Full Terms	12/04/26	12/06/30
	Div 3		12/04/26	12/06/30
San Miguel Community Services District	At-Large	2 Full Terms	12/04/26	12/06/30
			12/04/26	12/06/30
San Simeon Community Services District	Div B	3 Full Terms	12/04/26	12/06/30
	Div D		12/04/26	12/06/30
	Div E		12/04/26	12/06/30

Squire Canyon Community Services District	At-Large	3 Full Terms	12/04/26 12/04/26 12/04/26	12/06/30 12/06/30 12/06/30
Templeton Community Services District	At-Large	2 Full Terms	12/04/26 12/04/26	12/06/30 12/06/30
SPECIAL DISTRICTS (GC §61042)				
District	Divisions	Positions	Term Begins	Term Ends
Port San Luis Harbor District HNC §6050	Div 3 Div 5	2 Full Terms	1/04/27 1/04/27	1/06/31 1/06/31
Santa Margarita Fire Protection District	At-Large	2 Full Terms	12/04/26 12/04/26	12/06/30 12/06/30
Cambria Community Healthcare District	Div 2 Div 3 Div 4	3 Full Terms	12/04/26 12/04/26 12/04/26	12/06/30 12/06/30 12/06/30
Cayucos Sanitary District	Div 1 Div 2 Div 3 Div 4	4 Full Terms	12/04/26 12/04/26 12/04/26 12/04/26	12/06/30 12/06/30 12/06/30 12/06/30
Garden Farms Community Water District	At-Large	3 Full Terms	12/04/26 12/04/26 12/04/26	12/06/30 12/06/30 12/06/30
Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District	Div 3	1 Full Term	12/04/26	12/06/30

It is the obligation of the candidate to ensure that all filing requirements and deadlines are met. The following section outlines what is required to run for one of these offices, with distinctions between the **Primary Election** and **General Election**.

Filing Periods

- **PRIMARY ELECTION: June 2, 2026**
Filing Period: **February 9 – 5 p.m. March 6, 2026**
 - Nomination papers and Declaration of Candidacy must be submitted during this period.
 - Extension: If an incumbent does not file by March 8, the deadline is extended to March 13 (except for incumbents).
- **GENERAL ELECTION: November 3, 2026**
Filing Period: **July 13 – 5 p.m. August 7, 2026** *(for candidates who advance from the Primary and for those running for school board, community services district, or special district office). For city offices, please contact the city clerk for the municipality.*

- For runoff candidates: No new nomination documents are required unless candidate information has changed. Candidates will have to resubmit their candidate statement of qualifications and printing deposit if they want a statement included in the General Election Voter Information Guide. The statement does not have to be the same statement they submitted for the Primary Election.
- Extension: If an incumbent does not file by August 7, the deadline is extended to August 12 (except for incumbents).
- Write-in candidates must file by **5 p.m. October 20, 2026**.

Candidate Filing Appointments

Prospective candidates **MUST** schedule an appointment prior to the issuance of any nomination documents.

To make candidate filing appointments efficient for everyone, candidates must call the Clerk Recorder's office at (805) 781-5228 ahead of time and be prepared to provide the following information:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • District Name | • Evening Phone # |
| • Office Sought | • Fax # |
| • Name as Registered | • Email |
| • Residence Address | • Website |
| • Mailing Address | • Name as to Appear on Ballot |
| • Confidential Phone # | • Ballot Designation |
| • Daytime Phone # | |

Candidates will then be emailed a packet of forms to be completed and presented at their scheduled appointment.

Certain candidates for Non-Partisan offices need to provide evidence of meeting the qualifications of the office for which they choose to file papers. For more information about qualifications to run and hold public office, please see **Section V** of this guide.

Declaration of Intention Period for Judicial Candidates *EC §§ 8023, 8105*

Candidates for Judicial Office must file a Declaration of Intention with the official county elections office between the dates of January 26, 2026, and February 4, 2026. No person may be a candidate, nor have their name printed upon any ballot as a candidate for judicial office, unless he/she has filed the Declaration of Intention. If the incumbent of a judicial office fails to file the

Declaration of Intention by February 4, 2026, persons other than the incumbent may file the Declaration of Intention through February 9, 2026.

The **non-refundable** filing fee, signatures in-lieu of filing fee, or any prorated combination of fee and signatures must be presented at the time of filing the Declaration of Intention.

If signatures in-lieu of filing fee are presented to cover the filing fee or a portion thereof, the candidate shall also leave a check payable in an amount not to exceed the amount of the filing fee. The correct amount will be completed by the elections official once the number of valid signatures is determined and the fee is calculated.

Petition In-Lieu of Filing Fee *EC §§ 8061, 8105, 8106*

A candidate may submit a petition containing signatures of registered voters in-lieu of paying the filing fee to run for office. The signatures submitted may cover all or a portion of the filing fee and shall be submitted by the deadline noted above or at the same time as the Declaration of Intention (Judicial Candidates only) or the Nomination Petition and Declaration of Candidacy, whichever occurs earlier.

Circulators of petitions in-lieu of filing fee shall be registered voters in the jurisdiction in which the candidate is to be voted upon. The circulator shall only serve in the county in which he or she resides. The circulator(s) shall complete the Affidavit of Circulator portion in their own hand. Petition in-lieu of filing fee sections will not be accepted for filing unless the Affidavit of Circulator section is filled in completely.

No additional signatures may be filed after the filing date, but supplemental signatures may be filed to replace signatures in the original filing that were found to be invalid.

The portion of the filing fee not covered by the signatures must be paid in full before the nomination documents may be filed.

Signers must fill in the required information in their own hand.

Petitions in-lieu of filing fee shall be filed with the elections official of the county in which the petitions were circulated.

Voter-Nominated and Non-Partisan Filing fees, Signatures in-lieu, and Nomination Signatures §§8061, 8062(a), 8103, 8104, 8105, 8106

Filing fees are calculated based on the annual salary for the office in effect on the first day to circulate petitions to gather signatures in lieu of filing fees.

VOTER NOMINATED OFFICES

Office	Filing Fee (% of salary provided by the SOS)	# of In-Lieu Signatures	Value of Each Signature	# of Nomination Signatures
Representative in Congress	\$1,740.00 (1%)	1,714	\$1.015169195	40-60
Governor	\$4,918.58 (2%)	6,000	\$0.819763333	65-100
Lieutenant Governor	\$3,688.94 (2%)	6,000	\$0.614823333	65-100
Secretary of State	\$3,688.94 (2%)	6,000	\$0.614823333	65-100
Controller	\$3,934.86 (2%)	6,000	\$0.65581	65-100
Treasurer	\$3,934.86 (2%)	6,000	\$0.65581	65-100
Attorney General	\$4,272.34 (2%)	6,000	\$0.712056667	65-100
Insurance Commissioner	\$3,934.86 (2%)	6,000	\$0.65581	65-100
Member, State Board of Equalization	\$1,844.47 (1%)	4,743	\$0.388882564	40-60
Member of the Assembly	\$1,346.94 (1%)	857	\$1.571691949	40-60

NON-PARTISAN OFFICES

Office	Filing Fee/ Percentage	# of In-Lieu Signatures	Value of Each Signature	# of Nomination Signatures
State Superintendent Of Public Instruction	\$4,272.34 (2%)	6,000	\$0.712056667	65-100
Superior Court Judge	\$2,447.27 (1%)	7,342	\$0.33	20-40
County Board of Supervisors District 2	\$1,140.67 (1%)	2,289	\$0.50	20-40
County Board of Supervisors District 4	\$1,140.67 (1%)	2,752	\$0.41	20-40
Assessor	\$2,501.82 (1%)	7,506	\$0.33	20-40
Auditor- Controller- Treasurer- Tax Collector-Public Administrator	\$2,749.76 (1%)	8,250	\$0.33	20-40
Clerk-Recorder	\$2,081.87 (1%)	6,246	\$0.33	20-40
County Superintendent of Schools	\$2,769.57 (1%)	8,309	\$0.33	20-40
Justice of the Court of Appeal	\$2,800.52 (1%)	8,402	\$0.33	None

Required Documents for Candidate Filing *EC § 8020, § 8028, § 8040, § 8041, § 8060, § 8105*

Candidates must file the following documents:

- Declaration of Candidacy (may be filed for only one office)
- Nomination Petition (if required by office sought)
- Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700)
- Ballot Designation Worksheet
- Candidate Statement (optional; fees apply)
- Filing fees (for specific offices only)

⚠ Note: Filing fees and statement fees are due at the time of submission.

Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700)

All candidates must file a Form 700 disclosing financial interests to comply with the Political Reform Act. This form ensures transparency and is available online at the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) website. It must be submitted with the Declaration of Candidacy.

Candidate Statements in the Voter Guide

- **PRIMARY:** Statements appear for all candidates appearing on the primary ballot. Statements are optional and subject to word limits.
- **GENERAL:** Only runoff candidates advancing to the General Election or those running for school board, community services district, or special district office may submit new or updated statements. Candidates may not reuse Primary statements without re-certifying.

For details about Ballot Designations and Candidate Statements, see **Sections VI and VII** of this guide.

Agent Authorization to Pick Up and/or File Nomination Documents *EC § 8028 (b)*

If the candidate is out of the county during the Declaration of Candidacy period and is not able to be present in the elections official's office, the candidate may, in a written statement signed and dated by the candidate, designate a person to pick up the Declaration of Candidacy form and deliver it to the candidate. The statement shall include language explaining that the candidate is aware that the Declaration of Candidacy must be properly executed and delivered to the San Luis Obispo County Elections Office **no later than 5:00 p.m. on the last day to file. POSTMARKS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Deployed Active Military – Agent Authorization *EC § 202*

A person who is deployed on active military service outside of the state and is unable to appear in person to file a Declaration of Candidacy, Nomination Papers, or any other paper necessary to run for office may have their forms completed and filed by an attorney-in-fact who is commissioned and empowered in writing for that purpose through a power of attorney.

At the time of filing the Declaration of Candidacy, the attorney-in-fact shall present the original power of attorney duly signed by the deployed person. The power of attorney shall state the office that the deployed person is seeking, including the district number, if any, and shall include a declaration that the deployed person meets the statutory and constitutional qualifications for office that they are seeking and that if nominated the deployed person will accept the nomination and will not withdraw. The power of attorney shall further state that the power of attorney is solely for the purpose of authorizing the attorney-in-fact to file a declaration or papers necessary to run for office. The original or a copy of the power of attorney shall be filed with and attached to the declaration or paper.

V. Qualifications to Hold Public Office

General Qualifications *EC §§13.5, 20, 201, GC §24001 and Cal. Const., art. IV, § 2*

The California Elections Code requires all candidates for public office to be registered voters and otherwise qualified to vote for the office they are seeking at the time their nomination papers are issued, unless specified differently below.

In addition, a person cannot 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 these crimes.

Beyond these general qualifications, some offices require specific qualifications and proof that candidates meet these qualifications. *EC §§ 13.5, 20, 201 and GC § 24001*

● Specific Qualifications: Primary Election

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

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.

California Constitution Article VI § 15

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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.

GC § 25041

COUNTY ASSESSOR

A person may not exercise the powers and duties of the office of assessor unless they hold a valid appraiser's certificate issued by the State Board of Equalization. A duly elected or appointed person may exercise the powers and duties of assessor for a period not to exceed one year if they acquire a temporary appraiser's certificate from the State Board of Equalization no later than 30 days after taking office.

GC § 24002.5

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER-TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR-PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

No person shall be elected or appointed to the office of county auditor unless the person meets at least one of the following criteria:

- (a) The person possesses a valid certificate issued by the California Board of Accountancy under Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 5000) of Division 3 of the

Business and Professions Code showing the person to be, and a permit authorizing the person to practice as, a certified public accountant or as a public accountant.

(b) The person possesses a baccalaureate degree from an accredited university, college, or other four-year institution, with a major in accounting or its equivalent, as described in subdivision (a) of Section 5081.1 of the Business and Professions Code, and has served within the last five years in a senior fiscal management position in a county, city, or other public agency, a private firm, or a nonprofit organization, dealing with similar fiscal responsibilities, for a continuous period of not less than three years.

(c) The person possesses a certificate issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors showing the person to be a designated professional Internal auditor, with a minimum of 16 college semester units, or their equivalent, in accounting, auditing, or finance.

(d) The person has served as county auditor, chief deputy county auditor, or chief assistant county auditor for a continuous period of not less than three years.

GC § 26945

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

(a) The person has served in a senior financial management position in a county, city, or other public agency dealing with similar financial responsibilities for a continuous period of not less than three years, including, but not limited to, treasurer, tax collector, auditor, auditor-controller, or the chief deputy or an assistant in those offices.

(b) The person possesses a valid baccalaureate, masters, or doctoral degree from an accredited college or university in any of the following major fields of study: business administration, public administration, economics, finance, accounting, or a related field, with a minimum of 16 college semester units, or their equivalent, in accounting, auditing, or finance.

(c) The person possesses a valid certificate issued by the California Board of Accountancy pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 5000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, showing that person to be, and a permit authorizing that person to practice as, a certified public accountant.

(d) The person possesses a valid charter issued by the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts showing the person to be designated a Chartered Financial Analyst, with a minimum of 16 college semester units, or their equivalent, in accounting, auditing, or finance.

(e) The person possesses a valid certificate issued by the Treasury Management Association showing the person to be designated a Certified Cash Manager, with a minimum of 16 college semester units, or their equivalent, in accounting, auditing, or finance.

GC § 27000.7

CLERK-RECORDER

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

EC §§ 201, 20

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

All county superintendents of schools shall possess a valid certification document authorizing administrative services. Possession of a valid elementary administrative credential and a valid secondary administrative credential are equivalent to the possession of a valid general administrative credential.

EDC § 1208

Specific Qualifications: General Election

COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICTS

No person shall be a candidate for the board of directors that is elected by divisions or from divisions unless he or she is a voter of that division or proposed division.

GC § 61040(b)

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS

Except as otherwise provided in this part, districts are subject to the Uniform District Election Law, Part 4 (commencing with Section 10500) of Division 10 of the Elections Code. Shall be a Registered Voter of the District.

HSC § 13885

HARBOR DISTRICTS

A candidate for harbor commissioner shall be a registered voter of the proposed or existing district and shall qualify for election by securing a nomination paper proposing his or her candidacy for the office of harbor commissioner signed by not less than 25 but not more than 50 qualified electors of the district.

Each commissioner upon taking the oath of office, and for each term, shall file with the county elections official of the county in which the district is situated, a bond in the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000), made payable to the district and conditioned on the faithful performance of his or her duties; the bonds are subject to approval by the board of supervisors of the county.

HNC §§ 6053, 6056

HEALTH CARE DISTRICTS

The elective officers of a local hospital district shall be a board of hospital directors consisting of five members, each of whom shall be a registered voter residing in the district and whose term shall be four years.

HSC § 32100

SANITARY DISTRICTS

At the election there shall be elected an assessor and the members of the board who shall be resident electors of the district.

HSC § 646

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Any person, regardless of sex, who is 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the state, a resident of the school district, a registered voter, and who is not disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding a civil office, is eligible to be elected or appointed a member of a governing board of a school district without further qualifications.

EDC § 35107

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS

Any person, regardless of sex, who is 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the state, a resident of the community college district, a registered voter, and who is not disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding a civil office, is eligible to be elected or appointed a member of a governing board of a community college district without further qualifications.

An employee of a community college district may not be sworn into office as an elected or appointed member of that community college district's governing board unless and until he or she resigns as an employee. If the employee does not resign, the employment will automatically terminate upon being sworn into office.

EDC § 72103

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Any registered voter is eligible to be a member of the county board of education except the county superintendent of schools or any member of his or her staff, or any employee of a school district that is within the jurisdiction of the county board of education.

EDC § 1006

Incompatibility of Offices

Pursuant to Elections Code § 8003(b) and Government Code 1099 a person is not allowed to hold two public offices simultaneously if:

- Either of the offices may audit, overrule, remove members of, dismiss employees of, or exercise supervisory powers over the other office or body.
- Based on the powers and jurisdiction of the offices, there is a possibility of a significant clash of duties or loyalties between the offices.
- Public policy considerations make it improper for one person to hold both offices.

Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure 803, the Attorney General's office has given numerous opinions on the subject of incompatible offices. If you have any questions about whether two public offices would be considered incompatible offices, contact your attorney, or the Attorney General's office (<http://caag.state.ca.us>).

Some examples as provided by the State Attorney General include:

1. The offices of city councilman and school district board member where the city and the school district have common territory.
2. Fire chief of a county fire protection district and a member of the board of supervisors of the same county.
3. Water district director and school district trustee having territory in common. The San Luis Obispo County Election Official does not have the authority to determine incompatible offices. Pursuant to Elections Code § 10510 (b), nomination documents may be issued to one candidate for separate offices provided those offices are in separate districts. In no way does this imply a determination regarding the compatibility of offices. Please contact the district offices for the offices of interest.

VI. Names and Ballot Designations

Name on Ballot

All candidates will indicate on their Declaration of Candidacy how their name should appear on the ballot. This should be recognizable as the name under which the candidate is registered to vote, though the two do not need to be identical (e.g., Jonathan William Smith and John W. Smith or J. William (Bud) Smith). No title or degree may appear on the same line on a ballot as a candidate's name. *EC §13106*

Rules for Printing a Candidate's Name on Ballots

Names of candidates will be printed on the ballot per the following rules:

1. If the office is to be voted upon wholly within, but not throughout, one county, as in the case of Municipal, District, County Supervisor, and County Central Committee offices, the official responsible for conducting the election shall determine the order of names in accordance with the randomized alphabet as provided for in *EC §13111(f)*, *§13112*.
2. If the office is to be voted on throughout a single county and there are not more than four Assembly Districts wholly or partly in the county, the County Elections Official shall determine the order of names in accordance with the randomized alphabet as provided for in *EC §13112* for the 1st Supervisorial District. Thereafter, for each succeeding Supervisorial District, the name appearing first for each office in the last preceding Supervisorial District shall be placed last and the order of the other names will remain unchanged. *EC §13111(g)*

Ballot Designations

Candidates may choose a professional, vocational, or governmental title (up to three words) to appear beneath their name on the ballot. This designation must reflect their principal professions or occupations during the calendar year preceding the filing. Acceptable ballot designations are governed by *EC § 13107* and *CCOR §§ 20710-20719*.

Acceptable Examples:

- "Teacher"
- "City Councilmember"
- "Retired Police Officer"

Prohibited or Restricted Terms:

- Obscure or misleading terms
- Abbreviations or acronyms
- Commercial brand names

Candidates must complete and submit (at the time of filing their Declaration of Candidacy) a **Ballot Designation Worksheet** to support their ballot designation. All designations are reviewed by the Elections Office and may be modified or rejected based on state law. Further, EC § 13107 mandates that no designation will appear under the candidate's name on the ballot if the candidate fails to file the required worksheet.

A candidate's ballot designation must be chosen from one of the four categories below:

1. Elective Office *EC § 13107.3*

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 they were elected by a vote of the people.

Examples:

- An acceptable ballot designation for an assembly representative from the 33rd Assembly District, would be "Member of the Assembly, 33rd District."
- For local offices, a candidate who is currently in office as mayor may use the designation "Mayor, City of San Luis Obispo."
- Proposed ballot designations indicating a position of legislative leadership or leadership in another elected body, such as "Majority Leader of the California Senate," "Speaker of the California State Assembly," or "City of San Luis Obispo Mayor Pro Tem" are not elective offices and therefore not allowed. However, they may, subject to the three-word limit, be considered as an occupation.

2. Incumbent *EC § 13107(a)(1), CCOR § 20712*

The word "incumbent" may be used if the candidate is a candidate for the same office that they hold at the time of filing the nomination papers and were elected to that office by a vote of the people, or, in the case of a superior or municipal court judge, were appointed to that office.

The term "incumbent" must be used as a noun. It shall not be used in conjunction with any other words, including any accompanying adjectives or modifiers. For example, "Incumbent Assembly Member, 33rd Assembly District" or "Incumbent City Councilmember" would be impermissible designations.

3. **Appointed Incumbent** *EC § 13107(a)(2), CCOR § 20713*

The phrase "Appointed Incumbent" may be used if the candidate holds an office other than a judicial office by virtue of appointment, and the candidate is a candidate for election to the same office, 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."

If an incumbent was appointed in lieu of an election because the number of candidates did not exceed the number required to be elected at the last election for that office, the candidate is not required to use "Appointed."

4. **3-Word Profession/Occupation/Vocation** *EC § 13107(a)(4), CCOR § 2071*

This may be no more than three words designating either the current principal professions, occupations and/or vocations of the candidate, or the principal professions, occupations, and/or vocations of the candidate during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents.

Definitions of some of the above terms as they are used in EC § 13107(a)(3) are as follows:

Profession means a field of employment requiring special education or skill and requiring knowledge of a particular discipline. The labor and skill involved in a profession is predominantly mental or intellectual, rather than physical or manual. Recognized professions generally include, but are not limited to, law, medicine, education, engineering, accountancy, and journalism.

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

Vocation means a trade, a religious calling, or the work upon which a person, in most but not all cases, relies for his or her livelihood and spends a major portion of his or her time. Examples of an acceptable designation of a "vocation," as defined in this subdivision include (but are not limited to) "minister," "priest," "mother," "father," "parent," "homemaker," "dependent care provider," "carpenter," "plumber," "electrician," and "cabinetmaker."

Principal, as that term is used in this subdivision, means a substantial involvement of time and effort such that the activity is one of the primary, main, or leading professional, vocational, or occupational endeavors of the candidate. Involvement that is only nominal, pro forma, or titular in character does not meet the requirements of the statute.

"Community Volunteer" means a person who engages in an activity or performs a service for or on behalf of, without profiting monetarily, one or more of the following, per EC §§ 13107(a)(3), 13107.5, CCOR § 20714:

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

Additional Information Regarding 3-Word Profession/Occupation/Vocation Ballot Designations

- If a candidate is licensed by the State of California to engage in a profession, vocation or occupation, the candidate is entitled to consider it one of his or her "principal" professions, vocations or occupations if the candidate has maintained his or her license current as of the date he or she filed his or nomination documents by complying with all applicable requirements of the respective licensure, including the payment of all applicable license fees and the status of the candidate's license is active at the time he or she filed his or her nomination documents.
- A candidate who holds a professional, vocational or occupational license issued by the State of California may not claim such profession, vocation or occupation as one of his or her "principal" professions, vocations or occupations if the candidate's licensure status is "inactive" at the time the candidate files his or her nomination document, or the candidate's license has been suspended or revoked by the agency issuing the license at the time the candidate files his or her nomination documents.

A candidate may engage in multiple principal professions, vocations, or occupations. Accordingly, the candidate *may* designate multiple principal professions, vocations, or occupations. If a candidate proposes a ballot designation including multiple principal professions, vocations, or occupations, the proposed ballot designation must comply with the following provisions:

- The proposed ballot designation must comply with the three-word limitation.

- Each such proposed profession, vocation or occupation shall be separately considered by the Secretary of State and must independently qualify as a "principal" profession, vocation or occupation.
- When multiple professions, vocations or occupations are proposed as a ballot designation, they shall be separated by a slash ("/"). An example of an acceptable designation would be "Legislator/Rancher/Physician."

Ballot Designations Not Accepted *EC § 13107(e), CCOR § 20716*

Neither the Secretary of State nor any other elections official shall accept a designation of which any of the following would be true:

- **It would mislead the voter.**

In making this determination, the Secretary of State shall determine whether there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonably prudent voter would be misled as to the candidate's principal profession, vocation or occupation by the candidate's proposed ballot designation. The determination shall take into account the plain meaning of the words constituting the proposed ballot designation and the factual accuracy of the proposed ballot designation based upon supporting documents or other evidence submitted by the candidate in support of the proposed ballot designation.

- **It would suggest an evaluation of a candidate, such as outstanding, leading, expert, virtuous, or eminent.**

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

- **It abbreviates the word "retired" or places it *following* any word or words which it modifies.**

Examples of impermissible designations include "Ret. Army General," "Major USAF, Retired" and "City Attorney, Retired."

- **It uses a word or prefix, such as "former" or "ex-," which means a prior status. The only exception is the use of the [full] word "retired" [placed *before* the word it modifies].**

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

Use of the word "retired" in a ballot designation is generally limited for use by individuals who have permanently given up their chosen principal profession, vocation, or occupation.

In evaluating the appropriateness of a proposed ballot designation including the word "retired," the Secretary of State will consider the following factors:

- Prior to retiring from his or her principal profession, occupation, or vocation, the candidate worked in such profession, occupation, or vocation for more than 5 years.
 - The candidate is collecting, or eligible to collect, retirement benefits or other type of vested pension.
 - The candidate has reached the age of at least 55 years.
 - The candidate voluntarily left his or her last professional, occupational, or vocational position.
 - The candidate's retirement benefits provide him or her with a principal source of income.
- **It uses the name of any political party, whether or not it has qualified for the ballot.**
- **It uses a word or words referring to a racial, religious, or ethnic group.**

The Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any ballot designation which expressly contains or implies any ethnic or racial slurs or ethnically or racially derogatory language. If the candidate is a member of the clergy, the candidate may not make reference to his or her specific denomination. However, the candidate may use his or her clerical title as a ballot designation (e.g., "Rabbi," "Pastor," "Minister," "Priest," "Bishop," "Deacon," "Monk," "Nun," "Imam," etc.)

- **It refers to any activity prohibited by law.**

Unlawful activity includes activities, conduct, professions, vocations, or occupations prohibited by state or federal law.

Other Ballot Designation Rules *EC § 13107 (d), CCOR § 20714*

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

Punctuation shall be limited to the use of a comma (e.g., District Attorney, San Luis Obispo County) and a slash (e.g., Legislator/Rancher/Physician). A hyphen may be used if, and only if, the use of a hyphen is called for in the spelling of a word as it appears in a standard reference dictionary of the English language published in the 10 calendar years preceding the election.

All California geographical names shall be considered to be one word and shall be limited to the names of cities, counties, and states. The names of special districts and political subdivisions are not “geographical names.” If the candidate wants, the geographical name may be used in the form of “City of ...,” “County of...,” or “... County.”

An acronym shall be counted as one word.

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

A candidate who does not want a ballot designation should indicate this in the space provided for ballot designation on the Declaration of Candidacy by writing “NONE.”

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.

Designation Rejected *EC § 13107 (f)*

If, upon checking the ballot designation worksheet and accompanying nomination documents, the elections official finds the designation to be in violation of any of the restrictions set forth in this section, the candidate shall be notified by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the mailing address appearing on the candidate’s nomination documents. We will also email the candidate.

It is important for the candidate to include a **correct** telephone number, fax number (if available), email, and mailing address on the ballot designation worksheet to expedite communication in the event the ballot designation is rejected.

The candidate shall, within three days—excluding Saturday, Sunday, and state holidays—from the date they receive notice by registered or certified mail, or from the date the

candidate receives the actual notice of the violation, whichever comes first, appears 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.

In the event the candidate fails to provide an alternate designation, no designation shall appear after the candidate's name.

Changes and Format of Ballot Designation *EC §§ 13107 (g)-(i)*

No designation given by a candidate shall be changed by the candidate after the final date for filing nomination documents, except as specifically requested by the elections official.

The designation shall remain the same for all purposes of both the Primary and General Elections, unless the candidate—at least 98 days prior to the General Election—requests in writing a different designation which the candidate is entitled to use at the time of the request.

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

VII. Candidate Statement of Qualifications

Candidate statements for the County Voter Information Guide (VIG) are printed in English and Spanish at a candidate's request and must follow formatting guidelines. They must be:

- Factual, non-inflammatory, and written in the first person
- Within the word limit (see below)
- Submitted in plain text format
- Accompanied by payment (amount determined by jurisdiction)

Statements will not be corrected for spelling or grammar. Candidates are responsible for reviewing proofs carefully. Final versions will be printed as submitted.

⚠ Important: Statements submitted for the Primary cannot automatically carry over for runoff contests. Candidates must submit a new statement for the General if one is desired.

Federal Voter-Nominated: Congressional Representative candidates may prepare a statement of qualifications to be included in the County Voter Information Guide. Each county within the district must be contacted separately. A candidate for U.S. Senator may prepare a statement of qualification to be included in the State Voter Information Guide. See Secretary of State for information, cost, and deadline.

State Voter-Nominated: (State Senate and Member of the Assembly). Candidates who accept the expenditure limits will be allowed to have a Statement of Qualifications printed in the County Voter Information Guide. Each county must be contacted separately.

Statewide Candidates: (Governor, Secretary of State, etc.) Candidates that have agreed to the voluntary spending limits may have a Statement of Qualifications printed in the State Voter Information Guide. See Secretary of State for information, cost, and deadline.

Non-Partisan: (Judicial and County/local offices) Candidates may prepare a statement of qualification to be included in the County Voter Information Guide. ***The statement is optional and not a requirement for filing for the office.***

Statements shall be filed in the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. If the territory of an office encompasses more than one county, a statement must be filed in each County for the statement to be printed in each county's voter information guide. Candidates for a position requiring nomination papers shall file their statement at the time their nomination papers are filed.

Candidates of Multicounty Districts

If a candidate is running in a multi-county district, the elections official of each county shall accept the electronic submission of the form from the candidate's county of residence; however, the candidate shall transmit a hard copy of the candidate statement form, any accompanying form, and payment of the requisite fee to each county by overnight mail within 72 hours of filing the statement electronically. Please review AB 773 and EC § 13307 and contact each additional county for their filing requirements.

Candidates of multicounty districts wishing to publish a candidate statement in the San Luis Obispo County Voter Information Guide using a copy of a candidate statement form electronically submitted to their county of residence (if not San Luis Obispo) must deliver to the San Luis Obispo County Elections Office by overnight mail within 72 hours of filing the statement electronically:

1. A completed "Candidate's Statement of Qualifications – For Candidates of Multicounty Districts" form,
2. A completed "Candidate's Statement of Qualifications – Acknowledgment and Receipt" with an original signature, and
3. Payment of estimated costs.

What a Candidate Statement Can (and Cannot) Include

A candidate's statement **MAY** include:

- Name, Age, Occupation of the Candidate
- A brief description (no more than 250 words (Voter-Nominated Offices) or no more than 200 words (Non-Partisan offices) of the candidate's education and qualifications as expressed by the candidate in their own words (first person singular)

A candidate's statement **MAY NOT** include:

- The party affiliation of the candidate
- Membership or activity in any partisan political organization
- References to other candidates for that office or to another candidate's qualifications, character or activities; the elections official shall not print or circulate any statement that the elections official determines does not comply. *EC § 13308*

Formatting and Changes to a Candidate Statement

The statement must be typed and must follow the format in the form provided by the Elections Office. Boldface type, bullets, boxes, arrowheads, diamonds, asterisks, all capital letters, or underlining are not allowed.

Candidates must file a hard copy of the statement as well as submit the statement electronically. The statement should be set out in block style paragraphs in type of uniform size and darkness with uniform spacing.

The candidate should proof the statement very carefully for spelling, punctuation, and grammar, as it will be printed as submitted.

The statement may be **WITHDRAWN** by the candidate in writing **BUT NOT CHANGED** during the nomination period or the extension of the nomination period (non-incumbents only) or until 5 p.m. on the next working day after the close of the nomination/extension period.

Each candidate who files a statement of qualifications will be required to pay an estimated deposit at the time the statement is filed to cover the cost of printing and handling. The estimated deposit amount approximates the actual cost, which may be significantly more or less than the estimate, depending on the number of candidates who end up filing statements. **Accordingly, the elections official is not bound by the estimate and will bill the candidate for additional actual expense or refund any excess amount paid, depending on the final actual cost.**

The candidate's statement of qualifications shall remain confidential until after the close of the nomination period and will be available for public examination for 10 days after the close of nominations. Any challenges to a statement must be made during this 10-day period. *EC §§ 13307, 13311, 13313*

[Assembly Bill 773](#) amended Section 13307.7 of the Elections Code to allow electronic submission of candidate statements for county voter information guides. The form will be available on the County Clerk-Recorder website at slovote.gov prior to the nomination period.

Candidate Statement Word-Counting Guidelines

This section applies to the counting of words in candidate statements and not in ballot designations under EC § 13107.

EXAMPLES	WORD COUNT
Title and signature punctuation	Not counted
Each word shall be counted as one word except as specified in this section	n/a
All proper nouns, including geographical names such as "County of San Luis Obispo"	One word
Abbreviations for a word, phrase, or expression, such as UCLA, PTA, U.S.M.C., etc.	One word
Hyphenated words that appear in any generally available dictionary published in the US in the last 10 years; all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word	One word
Dates	One word
Telephone numbers	One word
Internet website address	One word
Numbers: Digits, such as 1, 10, 100 Spelled out - one, ten, one hundred Numerical Combinations - 5%, 2001-2002 Telephone Number/Email address	One word One for each word One word One word
Monetary Amounts: Dollar Sign and Figures - \$500,000.00 Spelled Out - Five Hundred thousand dollars	One word Four words

VIII. Estimated Costs of Candidate Statements

These estimates are for San Luis Obispo County only. If the office is a multi-county jurisdiction, please contact that county for information to have a candidate statement published in their voter information guide.

VOTER-NOMINATED OFFICES			
District		English only	English & Spanish
U.S. Representative, 19 th District		\$550.00	\$1,150.00
U.S. Representative, 24 th District		\$850.00	\$1,175.00
State Assembly, 30 th District		\$1,150.00	\$2,375.00
State Assembly, 37 th District		\$250.00	\$575.00
NON-PARTISIAN OFFICES			
District		English only	English & Spanish
Countywide (Assessor; Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector-PA; Clerk-Recorder; County Superintendent of Schools)		\$1,250	\$2,550
Board of Supervisors, 2 nd District		\$350.00	\$750.00
Board of Supervisors, 4 th District		\$375.00	\$825.00
SCHOOL BOARD/DISTRICT			
District	Trustee Area	English only	English & Spanish
San Luis Obispo County Board of Education	TA #2	\$325.00	\$750.00
	TA #4	\$375.00	\$825.00
	TA #5	\$350.00	\$775.00
SLO County Community College District (Cuesta College)	TA #3	\$375.00	\$825.00
	TA #4	\$375.00	\$825.00
Allan Hancock Joint Community College District	TA #5	\$125.00	\$325.00
Atascadero Unified School District	At-Large	\$300.00	\$650.00
Coast Unified School District	TA#2	\$150.00	\$350.00
	TA#3	\$150.00	\$350.00
Cuyama Joint Unified School District	At-Large	\$125.00	\$325.00
Lucia Mar Unified School District	TA #3	\$175.00	\$425.00
	TA #5	\$200.00	\$450.00
	TA #6	\$200.00	\$450.00
	TA #7	\$175.00	\$425.00

Paso Robles Joint Unified School District (Based on a 400-word statement)	TA#1	\$200.00	\$500.00
	TA#2	\$175.00	\$425.00
	TA#4	\$200.00	\$500.00
San Luis Coastal Unified School District	TA #1	\$200.00	\$450.00
	TA #2	\$200.00	\$450.00
	TA #4	\$175.00	\$450.00
	TA #5	\$200.00	\$450.00
San Miguel Joint Union School District	TA #1	\$150.00	\$350.00
	TA #3	\$125.00	\$350.00
Santa Maria Bonita School District	TA #1	\$125.00	\$325.00
Shandon Joint Unified School District	TA #2	\$125.00	\$350.00
Templeton Unified School District	At-Large	\$175.00	\$450.00
Cayucos Elementary School District	TA #1	\$125.00	\$350.00
	TA #2	\$125.00	\$350.00
	TA #3	\$125.00	\$350.00
Pleasant Valley Joint Union Elementary School District	At-Large	\$125.00	\$350.00
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICTS			
District	Divisions	English only	English & Spanish
Avila Beach Community Services District	At-Large	\$125.00	\$325.00
California Valley Community Services District	At-Large	\$125.00	\$325.00
Cambria Community Services District	At-Large	\$150.00	\$400.00
Ground Squirrel Hollow Community Services District	At-Large	\$125.00	\$350.00
Heritage Ranch Community Services District	At-Large	\$150.00	\$375.00
Independence Ranch Community Services District	At-Large	\$125.00	\$325.00
Linne Community Services District	At-Large	\$125.00	\$325.00
Los Osos Community Services District	Div 1	\$150.00	\$350.00
	Div 2	\$150.00	\$350.00
	Div 4	\$150.00	\$350.00
Nipomo Community Services District	At-Large	\$175.00	\$450.00
Oceano Community Services District (Based on a 400-word statement)	Div 2	\$150.00	\$375.00
	Div 3	\$150.00	\$375.00
San Miguel Community	At-Large	\$125.00	\$350.00


Services District			
San Simeon Community Services District	Div B	\$125.00	\$325.00
	Div D	\$125.00	\$325.00
	Div E	\$125.00	\$325.00
Squire Canyon Community Services District	At-Large	\$125.00	\$325.00
Templeton Community Services District (Based on a 400-word statement)	At-Large	\$200.00	\$500.00
SPECIAL DISTRICTS			
District	Divisions	English only	English & Spanish
Port San Luis Harbor District	Div 3	\$250.00	\$600.00
	Div 5	\$225.00	\$550.00
Santa Margarita Fire Protection District	At-Large	\$125.00	\$350.00
Cambria Community Healthcare District	Div 2	\$125.00	\$350.00
	Div 3	\$125.00	\$350.00
	Div 4	\$125.00	\$350.00
Cayucos Sanitary District	Div 1	\$125.00	\$350.00
	Div 2	\$125.00	\$350.00
	Div 3	\$125.00	\$350.00
	Div 4	\$125.00	\$350.00
Garden Farms Community Water District	At-Large	\$125.00	\$325.00
Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District	Div 3	\$125.00	\$325.00

IX. Campaign Regulations and Fair Practices

Candidates are responsible for understanding and complying with all campaign regulations governed by the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). This includes rules on financial disclosure, advertising, and use of public resources.

Campaign Finance Rules

- Candidates must file regular campaign finance statements (Forms 410, 460, 470, or 497) depending on the office and level of fundraising.
- All contributions, loans, and expenditures must be reported.
- Deadlines vary; consult the FPPC or SLO County Elections Office for calendar updates.

 **Important:** Failure to file may result in fines or legal action.

Use of Public Resources

It is illegal to use any public funds, resources, or facilities for campaign activities. This includes:

- Staff time
- Office equipment or supplies
- Government websites or email systems

Political Advertising Guidelines

All campaign materials must:

- Clearly state the name of the committee and the responsible party
- Include disclosures regarding who paid for the advertisement
- Follow rules for mass mailings and electronic communications

For signage:

- Check local jurisdiction rules for size, placement, and timing of political signs
- Remove all signs promptly after the election as per county or city codes

For more details, candidates should consult the **FPPC Candidate Toolkit** at www.fppc.ca.gov

X. Voter Information Guide and Ballot Access

The County Voter Information Guide provides essential election information to voters, including candidate statements and local ballot measures. It is distributed by mail to all registered voters in the county.

Contents of the County Voter Information Guide

- Candidate statements (if submitted)
- Measure text and impartial analysis
- Arguments for and against measures
- Voting instructions and election dates

Candidate statements must be submitted by the filing deadline for the respective election. Content cannot be changed after submission, except in cases of legal error.



Translations

Candidate statements will be translated into Spanish and any other languages required by law. Candidates may not submit translations independently. All translated materials will be reviewed by certified translators contracted by the Elections Office.

Ballot Access for Write-In Candidates

- To qualify as a write-in candidate, individuals must file a Statement of Write-In Candidacy and other required documents during the write-in period.
- Names of qualified write-in candidates do not appear on the ballot but are counted if properly written by voters.

Write-in filing period:

-  **Primary Election:** April 6 – May 19, 2026
-  **General Election:** September 7 – October 20, 2026

 **Reminder:** Only votes for qualified write-in candidates will be counted.

XI. Electioneering and Polling Place Rules

To maintain a fair and neutral voting environment, specific laws restrict electioneering and campaign-related activities at or near polling places.

What is Electioneering?

Electioneering refers to visible or verbal advocacy for or against any candidate or measure on the ballot within 100 feet of a polling place. This includes:

- Wearing clothing or buttons bearing candidate or measure names
- Displaying signs or distributing flyers
- Attempting to influence voters in any way

Restricted Areas

Within 100 feet of the entrance to a polling place:

- No signs, banners, or literature may be posted or distributed
- No verbal advocacy or solicitation is permitted
- No photography or recording of voters is allowed

Signage and enforcement boundaries will be clearly marked by Elections Office staff.

Permitted Activities Outside the Buffer Zone

- Campaigners may be present beyond the 100-foot boundary
- Lawful peaceful assembly is permitted if it does not impede access
- Voters may wear campaign apparel but may be asked to cover or remove it within the restricted area

Role of Observers

Candidates and campaign observers are welcome at polling places but must:

- Check in with the site supervisor
- Wear an observer badge
- Follow observer guidelines and avoid interference with the voting process

Observers may not:

- Talk to voters or election workers about ballot content
- Handle any official materials
- Violate voter privacy


Violations of electioneering rules may result in removal from the premises or legal action under California Elections Code.

XII. Vote-by-Mail and Election Day Logistics

San Luis Obispo County conducts elections as a traditional polling place county—*not* a Voter's Choice Act (VCA) county. Additionally, *all* registered California voters automatically receive a Vote-by-Mail ballot. Understanding this system is essential for candidates and campaigns.

Vote-by-Mail Ballots

- All registered voters receive a Vote-by-Mail ballot approximately 29 days before each election.
- Ballots can be returned by mail, at official drop boxes, or at any Elections Office or polling location in the state.
- No postage is required when mailing ballots.

 **Deadline:** Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received by the Elections Office no later than 7 days after the election.

Ballot Tracking

Voters can track their ballots through the BallotTrax system at <https://wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov>. Candidates should encourage supporters to sign up for tracking to boost voter confidence and participation.

Elections Offices

- The North County Elections Office business hours are TBD.
- The main Elections Office is open year-round, M-F from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (the office lobby is closed at 4pm on Wednesdays until 29 days before an election, but during this period staff is available by phone).
- Both Elections Offices provide voter registration services; anyone registering in person at one of the Elections Offices during the 29 days prior to an election can vote there in person on the day they register, if they choose.

Election Day Voting

- All polling locations are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- Voters in line by 8:00 p.m. have the right to vote.

Election Night and Results

- Initial results are released shortly after 8:00 p.m. on Election Night.
- Updates continue as Vote-by-Mail and provisional ballots are processed.
- Final certified results are issued within 30 days after the election.

XIII. Resources and Support

Data Requests & Resources

Voter Registration Data, Walking Lists, and/or Vote-by-Mail Extracts for candidates are available for purchase from the County of San Luis Obispo Elections Office. All applicants must complete and submit an Application for Confidential Voter Registration Information, which is subject to review prior to approval.

The Application for Confidential Voter Registration Information is available online at: [Voter Information Data File](#)

Precinct and District maps and reference reports are available online at: [Precinct Maps - County of San Luis Obispo \(ca.gov\)](#)

For additional information or questions regarding available voter, precinct, and district data, please call (805) 781-5228 or email VoterDataRequests@co.slo.ca.us.

An **unofficial candidate list** is available at slovote.com for public review during the candidate filing period. This list contains the names and filing statuses for each candidate who is issued Nomination Documents. Following the close of the candidate filing period, an **official candidate list** will be posted containing the names of all qualified candidates.

Candidates are also encouraged to seek guidance and use the many tools available to ensure compliance and success. Here is some key contact information:

SLO County Election Main Office

- Phone: (805) 781-5228
- Email: elections@co.slo.ca.us
- Website: www.slovote.gov
- Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (SLO)
- Office Hours – Atascadero TBD – please check www.slovote.gov for current information

Services offered:

- In-person filing appointments
- Nomination packet assistance
- Translated materials and accessibility support

California Secretary of State

- Website: www.sos.ca.gov
- Candidate Information: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/candidate-resources provides:
- Statewide candidate requirements
- Election calendars
- Ballot designation guidance
- State forms and filings

Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC)

- Website: www.fppc.ca.gov
- Advice Line: (866) 275-3772

Assists with:

- Campaign finance rules
- Conflict of interest laws
- Form 700 requirements

i Tip: Sign up for updates from all three agencies to receive alerts about deadlines, changes in law, and helpful resources.

Thank you for your commitment to public service and for participating in the democratic process.

XIV. Appendix

Political Subdivisions

The County of San Luis Obispo and the other counties listed below are comprised of the following federal and state subdivisions:

Below are the districts that overlap:

19th Congressional
24th Congressional
17th State Senate
21st State Senate
30th State Assembly
37th State Assembly

Corresponding county overlap:

Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz
Santa Barbara
Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey
Santa Barbara, Ventura
Monterey
Santa Barbara

The County is also made up of the following local subdivisions:

District/Department:

Supervisory Districts
Superior Court Departments
School Districts
Special Districts
Community Services Districts
Cities

Quantity:

5
7
13
11
10
7

SAMPLE CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

It is recommended the candidate's statement contain no more than twenty-five (25) lines and carriage returns. The Elections Official is not responsible for the correct typesetting of statements that must be reconfigured to comply with these guidelines.

Although "Occupation" is not restricted by ballot designation limitations and may be more descriptive, words exceeding one line will be shortened.

NOTE: In order to ensure that submitted text will fit in the limited half-page space, the following may occur:

1. Lists and enumerations will be wrapped as a single paragraph.
2. Multiple single sentence paragraphs will be wrapped.
3. Indented text will be run together as a sentence.

Candidates utilizing the guidelines and suggestions will make their candidate statements uniform, fair, and legible.

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE

Jurisdiction/District

CANDIDATE NAME

Age: (Optional)

Occupation: Incumbent, Former Member Chamber of Commerce, Businessman, Former Chair of the County Area Advisory Community

Education and Qualifications: Community Colleges provide educational opportunities for all students.

Over the past four years we have been forced to make some very difficult decisions.

- I have always made decisions based on how we can best serve our students and District during this time of economic uncertainty. It has been my privilege to serve on the Cuesta College Board.

- I ask for your vote on June 5th so that I can continue to support our faculty, staff and administration to meet the needs of our students and business community of our District.

Since 1972 I have served at various times, the following SLO County and State organizations.

Playhouse Nursery School

PTA & Classroom Aid

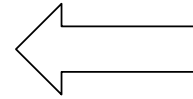
SLO County Civil Service Commission

4H Leader

SLO County Board of Education

SLO County School Boards Association, Atascadero State Hospital Advisory Board, Friday Night Live Board, Partnership for the Children Board, State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice, Grizzly Youth Academy. I have lobbied for public education at both the State and National level.

Thank you for your continued support of Cuesta College.



**INCORRECT
FORMAT**

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE

Jurisdiction/District

CANDIDATE NAME

Age: (Optional)

Occupation: Incumbent, Former Member Chamber of Commerce, Businessman

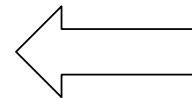
Education and Qualifications: Community Colleges provide educational opportunities for all students. Over the past four years we have been forced to make some very difficult decisions. I have always made decisions based on how we can best serve our students and District during this time of economic uncertainty.

It has been my privilege to serve on the Cuesta College Board. I ask for your vote on June 5th so that I can continue to support our faculty, staff and administration to meet the needs of our students and business community of our District.

1972, I have served at various times, the following SLO County and State organizations.

Playhouse Nursery School, PTA & classroom aid, SLO County Civil Service Commission, 4H Leader, SLO County Board of Education, SLO County School Boards Association, Atascadero State Hospital Advisory Board, Friday Night Live Board, Partnership for the Children Board, State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice, Grizzly Youth Since Academy. I have lobbied for public education at both the State and National level.

Thank you for your continued support of Cuesta College.



**CORRECT
FORMAT**

Candidate Information Calendar



June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election

Dates	Event
December 19, 2025 - February 4, 2026 (E-165 - E-118)	Signatures-in-Lieu of Filing Fee Period EC 8106, 8061, 8105
January 26, 2026 - February 4, 2026 (E-127 - E-118)	Judicial Declaration of Intention Period (only for candidates for Judge of the Superior Court)
February 5, 2026 - February 9, 2026 (E-117 - E-113)	Judicial Declaration of Intention Extension Period (occurs in the event an incumbent fails to file their Declaration of Intention by 5pm on the normal filing deadline)
February 9 - March 6, 2026 (E-113 - E-88)	Nomination Period EC 8020, 8021
February 9 - March 6, 2026 (E-113 - E-88)	Submittal of Candidate Statements for County Voter Information Guides (U.S. House of Rep., State Senate, and State Assembly) EC 13307, 13307.5, 13307.7, 13308
March 7 - 11, 2026 (E-87 - E-83)	Nomination Extension Period (if Incumbent does not file) EC 8022, EC 8024
March 12, 2026 (E-82)	Randomized alphabet drawing for the order of the candidates on the ballot EC 13112
March 26, 2026 (E-68)	Certified List of Candidates for the June 2 Primary posted EC 8121
April 6 - May 19, 2026 (E-57 - E-14)	Write-in Candidacy Nomination Period EC 8601, 8606
May 22, 2026 (E-11)	Certified List of Write-in Candidates posted
June 2, 2026 POLLS OPEN 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.	ELECTION DAY - June 2, 2026 Beginning at 8 p.m. on Election Day, County Election Officials begin reporting election results; counties shall conduct the semifinal official canvass of votes and report totals to the Secretary of State at least every two hours until all poll ballots have been completely counted and reported. EC 353.5, 15150, 15151, 15152
June 3, 2026 - July 2, 2026 (E+30)	Official Canvass of Vote EC 15372 & EC 10551: Certify election within 30 days
July 2, 2026 (E+30)	Last day for County Elections Officials to certify election results EC 15372
July 10, 2026 (E+38)	California Secretary of State certifies final official election results Gov Code 12165; EC 15501

E+/- means number of days before or after Election Day; EC [number] refers to CA Elections Code

Candidate Information Calendar

November 3, 2026, Gubernatorial General Election



Dates	Event
Jul 13 – Aug 7, 2026 E-113 to E-88	Declaration of Candidacy and Nomination Period. Incumbents must file by Aug 7 th at 5:00 PM. EC §8020
July 31, 2026	Semi-Annual Campaign Statement Filing Deadline. (for 01/01/2026-06/30/2026, OR opening of committee-06/30/2026) GC §§84200, 84218
July 28, 2026 E-98	Last day to change ballot designation for November 3, 2026, General candidates. EC §13107(h)
Aug 8 – Aug 12, 2026 E-87 to E-83	Extension of Nomination Period (Non-Incumbents Only) EC §§8022, 8024. Does not apply where there is no incumbent due to vacancy or term limits
Aug 10, 2026 E-85	Last day to withdraw Candidate Statement of Qualifications by 5:00PM for contests closing August 7th. EC §13307(a)(3)
Aug 13, 2026 E-82	Random Alphabet Drawing EC §13112
Aug 13, 2026 E-82	Last Day to withdraw Candidate Statement of Qualifications by 5:00PM for contests closing August 12th. EC §13307(a)(3)
Sept 7- Oct 20, 2026 E-57-14	Write-In Candidate Period EC §8601
Sept 24, 2026 E-40	1 st Pre-Election Campaign Statement Due (for 7/1/26-9/19/26) GC §84200.5, §84200.7(a)
Oct 5, 2026 E-29	First day of Vote-by-Mail Ballots (VBM) processing and voting EC §15101
Oct 19, 2026 E-15	Last day to Register to Vote in the General Election (15-day Close of Registration). Last day before the General Election for any voter to send a notice or letter advising of a change of address within the County. EC §§2102, 2116, 2119
Oct 20 – Nov 3, 2026 E-14 – E-Day	Conditional Voter Registration Period. Period in which an elector can “conditionally” register and vote provisionally at the County Elections Office, a satellite office, or polling place after the 15-day close of registration deadline.
Oct 22, 2026 E-12	2 nd Pre-Election Campaign Statement Due (for 9/20/26-10/17/26) GC §84200.5, §84200.7(a)
Oct 23, 2026 E-11	Certified List of Write-In Candidates Secretary of State to release the certified list of write-in candidates eligible to receive votes in the General Election.

Oct 27, 2026 E-7	Last day for Elections Office to mail replacement Vote-by-Mail Ballots to registered voters. EC §3000.5
Nov 3, 2026	Election Day. Polls open 7:00AM-8:00PM
Nov 5, 2026 E+2	Official Canvass Begins
Nov 10, 2026 E+7	Mailed Voted by Mail Ballots – Last day to be considered timely with post mark of 11/3/26. EC §§3011, 3017, 3020(b),(c)
Dec 3, 2026	Complete Official Canvass
Feb 1, 2027	Semi-Annual Campaign Statement Due (7/1/2026 – 12/31/2026)

* If a filing deadline falls on a weekend or a holiday, it is moved to the next business day.