



CANDIDATE INFORMATION BOOKLET

COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEES AND COUNTY COUNCILS

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION MARCH 5, 2024

Prepared by:
Office of the County Clerk-Recorder
1055 Monterey St Ste D120
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

805-781-5228 www.slovote.com
Updated September 2023

PLEASE NOTE:

This handbook is intended to provide general information concerning the nomination and election of candidates for County Central Committee/County Council Offices 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, 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 law, the 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 Government Code (GC), and California Code of Regulations (COR) unless stated otherwise.

Information effective September 21, 2023 (may be subject to change)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SETTING CANDIDATE APPOINTMENTS.....	4
IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES, DATES AND DEADLINES.....	5
FEDERAL AND STATE SUBDIVISIONS	8
OFFICES TO BE FILLED	9
GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS	10
FILING FEE.....	12
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....	13
CANDIDATE FILING	13
BALLOT NAMES AND DESIGNATIONS	17
CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES	25
WRITE-IN CANDIDATES.....	25
ELECTION CONTACT INFORMATION	26
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	26
CONFIDENTIAL VOTER DATA REQUESTS.....	26
APPENDIX I.....	27
APPENDIX II.....	28
APPENDIX III.....	29
APPENDIX IV	30

SETTING CANDIDATE APPOINTMENTS

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

To make candidate 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:

Name of Central Committee Party	Evening Phone #
Name as Registered	Fax #
Residence Address	Email
Mailing Address	Website
Confidential Phone #	Name to Appear on Ballot
Daytime Phone #	Ballot Designation

Candidates will then be emailed a packet of forms to be completed and presented when they file their Declaration of Candidacy.



IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES, DATES AND DEADLINES

Deadline*	Description of Event	Elections Code
September 14 – November 8, 2023	Voter-Nominated and Nonpartisan Offices: Signatures-In-Lieu of Filing Fee Period	§§ 8020(b), 8061, 8105, 8106(b)
September 29 - December 8, 2023	County Council/County Central Committee: Declaration of Candidacy and Nomination Paper Period	§§ 333, 7225, 7227, 7420, 7422, 7670, 7672, 7750, 7770, 7772, 7901, 7914, 8020, 8040, 8041, 8062-8064, 8100, 8104, 13107.3
October 26, 2023	Last day for State propositions to qualify to appear on the ballot	§ 9040
October 30 - November 8, 2023	Judicial Declaration of Intention Period (Judicial Candidates ONLY)	§ 8023(a)
November 6 – December 15, 2023	US President: Nomination Paper Period for Presidential Candidates not selected by the Secretary of State	§§ 6061, 6082, 6101, 6108, 6122, 6144
November 13 – December 8, 2023	Voter-Nominated and Nonpartisan Offices: Declaration of Candidacy and Nomination Paper Period	§§ 333, 8020, 8040, 8041, 8061-8064, 8100, 8105, 8106, 13107.3
November 13 – December 8, 2023	Candidate Statement Period for U.S. House of Representatives, *State Senate, and State Assembly candidates to purchase space in the County Voter Information Guides	Gov. Code § 85601(c); §§ 13307.5, 13307.7
November 15, 2023	U.S. Senate Office Candidate Statement Deadline for State Voter Information Guide	§ 9084(i)
November 21 – December 11, 2023	State Voter Information Guide: Available for Public Display and Examination	Gov. Code § 88006; §§ 9051, 9054, 9082, 9092, 13282
On or before December 8, 2023	US President: Announcement of Selected Presidential Candidates	§§ 6041-6043, 6340-6342, 6520-6522, 6720-6724, 6852-6853
December 9 – December 13, 2023	Declaration of Candidacy and Nomination Paper Extension Period if Incumbent Does Not File (All Voter Nominated, Non-Presidential Candidates)	§§ 8022, 8100, 8105

Deadline*	Description of Event	Elections Code
December 9 – December 18, 2023	Candidate Statement 10-Day Public Examination Period for County Voter Information Guide (U.S. House of Representatives, State Senate, State Assembly, County Supervisor, and Judge of the Superior Court)	§ 13313
December 13, 2023	Political Party Endorsements for Voter-Nominated Offices Deadline	§ 13302(b)
December 14, 2023	Randomized alphabet drawing for the order of the candidates on the ballot	§§ 13111, 13112(b)(1)(B)
December 28, 2023	Certified List of Candidates for the March 5, 2024, Election will be posted	§§ 6180, 6863, 6863.5, 6950-6954, 8120-8125, 13111
January 8 – February 20, 2024	Statement of Write-In Candidacy and Nomination Paper Period	§ 8601
January 20, 2024	Last day to mail ballots and balloting materials to military and overseas voters	52 U.S.C. § 20302 (MOVE Act); § 3114
January 25, 2024	First Pre-Election Campaign Finance Statement Due - Period ending January 20, 2024	Gov. Code §§ 84200.5, 84200.8, 84218
January 25 – February 13, 2024	Secretary of State's office will mail the Voter Information Guide during this period	§ 9094(a)
January 31, 2024	Semi-Annual Campaign Finance Statement Due, if required	Gov. Code §§ 84200, 84218
February 5, 2024	No later than this date, county elections officials shall begin mailing each registered voter a vote-by-mail ballot and Voter Information Guide	§§ 3000.5, 3010, 4005(a)(8)(A), 4005(a)(8)(B), 4007
February 5, 2024	Processing of Vote-By-Mail ballots may begin	§§ 15101(a)(b)(c)
February 5, 2024	County Election Office in Atascadero will be opened to the public	Date designated by County Elections Official
February 6 – March 5, 2024	By this date, all counties shall open official ballot drop-off locations for vote-by-mail ballots.	§§ 3025.5, 4005(a)(1), 4007
February 13, 2024	US President: Statement and Endorsement of Write-in Candidacy Deadline	§§ 6241, 6441, 6621, 6822, 6862

Deadline*	Description of Event	Elections Code
February 19, 2024**	Last day to register to vote for the primary election. To check your voter registration status, visit MyVoterStatus	§§ 300(b), 321, 2102, 2170, 3102
February 21 – March 5, 2024	Same Day Registration available. Voters can "conditionally" register and vote a provisional ballot during this time (Note: E-13 due to State Holiday on February 19)	§ 2170
February 22, 2024	Second Pre-Election Campaign Finance Statement Due - Period Covering January 21, 2024 - February 17, 2024	Gov. Code §§ 84200.5, 84200.8(b), 84218
February 23, 2024	Certified List of Write-In Candidates	Date designated by SOS
March 5, 2024	Election Day – Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	§§ 1000(a), 14212
March 5, 2024	Beginning at 8:00 p.m., county elections 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 completed.	§§ 15150, 15151
March 7, 2024	Beginning no later than March 7th, the official canvass will begin	§§ 15301, 15372
March 12, 2024	Vote By Mail Ballots returned by mail - in order to be counted, must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by the county elections office	§§ 3011, 3017, 3020(b)(c)
April 2, 2024	US President: Counties to send Statement of Results to Secretary of State	§ 15375(c)
April 2, 2024	Deadline to cure noncomparable signature on Vote by Mail identification envelope or unsigned Vote by Mail identification envelope	§§ 3019(d)(4), 3019 (e)(1)
April 4, 2024	Last day for county elections officials to certify election results	§§ 15301, 15372

Deadline*	Description of Event	Elections Code
April 6, 2024**	US President: primary results compiled by the Secretary of State	§§ 6220, 6420-6422, 6640, 6641, 6843, 6844
April 12, 2024	Statement of Vote is the final official election results certified by the Secretary of State and posted on the website	Gov. Code § 12165; § 15501
4/16/2024***	San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors to declare the results of the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election	Date designated by County Elections Official
* State Assembly and State Senator candidates must have agreed to accept the voluntary expenditure limits on their Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501)		
** Date falls on a weekend or state holiday; it moves forward to the next business day.		
*** Subject to change.		

* If a filing deadline falls on a weekend or a holiday, it is moved to the next business day.
For Campaign Filings – please refer to the Fair Political Practices Commission website: www.fppc.ca.gov.

FEDERAL AND STATE SUBDIVISIONS

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

DISTRICT	COUNTY OVERLAP
19 TH Congressional District	Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz
24 th Congressional District	Santa Barbara, Ventura
17 th Senatorial District	Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz
21 st Senatorial District	Santa Barbara and Ventura - As of 1/1/2024
30 th Assembly District	Monterey, Santa Cruz
37 Assembly District	Santa Barbara
2 nd State Board of Equalization	Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Trinity, Ventura
2 nd District Court of Appeal	Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara

OFFICES TO BE FILLED

The following qualified political parties have chosen to participate in the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election: Democratic, Green, Libertarian, and Peace and Freedom Parties.

Please note: **Both the American Independent Party and the Republican Party notified the County Elections Official that they will not be using the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election ballot to elect members to their county central committees. A copy of these letters is available in Appendix I.**

Per the **Secretary of State Memorandum #23071 (Appendix II)**, party registration totals from the February 10, 2023, Report of Registration have been used to compute the number of seats to be elected to the County Central Committees and County Council.

COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE/COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES				
PARTY	OFFICE TITLE	NUMBER TO BE ELECTED	TERM OF OFFICE	NEW TERM BEGINS
DEMOCRATIC	COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER			
EC§ 7200, § 7226	1 st Supervisorial District	3	4 YEARS	Determined by County Central Committee bylaws
	2 nd Supervisorial District	4		
	3 rd Supervisorial District	5		
	4 th Supervisorial District	4		
	5 th Supervisorial District	6		
GREEN	COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER			
EC §7903, §7912, §7913	Elected Countywide	7	4 YEARS	Determined by County Council bylaws
LIBERTARIAN	COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER			
Follows EC §7752, 7753	Elected Countywide	7	4 YEARS	Determined by County Central Committee bylaws
PEACE AND FREEDOM	COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER			
EC §7752, §7753, §7771	Elected Countywide	7	4 YEARS	Determined by County Central Committee bylaws

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be at least 18-years old and a citizen of California at the time of their election.
- Must be a registered voter at the time of the nomination documents are issued, and, unless otherwise specifically provided, qualified to vote for the office.
- Not be convicted of designated crimes as specified in the Constitution and laws of the State.
- Not be 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.

EC §§ 20, 201; GC §§ 1020, 1021

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.

The following are additional office and party specific qualifications and requirements:

County Central Committee and County Council Members

(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

	<p>primary election subsequent to its qualification as a political party pursuant to Section 5100.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">EC § 8001</p>
--	---

PARTY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

<p>Democratic Party</p>	<p>(a) A person is not eligible for election to a committee if the person's affidavit of registration does not state a political party preference for this party at the time of the person's election.</p> <p>(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a) or Section 8001, a person who is not a United States citizen, but who would be eligible to register to vote if the person were a United States citizen, is eligible for election to a committee if all of the following conditions are met:</p> <p>(1) The bylaws of the committee permit a person who is not a United States citizen, but who would be eligible to register to vote if the person were a United States citizen, to serve as a member of the committee.</p> <p>(2) The person meets all other eligibility requirements for election to the committee that are imposed by the bylaws of the committee or this code.</p> <p>(3) The committee, not later than the 172nd day preceding the presidential primary election, does both of the following:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(A) Notifies the county elections official that its bylaws permit a person who is not a United States citizen, but who would be eligible to register to vote if the person</p>
-------------------------	--

	<p>were a United States citizen, to be elected to, and to serve as a member of, the committee.</p> <p>(B) Provides the county elections official with a list of the eligibility requirements in its bylaws for a person to be elected to, and to serve on, the committee.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">EC § 7209 (a) (b)</p>
Green Party	<p>A person shall not be appointed to membership on a county council who is registered as preferring another party or registered as "No Party Preference." Appointment of other persons who cannot register to vote shall be allowed under certain circumstances as described in state Green Party bylaws and any applicable county Green Party bylaws.</p>
Libertarian Party	<p>The Libertarian Party follows the statutes of the Peace and Freedom Party.</p>
Peace and Freedom Party	<p>No person shall be appointed to membership on a county central committee unless she or he is registered as a voter affiliated with the Peace and Freedom Party in the county or is a resident of the county who would register as a voter affiliated with this party if not legally prohibited from doing so.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">EC § 7852</p>

FILING FEE

There is **NO FILING FEE** to run for a central committee or county council office. The Candidate's Statement of Qualifications is not permitted for candidates for County Central Committee or County Council office. C §8104(a),

The candidates receiving the highest number of votes (up to the number of members to be elected from each district) in the March Primary will be elected to that party's County Central Committee or County Council. There is no run-off in the November General Election. EC §§7225, 7228, 7772.1, 7901.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Democratic, Republican, American Independent, and Peace & Freedom

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a county central committee, in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the committee, may select its members at any time by holding a caucus or convention, or by using any other method of selection approved by the committee. EC §§7230, 7425(a), 7675, 7784

Democratic, Republican and American Independent

If the number of candidates nominated for election to a committee from a supervisorial district does not exceed the number to be elected from that district, the designation of the office and the names of the candidates will not be printed on the party's ballot. Candidates who file nomination papers but do not appear on the ballot will be appointed in lieu of election by the County Board of Supervisors.

EC §§7211, 7228, 7423, 7673

Green and Peace & Freedom

In each county the name of each candidate for member of central committee shall appear on the ballot only if they have done either of the following:

1. Filed a nomination paper signed on the candidate's behalf by voters in the appropriate district.
2. Qualified to have their name printed on the Direct Primary Ballot as a candidate for the party nomination to a partisan public office.

If the number of candidates nominated for election to a committee does not exceed the number to be elected, the designation of the office and the names of the candidates will not be printed on the party's ballot. Candidates who file nomination papers but do not appear on the ballot will be appointed in lieu of election by the County Board of Supervisors. EC §§7772, 7772.1, 7904

CANDIDATE FILING

It is the obligation of each candidate to ensure that all filing requirements and deadlines are met. All candidates are urged to obtain and file the required nomination documents as early as possible so that any discrepancies may be corrected before the filing deadline.

Nomination documents refer to the Declaration of Candidacy and Nomination Papers. All candidates **must** file a Declaration of Candidacy and Nomination Papers in order for their name to be printed on the ballot. If a candidate's nomination documents are

found “not sufficient,” no additions or corrections may be made after the 5:00pm candidate filing deadline.

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

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 of Eligibility 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.

- (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.

The Declaration of Candidacy is the form on which a candidate declares their candidacy and provides their ballot designation. Once signed, the Declaration of Candidacy will remain in the office of the County Elections Official.

All candidates are required to execute and file a Declaration of Candidacy between the dates of **September 29, 2023 – December 8, 2023**, in the office of the County Elections Official. If the candidate is out of the county during the Declaration of Candidacy period and is not able to come into the office of the Elections Official, 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 Election's Official in the county of the candidate's residence no later than **5:00 p.m., Friday, December 8, 2023**. There is no extension for Central Committees or County Council candidates. The deadline for filing is **5:00 p.m., Friday, December 8, 2023**. Once filed, the Declaration of Candidacy is public.

No candidate who has filed a Declaration of Candidacy for any primary election may withdraw as a candidate at that primary election. EC §§8020, 8024, 8028, 8040, 8064, 8800, 8809

NOMINATION PAPERS

Only forms supplied by the County Elections Official may be used. Candidates are provided a master copy that may be duplicated (at the candidate's expense) for the purpose of circulating additional Nomination Papers.

A candidate who declares their candidacy will be issued nomination papers between the dates of **September 29, 2023 – December 8, 2023**, so that registered voters living within the district and affiliated with their party can sign their nomination papers. Each candidate can submit up to 40 signatures of which 20 must be valid. The nomination paper shall be delivered to the Election's Official by the deadline of **December 8, 2023**.

The candidate may use circulators for the purpose of securing signatures to the candidate's nomination paper. Circulators shall be registered voters in the district or political subdivision in which the candidate is to be voted on. The elections official shall not except for filing any nomination paper unless all blanks in the affidavit of circulator are completed.

No more signers shall be secured on the nomination paper than the maximum number required. If, however, through miscalculation or otherwise, more signers are secured than the maximum number, the candidate shall in writing authorize the elections official to withdraw the excess number. Signers shall not sign the nomination paper for more candidates than the number of offices to be filled. EC §§7227, 7772, 7914, 8020, 8041, §§8060-8069, 8081, 8101

Once a prospective candidate files their Declaration of Candidacy and nomination papers, no other petitions/papers may be filed. If a candidate fails to meet the minimum nomination signature requirement, they will fail to qualify as a candidate. For this reason, **it is strongly recommended that candidates obtain the maximum permitted number of signatures required to account for potential deficiencies.**

Green Party County Council Candidates:

Pursuant to EC §7918, each nomination paper signer may sponsor as many candidates as there are seats in the County Council election district. Nomination papers issued for this office may contain multiple candidates' names and the signatures collected will count toward the nomination signature requirement of each candidate whose name is listed on the nomination paper.

Candidates for the Green Party County Council offices must communicate their intent to circulate nomination papers for multiple candidates, and provide the names of the other candidates, at the time they are issued nomination papers.

Libertarian and Peace and Freedom County Central Committee Candidates:

Pursuant to EC §7777, each nomination paper signer may sponsor up to three candidates for member of central committees. Nomination papers issued for this office may contain up to three candidates' names and the signatures collected will count toward the nomination signature requirement of each candidate whose name is listed on the nomination paper.

Candidates for the Libertarian and Peace and Freedom County Central Committee offices must communicate their intent to circulate nomination papers for multiple candidates, and provide the names of the other candidates, at the time they are issued nomination papers.

Nomination Petition Circulator Information

- A candidate may circulate and sign their own petition.
- The circulator must complete each Affidavit of Circulator by hand, sign the affidavit, and return the petition to the candidate or person authorized by the candidate. EC §104
- When making a copy of the petition form, the candidate or circulator should ensure that no fields have been prefilled. EC §§102, 106, §§18610-18614

Invalid Petition Signatures

- The signer is not a registered voter in the supervisorial district in which the candidate is running.
- The signer does not provide a San Luis Obispo County residential address.
- The signer provides a different residential address from the address listed in his or her voter registration record.
- The signer provides a post office box, mail drop, or business address, rather than a residential address.
- The signer is registered under a different preferred political party.
- The signer's address is pre-printed, not in their own handwriting.

- The signer uses ditto marks for an address of a spouse or person residing at the same address.
- The signature does not match the signature in the voter’s registration record.
- The petition circulator fails to complete or sign the affidavit portion of the petition.

The Elections Official shall verify the signatures of the signers with the affidavits of registration on file in their office. The Elections Official may cease to check signatures once the minimum requisite number of signatures has been verified. The nomination papers must be submitted and verified before the Declaration of Candidacy can be completed. EC §§100-108

BALLOT NAMES AND DESIGNATIONS

NAME ON BALLOT

The candidate indicates on the Declaration of Candidacy how their name should appear on the ballot. This notation should be recognizable as the name under which the candidate is registered, though the two need not be identical. (Example: A candidate registered as “Jonathan William Smith” may use such variations as “John W. Smith”, “John 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 CANDIDATE’S NAME ON BALLOTS

Names of candidates shall be printed on the ballot in accordance with the following rules:

Local Candidates

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)

RANDOMIZED ALPHABET DRAWING

For each election, the Secretary of State shall conduct a drawing of the letters of the alphabet pursuant to the procedures set forth in EC §13112. For the Primary election, this drawing will be conducted on **December 14, 2023**. The Secretary of State shall certify and transmit to each County Elections Official the order in which the names of federal and state candidates, with the exception of candidates for State Senate and Assembly, shall appear on the ballot. The Elections Official shall determine the order on the ballot of all other candidates using the appropriate randomized alphabet for that purpose.

BALLOT DESIGNATION

The ballot designation is the word or group of words that will appear on the ballot under the candidate's name, designating the current principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate. Acceptable ballot designations are governed by EC §13107 and Secretary of State Regulations. All candidates may choose a ballot designation to appear immediately under their name on the ballot. EC §13107, COR §20710-20719

A ballot designation is **optional**. Candidates selecting to have a ballot designation must include this information on their Declaration of Candidacy and file a **Ballot Designation Worksheet (Appendix III)**.

BALLOT DESIGNATION WORKSHEET

A Ballot Designation Worksheet must be completed and filed with the election's official **at the same time** the candidate files their Declaration of Candidacy. The statute mandates that no designation will appear under the candidate's name on the ballot if the candidate fails to file the required worksheet. EC §13107.3

Candidates are encouraged to attach any documents or exhibits that support their proposed ballot designation. For example, if a candidate is choosing "Teacher," they may attach a copy of their credential(s) or certificate(s).

Upon filing, the Ballot Designation Worksheet becomes a public record and may not be changed by the candidate after the filing deadline. Candidates and other interested persons may view or request a copy of a filed Ballot Designation Worksheet in the office of the County Elections Official.

If no ballot designation is desired, the candidate will be instructed to print "None" and initial in the space provided on the Declaration of Candidacy. Candidates electing to

not have a ballot designation are not required to file the Ballot Designation Worksheet.

The ballot designation must be chosen from one of the four categories below:

(1) ELECTIVE OFFICE

Words designating the elective city, county, district, state, or federal office which the candidate holds at the time of filing the nomination documents to which he/she was elected by vote of the people. EC §13107(a)(1), COR §20712

Example 1: An acceptable ballot designation for an assembly representative from the 33rd Assembly District, would be “Member of the Assembly, 33rd District.”

Example 2: For local offices, a candidate who is currently in office as mayor may use the designation “Mayor, City of San Luis Obispo.”

Example 3: 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 – see (4) below.

(2) INCUMBENT

The word “Incumbent” may be used if the candidate is a candidate for the same office which he/she holds at the time of filing the nomination papers, and was elected to that office by a vote of the people, or, in the case of a superior or municipal court judge, was appointed to that office. EC §13107(a)(2), COR §20713

- 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.
- Incumbent cannot be combined with any other designation and must stand alone. For example: Incumbent/Rancher is not permissible.

(3) APPOINTED INCUMBENT

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." EC §13107(a)(4), COR §20715

- 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

No more than three words designating either the current principal professions, vocations, and/or occupations of the candidate, or the principal professions, vocations, and/or occupations of the candidate during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents. EC §13107(a)(3), COR §20714

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

"Profession" means a field of employment requiring special education or skill and requiring knowledge of a particular discipline. Examples of an acceptable designation of a "profession," as defined in this subdivision, include, but are not limited to, "attorney," "physician," "accountant," "architect," and "teacher."

"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.

- If a candidate holds a current and active license from the State of California to

engage in a profession, vocation or occupation, the candidate is entitled to consider it one of their **“principal”** professions, vocations, or occupations.

- A candidate may not claim such profession, vocation, or occupation as one of his or her **“principal”** professions, vocations or occupations if (i) the candidate’s licensure status is “inactive” at the time the candidate files his or her nomination document, or (ii) the candidate’s license has been suspended or revoked by the agency issuing the license at the time the candidate files his or her nomination documents.
- A candidate may designate **multiple principal professions**, vocations and/or occupations. If more than one profession, vocation or occupation is listed, it shall be separated by a slash (“/”). **Example:** An Assembly representative who happens to be a lawyer and rancher can use the designation “Legislator/Lawyer/Rancher”.
- If a candidate proposes a ballot designation including multiple principal professions, vocations or occupations, the proposed ballot designation must comply with the following: Each such proposed profession, vocation or occupation must independently qualify as a **“principal”** profession, vocation or occupation, as that term is defined above.

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

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

The activity or service must constitute substantial involvement of the candidate’s time and effort such that the activity or service is the sole, primary, main, or leading professional, vocational, or occupational endeavor of the candidate, who is not engaged concurrently in another principal profession, vocation or occupation. Community Volunteer cannot be used in conjunction with any other Profession, Occupation or Vocation.

OTHER RULES

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

- 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 ten 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 desires, 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, trade name, or the specific name of a business, partnership, corporation, company, foundation, or organization.
- Examples of an improper use of commercial identification information include, but are not limited to, “Acme Company President,” “Smith Foundation Director,” and “UCLA Professor.”
- 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”.

DESIGNATIONS NOT ACCEPTED

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

- It would **mislead** the voter.
- It would **suggest an evaluation** of a candidate: A laudatory adjective that would suggest an evaluation of the candidate’s qualifications shall not be permitted. Examples of ballot designations usually considered to suggest an evaluation of a candidate, may include but are not limited to, “outstanding”, “leading”, “expert”, “virtuous”, “eminent”, “senior,” “emeritus,” “specialist,” “magnate,” “best,” “famous,” “respected,” “honest,” and “prominent.”
- It would suggest a **Status**: A status is a state, condition, social position, or legal relation of the candidate to another person, persons, or the community as a whole. Examples of a status include, but are not limited to, “veteran,” “proponent,” “reformer,” “scholar,” “founder,” “philosopher,” “philanthropist,” “activist,” “taxpayer,” “husband,” “wife,” “patriot”, “citizen”, “appointee” and

“advocate.”

- It abbreviates the word “**retired**” or places it following any word or words that it modifies.
 - Examples “Ret. Army General,” “Navy Admiral, Retired” and “City Attorney, Retired” are not permissible
 - Generally, a **retired** status may be allowed if the candidate can demonstrate retirement. The following are examples of evidence supporting retired status:
 - Served in the position being requested to be listed as retired from for more than 5 years.
 - Is collecting or eligible to collect retirement benefits/pension.
 - Is 55 or more years old.
 - Left the position voluntarily after serving a minimum of 5 years.
 - If requesting the use of a retired public office designation, was not recalled from or did not fail to win that office or surrender it to run for another office in a previous election campaign.
 - Has not had another more recent occupation.
 - Retirement benefits provide a principal source of income.
- 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.”
 - Examples: “Former Congressman,” “Ex-Senator,” and “Former Educator” are not permissible.
- Retired cannot be used in conjunction with another principal profession, occupation, or vocation.
 - Example: Retired Educator/Salesperson is not permissible.
- It uses the name of any **political party**, whether or not it has qualified for the ballot.
 - Example: “Democratic Party Chair”, “Republican Central Committee member”, and “Socialist” are not permissible.
- It uses a word or words referring to a **racial, religious, or ethnic** group.
 - Examples: “Indian Sculptor,” “Latino Notary,” “African American Firefighter,” “Christian Physician,” and “Caucasian Policeman” are not permissible.
 - 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: for example, “Rabbi,” “Pastor,” “Minister,” “Priest,” “Bishop,” “Deacon,” “Monk,” and “Nun.”

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

Ballot designations that include commercial identification information such as trademarks or designations that include specific business, foundation, or organization names will not be accepted.

DESIGNATION REJECTED

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, facsimile number (if available), email, and mailing address on the ballot designation worksheet in order to expedite communication in the event the ballot designation is rejected.

1. The candidate shall, within three days from the date of receipt of the notice, appear before the Elections Official or, in the case of the Secretary of State, notify the Secretary of State by telephone, and provide an alternate designation.
2. In the event the candidate fails to provide an alternate designation, no designation shall appear after the candidate's name.

FORMAT, CHANGES, ETC.

1. 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 election official.
2. The designation shall remain the same for all purposes of both Primary and General Election, 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.
3. In all cases, words shall be printed on the ballot in 8-point Roman uppercase and lowercase type **except** that, if the designation selected is so long that it would conflict with the space requirements of EC §13207 & §13211, the election official shall use a type size for the designation for each candidate for that office sufficiently smaller to meet these requirements.

CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

The filing of the **Code of Fair Campaign Practices (Appendix IV)** form is **optional**. By signing this form, the candidate agrees to conduct a fair campaign openly and publicly, not to use character defamation, libel, slander or dishonest and unethical practice. Once filed, the Code of Fair Campaign Practices is a public record and open for public inspection.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

In the event that no candidate files for a partisan office, the office will not appear on the primary election ballot. However, if within 10 days after the final date for filing nomination papers (**December 18, 2023**), a petition is filed indicating that a write-in campaign will be conducted for the office, the contest will appear on the primary election ballot. EC §8004

Any person who requests to be a write-in candidate and have their name as written on the ballot of an election counted for a particular office shall file a Statement of Write-In Candidacy and nomination papers with the requisite number of signatures as required for the office between the dates of **January 8, 2024 – February 20, 2024**, with the elections official.

Write-in candidates shall file nomination papers the same as declared candidates. Signers on the nomination papers shall be registered voters in the district or political subdivision in which the candidate is to be voted on. There is no filing fee to be a write-in candidate. EC §§8600-8605

ELECTION CONTACT INFORMATION

County of San Luis Obispo – Registrar of Voters
1055 Monterey Street, Ste. D-120
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Election information is also available at www.slovote.com

For further information or questions regarding these Candidate Filing Guidelines, please call (805) 781-5228 or email CandidateServices@co.slo.ca.us.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

State and Local Campaign Filing Information

Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) www.fppc.ca.gov (866) 275-3772

Federal Campaign Filing Information

Federal Elections Commission (FEC) www.fec.gov (800) 424-9530

State Election Information

Secretary of State – Elections www.sos.ca.gov (916) 657-2166

State Franchise Tax Board

Elections www.ftb.ca.gov (800) 852-5711

CONFIDENTIAL VOTER DATA REQUESTS

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:
<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Clerk-Recorder/All-Services/Elections-and-Voting/Voter-Information-Data-File.aspx>

APPENDIX I

Letters from the American Independent Party and
Republican Party Central Committee

APPENDIX II

Secretary of State Memorandum #23071

APPENDIX III

Ballot Designation Worksheet - Sample

APPENDIX IV

Code of Fair Campaign Practices