

# CANDIDATE FILING GUIDE

November 3, 2026  
Statewide General Election



## **Marin County Elections Department**

3501 Civic Center Drive • Room 121  
San Rafael, California 94903

415-473-6456

[marinvotes.org](http://marinvotes.org)



# Common Questions & Answers

## ***1) When are candidate nomination papers available?***

Nomination papers are available beginning July 13, 2026, through August 7, 2026. If an incumbent doesn't file for a specific contest, the nomination period will extend to August 12<sup>th</sup> for everyone else.

## ***2) Are candidate nomination papers available on-line?***

No, but from our website, [www.marinvotes.org](http://www.marinvotes.org), you can complete and submit the Candidate's Application Form. We will prepare and email your nomination papers along with instructions and due dates.

## ***3) Do I need to collect signatures and/or pay a filing fee for my candidacy?***

The Primary election will have contests that require nomination signatures and filing fees. The only contests in the November General election that require nomination signatures are municipal offices. The requirement of a filing fee is up to each municipal elections clerk. Contact the town clerk for details.

## ***4) What is a candidate's statement?***

It's an optional way to let the voters in your district know about you. You can write a 200-word statement (or 250 for state candidates) that is published in the Marin County Voter Information Guide. This guide has information about the cost and format of the candidate statements.

## ***5) Can I get documents for a municipal candidate election from the county office?***

No, you must contact the city/town clerk for nomination documents, manuals, and filing information. *This manual may be used by council candidates as a general reference guide.*

## ***6) I want to pass around a small number of flyers for my candidacy. Are there rules about this?***

Yes! The rules and all other campaign finance information are in the FPPC finance manuals on their website: [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov).

## ***7) Can I get voter information for my campaign?***

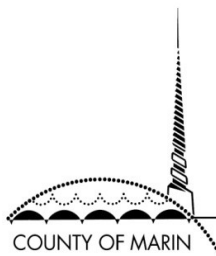
Candidates and their committees may purchase voter rolls. On our website, [www.marinvotes.org](http://www.marinvotes.org), click Voter Registration, then Purchasing Information. You must complete the application and provide a check or cash prior to receiving the data.

## ***8) Are there special campaign finance rules for state and judicial candidates?***

Yes! This information can be found on the FPPC website: [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov).

## ***9) How do I know who has filed for office?***

Our website [www.marinvotes.org](http://www.marinvotes.org), will have a list of candidates that will be updated daily with the names of candidates who have filed for a specific office.



## ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Providing a responsive, transparent, and professional approach to conducting elections.

June 25, 2026

Dear Candidate,

Congratulations on becoming a candidate for public office. Your candidacy provides voters with a choice and is crucial to the democratic process.

The Candidate Guide gives you information about forms, fees, requirements, important deadlines, and other helpful tips for the November 3, 2026 Statewide General Election. You can also find more information on our website, [www.marinvotes.org](http://www.marinvotes.org).

The nomination process can be complicated, and the filing deadlines are rigid. **Please file your candidate paperwork early.** Mistakes and/or oversights can be corrected if given adequate time. Otherwise, you may run out of time to correct any mistakes before the deadline.

If you have questions about your candidacy or any information presented in this guide, please call Dan Miller at 415-473-6437.

Sincerely,

Natalie Adona  
Marin County Registrar of Voters

***Important!*** The Candidate Guide provides general information about the nomination and election of candidates. It does not have the force and effect of law, regulation, or rule.

The Registrar of Voters does not provide legal advice and this guide is not intended to provide legal advice. Any person, organization, or candidate using this guide may not rely on it as a substitute for legal counsel. Statutes and regulations change and are updated on a frequent basis; therefore, the guidelines provided in this booklet may not reflect the most current state of the law.

# Table of Contents

|                                                                 |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Important Dates for the Next Election                           | 3-5   |
| Local Offices Open for Nomination                               | 6-9   |
| → Insufficient number of candidates / Contest not on the ballot | 9     |
| 2026 General Election at-a-Glance                               | 10    |
| Candidate Qualifications                                        | 11    |
| Names on the Ballot / Randomized Alphabet Drawing               | 12    |
| Applying to be a Candidate                                      | 12    |
| Candidate Documents                                             | 13    |
| → Declaration of Candidacy                                      | 13    |
| → Ballot Designation & Worksheet                                | 14    |
| → Candidate Statement & Submission Form                         | 17    |
| ○ Statement Fees & Sample of Check                              | 17-19 |
| ○ Formatting Rules & Word Counting Guide                        | 20-21 |
| → Statement of Economic Interests Form 700                      | 22    |
| → Campaign Finance Statements                                   | 23    |
| ○ Reporting Deadlines                                           | 25    |
| Campaign Essentials                                             | 26    |
| → Advertisement Disclosures                                     | 26    |
| → Campaign Photos & Videos at the Civic Center                  | 27    |
| → Electioneering                                                | 27    |
| → Voter & Election Data                                         | 27    |
| Who to contact about certain violations?                        | 28    |

# November 3, 2026 Election Calendar for Candidates

This calendar contains important dates for local candidates. It is not intended for ballot measures or jurisdictions calling an election as required dates may not be the same. Please contact the Elections Department for additional information.

It's the candidate's responsibility to complete and file all required documents on time according to the dates listed in this calendar. Dates not listed in this calendar will not preclude the candidate from filing or submitting documents and reports as required by law and/or requested by the elections official.

|                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>July 13, 2026 thru<br/>August 7, 2026</b><br><br><i>Nomination period<br/>for all candidates</i>                                                                                      | <p>The nomination period for all candidates and incumbents to file with the Elections Department all required and optional documents, or withdraw as a candidate.</p> <p>Run-off candidates for Congressional and State Legislative Office, and County offices may submit a statement of qualifications for the county Voter Information Guide. Payment must be made during this period.</p>                                                                      | 113 - 88<br><br><i>days before<br/>election day</i>                                                          |
| <b>July 28, 2026</b><br><br><i>Run-off candidates</i>                                                                                                                                    | <p>Deadline for run-off candidates from the Primary election to request a different ballot designation for the upcoming November election.</p> <p><b><i>Elections Code §§ 13107 (e)(h)</i></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 98<br><br><i>days before<br/>election day</i>                                                                |
| <b>August 8, 2026 thru<br/>August 12, 2026</b><br><br><i>Extension of Nomination<br/>Period</i>                                                                                          | <p>The nomination period will be extended if one or more incumbents of that contest have not filed by August 7<sup>th</sup>. The nomination period will be extended to August 12<sup>th</sup> for persons other than the incumbent.</p> <p><b><i>Elections Code §§ 10516</i></b></p> <p><b><i>NOTE: The extension does not apply to a contest in which there are no incumbent(s) eligible to be elected.</i></b></p>                                              | 87 - 83<br><br><i>days before<br/>election day</i>                                                           |
| <b>August 8, 2026 thru<br/>August 17, 2026</b><br><i>and</i><br><b>August 13, 2026 thru<br/>August 22, 2026</b><br><i>(extended period only)</i><br><br><i>Public examination period</i> | <p>Candidate statements are available for public examination for a period of 10 calendar days after the filing deadline. Anyone challenging a candidate's statement must file a writ of mandate during that specific examination period.</p> <p><b><i>Elections Code §§ 13313</i></b></p> <p><b><i>NOTE: If the nomination period is extended for a particular contest, the examination period for that contest shall be August 13 through August 22.</i></b></p> | 87 – 78<br><br><i>days before<br/>election day</i><br><br>82 – 74<br><br><i>days before<br/>election day</i> |

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# November 3, 2026 Election Calendar for Candidates

|                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>August 13, 2026</b><br><i>Random alphabet draw</i>                           | <p>The Secretary of State conducts a random drawing to decide the order of candidate names on the ballot. The Registrar of Voters draws the random alphabet for State Assembly and State Senate candidates for the Marin County ballot.</p> <p><b><i>Elections Code §§ 13111, 13112</i></b></p>    | 82<br><i>days before election day</i>      |
| <b>September 7, 2026<br/>thru October 20, 2026</b><br><i>Write-in candidacy</i> | <p>Write-in candidates for certain offices must pick up and file papers at the Marin County Elections Department.</p> <p>Write-in candidates for <b><i>municipal offices</i></b> must contact their respective city clerk's office for information.</p> <p><b><i>Elections Code § 8601</i></b></p> | 57 – 14<br><i>days before election day</i> |
| <b>September 19, 2026</b><br><i>Overseas &amp; military ballots</i>             | <p>Deadline for our office to transmit ballots and related materials to military or overseas voters who've requested a ballot by this date.</p> <p><b><i>52 U.S.C. § 20302; Elections Code § 3114</i></b></p>                                                                                      | 45<br><i>days before election day</i>      |
| <b>September 24, 2026</b><br><i>Voter Information Guide</i>                     | <p>The Elections Department will begin mailing Voter Information Guides to Marin County registered voters.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                     | 40<br><i>days before election day</i>      |
| <b>September 24, 2026</b><br><i>Campaign finance</i>                            | <p>Candidates must file at least 1 campaign finance statement by this date regardless of their level of activity covering the period 7/1/26 through 9/19/26.</p> <p><b><i>Government Code § 84200.8</i></b></p>                                                                                    | 40<br><i>days before election day</i>      |
| <b>October 5, 2026</b><br><i>Vote-by-mail ballots</i>                           | <p>The Elections Department will begin mailing ballots to all registered voters in the county.</p> <p>Marin County voters may pick up a vote-by-mail ballot or vote in person at the Elections Department beginning this date.</p> <p><b><i>Elections Code §§ 3001, 4005</i></b></p>               | 29<br><i>days before election day</i>      |

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# November 3, 2026 Election Calendar for Candidates

|                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>October 22, 2026</b><br><i>Campaign finance</i>                                                      | <p>Candidates with a campaign finance committee must report all financial activity from the date of their last statement through October 17, 2026.</p> <p><b>Government Code § 84200.8</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                  | 12<br><i>days before election day</i> |
| <b>October 24, 2026</b><br><i>Early Voting Schedules</i>                                                | <p>Vote centers open for early voting on staggered schedules at various locations as yet to be determined. Vote center locations will be listed in the Voter Information Guide.</p>                                                                                                                                                                             | 10<br><i>days before election day</i> |
| <b>November 3, 2026</b><br><i>Election Day</i>                                                          | <p>All vote centers, including the Elections Department, will be open 7 am – 8 pm.</p> <p><b>Elections Code § 14212</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 0                                     |
| <b>November 5, 2026<br/>thru December 3, 2026</b><br><i>Official Canvass and Election Certification</i> | <p>The Official Canvass and certification of the election must be completed within 30 days of the election. There are many multiple steps which includes the tabulation of all valid ballots cast, a verification and audit of the voting materials, and certification of the official results.</p> <p><b>Elections Code §§ 15300 thru 15377</b></p>            | +2<br><i>days after election day</i>  |
| <b>November 10, 2026</b><br><i>Receiving mail ballots</i>                                               | <p>Deadline for the Elections Department to receive vote-by-mail ballots postmarked on or before Election Day, by way of bona fide mail delivery.</p> <p><b>Elections Code § 3020</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                       | +7<br><i>days after election day</i>  |
| <b>November 25, 2026</b><br><i>Receiving mail ballots</i>                                               | <p>The last date voters may cure a missing / non-comparable signature on their ballot envelope.</p> <p><b>Elections Code § 3019</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | +22<br><i>days after election day</i> |
| <b>December 4, 2026</b><br><i>Certificates of Election and Statement of Vote</i>                        | <p>The Elections Department will begin to prepare the certified statement of results and Statement of Votes for submission to the State and the County Board of Supervisors. The Elections Department will begin to deliver to each person elected a certificate of election signed by the county elections official. <b>Elections Code §§ 15301, 15372</b></p> | +30<br><i>days after election day</i> |

# Local Offices Open for Candidate Nomination

*Seats are either full term (4-years) or short term (2-years).*

*A short-term seat occurs due to the vacancy during the first half of an officeholder's term.*

## School Districts

| Board of Education Contests                                                                   | Offices up for Nomination                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Marin County Board of Education                                                               | Trustee Areas 3, 5, and 6 full term                           |
| San Rafael Board of Education<br><i>(Candidate documents issued by San Rafael City Clerk)</i> | Trustee Areas 2 and 4 full term;<br>Trustee Area 5 short term |
| Sonoma County Board of Education                                                              | Trustee Area 2 full term                                      |
| Elementary School District Contests                                                           | Offices up for Nomination                                     |
| Bolinas Stinson Union School District                                                         | 3 full term seats                                             |
| Kentfield School District                                                                     | 3 full term seats                                             |
| Laguna Joint School District                                                                  | 3 full term seats                                             |
| Lagunitas School District                                                                     | 3 full term seats                                             |
| Larkspur-Corte Madera School District                                                         | 3 full term seats                                             |
| Mill Valley School District                                                                   | 3 full term seats                                             |
| Miller Creek Elementary School District                                                       | 3 full term seats                                             |
| Nicasio School District                                                                       | 2 full term seats                                             |
| Reed Union School District                                                                    | 3 full term seats                                             |
| Ross School District                                                                          | 3 full term seats                                             |
| Ross Valley School District                                                                   | 2 full term seats                                             |
| Sausalito-Marín City School District                                                          | 3 full term seats; 1 short term seat                          |
| High School District Contests                                                                 | Offices up for Nomination                                     |
| Petaluma Joint Union High School District                                                     | Trustee Area 3 full term                                      |
| Tamalpais Union High School District                                                          | 3 full term seats                                             |

| <b>Unified School District Contests</b>      | <b>Offices up for Nomination</b>                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Novato Unified School District</b>        | <b>Trustee Areas 4, 5, and 6 full term</b>                                          |
| <b>Shoreline Unified School District</b>     | <b>Trustee Area 1 – Two full term seats<br/>Trustee Area 2 - One full term seat</b> |
| <b>Community College District Contests</b>   | <b>Offices up for Nomination</b>                                                    |
| <b>Marin Community College District</b>      | <b>Trustee Areas 1, 3, and 6 full term</b>                                          |
| <b>Sonoma County Junior College District</b> | <b>Trustee Area 2 full term</b>                                                     |

### ***Special Districts***

| <b>Conservation &amp; Recreation District Contests</b> | <b>Offices up for Nomination</b>                |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Marin Resource Conservation District</b>            | <b>2 full term seats</b>                        |
| <b>Mesa Park Recreation District</b>                   | <b>3 full term seats; 1 short term seat</b>     |
| <b>Strawberry Recreation District</b>                  | <b>3 full term seats; 1 short term seat</b>     |
| <b>Healthcare District Contests</b>                    | <b>Offices up for Nomination</b>                |
| <b>Marin Healthcare District</b>                       | <b>District Divisions 1, 3, and 4 full term</b> |
| <b>Fire Protection District Contests</b>               | <b>Offices up for Nomination</b>                |
| <b>Bolinas Fire Protection District</b>                | <b>2 full term seats</b>                        |
| <b>Kentfield Fire Protection District</b>              | <b>3 full term seats</b>                        |
| <b>Novato Fire Protection District</b>                 | <b>District Divisions 4 and 5 full term</b>     |
| <b>Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District</b>          | <b>1 full term seat; 1 short term seat</b>      |
| <b>Southern Marin Fire Protection District</b>         | <b>4 full term seats</b>                        |
| <b>Stinson Beach Fire Protection District</b>          | <b>2 full term seats; 1 short term seat</b>     |
| <b>Tiburon Fire Protection District</b>                | <b>3 full term seats</b>                        |

*Continued...*

| <b>Water District Contests</b>                    | <b>Offices up for Nomination</b>                      |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Marin Municipal Water District</b>             | <b>District Divisions 1, 3, and 4 full term</b>       |
| <b>North Marin Water District</b>                 | <b>District Divisions 1 and 5 full term</b>           |
| <b>Stinson Beach County Water District</b>        | <b>2 full term seats</b>                              |
| <b>Sanitary District Contests</b>                 | <b>Offices up for Nomination</b>                      |
| <b>Alto Sanitary District</b>                     | <b>2 full term seats</b>                              |
| <b>Homestead Valley Sanitary District</b>         | <b>2 full term seats; 1 short term seat</b>           |
| <b>Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District</b>      | <b>3 full term seats</b>                              |
| <b>Novato Sanitary District</b>                   | <b>Dist Div. 2, 3, 5 full term; Div. 1 short term</b> |
| <b>Richardson Bay Sanitary District</b>           | <b>3 full term seats</b>                              |
| <b>Sanitary District No. 5</b>                    | <b>2 full term seats</b>                              |
| <b>Sausalito-Marín City Sanitary District</b>     | <b>3 full term seats; 1 short term seat</b>           |
| <b>Community Services District Contests</b>       | <b>Offices up for Nomination</b>                      |
| <b>Bel Marin Keys Community Services District</b> | <b>2 full term seats</b>                              |
| <b>Marin City Community Services District</b>     | <b>3 full term seats; 1 short term seat</b>           |
| <b>Marinwood Community Services District</b>      | <b>2 full term seats</b>                              |
| <b>Muir Beach Community Services District</b>     | <b>3 full term seats</b>                              |
| <b>Tamalpais Community Services District</b>      | <b>2 full term seats</b>                              |
| <b>Tomaes Village Community Services District</b> | <b>3 full term seats</b>                              |
| <b>Public Utility District Contests</b>           | <b>Offices up for Nomination</b>                      |
| <b>Bolinas Community Public Utility District</b>  | <b>3 full term seats</b>                              |
| <b>Inverness Public Utility District</b>          | <b>2 full term seats</b>                              |

*Continued...*

## ***Municipal Contests***

| <b>Municipal candidates must obtain and file nomination documents with city/town clerk</b> | <b>Offices up for Nomination</b>                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>City of Belvedere</b>                                                                   | <b>2 full term seats</b>                                                         |
| <b>City of Larkspur</b>                                                                    | <b>3 full term seats</b>                                                         |
| <b>City of Mill Valley</b>                                                                 | <b>2 full term seats</b>                                                         |
| <b>City of Novato</b>                                                                      | <b>Districts 2 and 4 full term;<br/>District 5 short term</b>                    |
| <b>City of San Rafael</b>                                                                  | <b>Districts 2 and 3 full term;</b>                                              |
| <b>City of Sausalito</b>                                                                   | <b>2 full term seats</b>                                                         |
| <b>Town of Corte Madera</b>                                                                | <b>3 full term seats</b>                                                         |
| <b>Town of Fairfax</b>                                                                     | <b>Council - 2 full term seats;<br/>Clerk - full term; Treasurer - full term</b> |
| <b>Town of Ross</b>                                                                        | <b>2 full term seats</b>                                                         |
| <b>Town of San Anselmo</b>                                                                 | <b>Council - 2 full term seats;<br/>Clerk - full term; Treasurer - full term</b> |
| <b>Town of Tiburon</b>                                                                     | <b>3 full term seats</b>                                                         |

### **Insufficient number of candidates / Contest not on the ballot**

If the total number of candidates filing papers for your contest does not ***exceed*** the number of seats to be filled, you will be appointed in-lieu of an election. In other words the contest and your name will not be on the ballot.

In case there are ***less*** candidates than the number of seats, you'll still be appointed as if elected, but the other seats must be filled:

- **Special District:** the Board of Supervisors will conduct a search and appoint any qualified person(s) who will then serve exactly as if elected. *Elections Code §10515*
- **School District:** the governing board of the district will conduct a search and appoint any qualified person(s) who will then serve exactly as if elected. *Education Code §5328*
- **Municipal:** contact the city/town clerk for specific information.

## ***November 2026 General Election at-a-glance***

Local offices, and State Court offices, are open for candidate nomination. The contests are non-partisan, and party affiliation is not provided by election officials.

### ***How to apply to be a candidate***

Simply complete the Candidate Application Form to receive your documents from the Elections Department, and then file your documents by the applicable deadline.

This candidate guide provides information on how and when to complete your documents, as well as information about campaign financing, and political disclosures.

### ***State Law Regarding Confidentiality of Elected Officials and Candidates***

Personal information of candidates and elected officials will be kept confidential unless they wish to opt out. Though there are exceptions for legitimate journalistic or governmental purposes, any request to view candidate documents will have personal information redacted.

Candidates must decide confidential status when filing their nomination documents.

### ***How are November candidates elected?***

A local candidate need only receive more votes than other candidates to win outright. A majority (50% + 1) of all votes cast is not necessary to win in the General election.

### ***When does an elected candidate take office?***

No matter if your election was in June or November, the 'swearing in' dates are as follows:

**U.S. Representative in Congress** will take office on January 3, 2027.<sup>1</sup>

**State Officers including Governor** will take office on January 4, 2027.<sup>2</sup>

**State Senate & State Assembly** will take office on December 7, 2026.<sup>3</sup>

**Superior Court Judges** will take office on January 4, 2027.<sup>4</sup>

**County elected officials** will take office on January 4, 2027.<sup>5</sup>

**School District** officials will take office on December 11, 2026.<sup>6</sup>

**Special District** officials will take office on December 4, 2026.<sup>7</sup>

**Municipal Candidates** must contact the respective town/city clerk for information.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Const., amend. XX, §§ 1-2

<sup>2</sup> Cal. Const., Art. V, §§ 2, 11

<sup>3</sup> Cal. Const., Art. IV, § 2(a)(1)(3)

<sup>4</sup> Cal. Const., Art. VI, § 16(c)

<sup>5</sup> Gov't. Code § 24200

<sup>6</sup> Education Code § 5017

<sup>7</sup> Elections Code § 10554

## ***Candidate Qualifications***

### ***Candidate for School District: Education Code §1000, §1006, §35107***

- Candidates must be a registered voter in the district who is not disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding a public office.
- A Board of Education candidate must be an elector of the trustee area which he or she represents and shall be elected by the electors of the trustee area.
- 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.

### ***Candidate for Special District: Election Code §201, Water Code 71501, Public Resource Code 5784(c)***

- Candidates must be a registered voter in the district and qualified to vote for that office at the time nomination documents are issued to the candidate.

### ***Candidate for Healthcare District: Health & Safety Code §32100, §32110***

**Qualifications:** Candidate must be a registered voter in the district.

No person who is a director, employee, or medical staff of a hospital owned or operated by a district shall do either of the following: **(1)** Possess any ownership interest in any other hospital serving the same area as that served by the district hospital of which the person is a director; **(2)** Be a director, employee, or medical staff of any hospital serving the same area as the area served by the district hospital unless the boards of directors of the district and the hospital have determined that the situation will further efficient delivery of health care services of the areas served by their respective hospitals, or unless the district and the hospital are affiliated under ownership, lease, or any combination thereof.

### ***Candidate for Resource Conservation District: Public Resources Code §9352, §9358***

**Qualifications:** Candidate shall reside within the district and either own real property in the district or alternatively have served, pursuant to the district's rules, for two years or more as an associate director providing advisory or other assistance to the board of directors; **or** be a designated agent of a resident landowner within the district.

→ Requires signatures of five (5) landowners within the district.

### ***Candidate for Municipal Office: Gov. Code §34882, Elections Code §10220, §10227***

**Qualifications:** A person is not eligible to hold office as a member of a municipal legislative body unless he or she is otherwise qualified, resides in the district and resided in the district from which he or she is elected and a registered voter of the city at the time nomination papers are issued to the candidate.

→ A minimum of 20 sponsor signatures are required for towns/cities.

## ***Names on the Ballot / Randomized Alphabet Drawing***

On the 82nd day before the election, the Secretary of State's Office and the Marin County Registrar of Voters separately pick each letter of the alphabet at random according to the procedure specified in Elections Code section 13112 compiling their own randomized alphabet list. The randomized alphabetical draw helps determine the order that names appear on the ballot.

Each candidate is placed on the ballot in the order that each of the letters was drawn, based on their surname. For example, the placement of candidates with the surnames Campbell and Carlson will depend on the order in which the letters M and R were drawn.

The Secretary of State's random alphabet drawing determines name placement for all contests except for State Senator and State Assembly. The name placement for State Senate and State Assembly is determined by the random alphabet drawing conducted by the Marin County Registrar of Voters.

Rotation of candidates for certain offices is specified in Elections Code section 13112.

- For the office of U.S. Representative in Congress, the Secretary of State determines rotations based on Assembly districts.

## ***Applying to be a Candidate***

Before receiving nomination documents from the Elections Department, you must file a completed ***Candidate Application Form***, either in person or through our website, [www.marinvotes.org](http://www.marinvotes.org). If you use our website, you'll receive an email with instructions and additional information.

The application is only used to verify the status of your voter registration and residence address. The information you provide on the application is not made public but must match our records.

On the application we ask for a contact email address and phone number for internal use only. A business email is fine so long as you can respond daily. In addition you may choose a way for the media and general public to contact you.

Elected officials and candidate's personal information will be confidential when producing any list or report, except for journalistic or governmental purposes under specified conditions. This is automatic though you may opt out confidential status.

Your candidate documents will include the Opt-Out form. If this form is not signed and submitted by the candidate, confidential status will be applied.

## ***Candidate Documents***

The candidate documents you may receive are listed below with descriptions of each on the following pages.

**Declaration of Candidacy**

**Ballot Designation Worksheet**

**Candidate Statement Submission Form**

**Statement of Economic Interests Form 700**

**Campaign Finance Statements** (*minimum required*)

### ***Declaration of Candidacy***

The Declaration of Candidacy form must be completed in the office of the elections official, or signed and witnessed by a registered notary public and filed in the office of the election official with all other required documents by the end of the nomination period. If using an out-of-state notary, a notarial certificate must be included.<sup>8</sup>

A candidate may authorize in writing to have a person receive and deliver the Declaration of Candidacy. The candidate must indicate that he or she is aware the Declaration must be properly executed and filed with the election official by the end of the nomination period.

Candidates may **not file** a Declaration of Candidacy form for more than one term of office for the same district, or for more than one district or municipal office at a time.<sup>9</sup>

### ***How do you want your name to appear on the ballot?***

Indicate your name preference on the Declaration of Candidacy form.

The name you choose on the Declaration of Candidacy form is the only name that shall be on the ballot and must be written on other candidate papers.<sup>10</sup>

You can keep your voter registration name, or you may designate your name as follows:

- You can use your nickname in quotation marks, along with your legal name on your form. You may also use a first name that you're known by in your community. Either choice must include your registered last name.
- First, middle, and last name.
- Initials only with your last name.
- A familiar or common version of the first name such as Bill for William or Becky for Rebecca, etc.

**Please note, you cannot have titles or degrees with your name on the ballot. EC §13106**

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<sup>8</sup> E.C. 8040(c)

<sup>9</sup> E.C. §8003(b), §10510(b), §10220.5

<sup>10</sup> A.G. Ops 50-87, 5/27/80

## ***Ballot Designation & Worksheet***

The optional Ballot Designation is located under your name on the ballot. If you choose to have a ballot designation, you must indicate this on the Declaration of Candidacy form. If you choose not to have a designation, write "NONE" on your Declaration of Candidacy form and write your initials after the word "NONE."

In order to have a ballot designation you must complete and file a Ballot Designation Worksheet with your Declaration by the deadline. The first designation you choose to write on the worksheet must be written on your Declaration of Candidacy.

The Ballot Designation refers to your current occupation, vocation, profession, or incumbency status. You may list more than one profession, occupation, or vocation, but you must separate them with a slash, e.g., *Professor/Mother/Doctor*.

Most candidates are limited to three words. However, an elected official may use the exact title of the office currently held, e.g., *Director, ABC Fire Protection District*.

***Note: If you choose titles or words that are long they may be printed in a smaller font size.***

California state law requires that your designation describes your current occupation, profession, vocation, or what you did for a living during the 12 months before the filing deadline. The words you choose must be specific and accurate, and must not mislead voters.<sup>11</sup>

### ***Request for supporting documents***

Candidates are responsible for providing thorough and accurate information. If the information requires additional clarification the Elections Department or Secretary of State may request supporting documentation or evidence supporting your proposed ballot designation.<sup>12</sup>

### ***Rules for specific types of ballot designations and candidates***

- **Primary election candidates**

Your ballot designation will be the same for both primary and general elections (if applicable), unless at least 98 days before the general election, you request in writing a different designation which you're entitled to use at the time of the request.

- **If you are an incumbent...**

- Your elected title, even if the title has more than 3 words.
- Your elected position *and* your other occupation or vocation if using 3 words or less. *Example:* Board Member/Teacher
- The word **Incumbent** (no other words allowed) if you're filing for the same office you hold now.

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<sup>11</sup> Elec. Code § 13107; 2 CCR § 20716

<sup>12</sup> 2 CCR § 20717

- Only local candidates do not have to justify the use of the word incumbent or appointed incumbent. You may simply write “current officeholder” in the justification sections or leave it blank. The election staff will stamp as confirmed.
- **If you are an appointed incumbent...**
  - The words **Appointed Incumbent** (no other words allowed) if you are running for the same office you hold now. **Judicial** candidates appointed to a judicial seat are not required to use this designation and can use Incumbent instead.<sup>13</sup>
  - The word **Appointed** along with your current elected position and the jurisdiction (***Appointed Board Member, ABC School District***), or the word **Appointed** along with your current elected position and another designation (***Appointed Trustee/Mother***).
- **If you are a non-incumbent judicial candidate and an active member of the State Bar, you must use any of the following:**
  - “Attorney,” “Attorney at Law,” “Lawyer,” or “Counselor at Law”.
  - Words designating the actual job title if employed by the city, county, district, state, or federal office held by the candidate at the time of filing and must contain relevant qualifiers such as “City of...”, “County of...”, or the full name of the governmental agency.
  - If your designation describes your position in performing quasi-judicial functions for a governmental agency, the full name of that agency must be included.
  - The designations “Attorney” and “Lawyer” may be used in combination with one other designation held currently or within the previous calendar year (Attorney/Website Developer).
- **You may use the words community volunteer<sup>14</sup> if:**
  - You’re substantially involved as a community volunteer with bona fide organizations;
  - You do not have another principal occupation or vocation; and
  - You do not add any other words to describe another occupation or vocation.
- **You may use the word retired if: <sup>15</sup>**
  - You are 55 or older, and worked at your last job or vocation for more than 5 years and left voluntarily;
  - A principal source of your income is from a retirement plan or retirement benefits (or you are eligible to receive retirement benefits).
  - You **cannot** use retired if you’ve had more recent professions, occupations, or vocations; and you cannot abbreviate the word Retired.

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<sup>13</sup> Elections Code § 13107(B)(1)(b)

<sup>14</sup> 2 CCR § 20714.5

<sup>15</sup> Elec. Code § 13107; 2 CCR § 20716(h)

### ***Rejection of ballot designations***

Each designation is evaluated based on guidelines and restrictions stated in the Elections Code. Designations will be determined given a candidate's individual circumstance.

The Secretary of State's office administers rules and procedures for State and Federal candidates. The worksheet must be fully completed, otherwise it will be rejected and returned by the State.

Candidates are given an opportunity to make a correction. If you do not provide an acceptable alternative designation by the deadline, no ballot designation will be listed after your name.

The following provides a partial list of designations deemed generally not acceptable.

| <b>Do not use words that...</b>        | <b>Examples</b>                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Evaluate                               | outstanding, leading, expert, virtuous, eminent, best, exalted, prominent, activist, reformer, pro, anti                                              |
| Suggest status but not your occupation | taxpayer, patriot, citizen, renter, presidential appointee, husband, wife, scholar, veteran, concerned citizen, activist                              |
| Suggest a religious or ethnic group    | Asian, Christian, Irish                                                                                                                               |
| Suggest a political party or ideology  | Conservative, Democrat, Republican, Socialist, Absolutism, Anarchist                                                                                  |
| Pro Forma positions or vocations       | honorary, hostess, goodwill ambassador<br>( <i>see CA Admin. Code 20716</i> )                                                                         |
| Suggest previous occupations           | former, ex-, past-<br>You may be able to use retired. (see following pages)                                                                           |
| Name of a company, agency, or person   | Instead of: IBM President, use: Computer Corporation President<br>Instead of: Director, DMV, use: State Agency Director                               |
| Mislead                                | An occasional activity, hobby, or position that takes up little of your time. You may have to give proof to support the accuracy of your designation. |

### ***Rejection Exceptions***

There may be exceptions to the rejection of a designation. Certain designations may be considered depending on the circumstance of each candidate, even if it does not describe a significant involvement on the part of the candidate. Exceptions must be approved by the election official.

## ***Candidate Statement & Submission Form***

Candidates must file the statement submission form. If a statement is not submitted, mark the section noting your intention not to file a statement.

Candidates have the option to submit a 200-word statement to be printed in the *Marin County Voter Information Guide*. Congressional & State Assembly candidates are allowed 250 words.

The basis for the cost of a candidate statement is the quarter page. Regardless of the word count, any statement that exceeds the size of the quarter page, including translated versions of the candidate statement, will double the listed cost to the candidate.

- File your statement no later than **5 p.m., August 7, 2026**. If you're filing for office during an extended nomination period, the deadline is **5 p.m., August 12, 2026**.
- Our office requires a check as payment for your statement, and it is required when filing your nomination documents.
- If applicable to your candidacy you have the option to print your statement in multiple counties. Each county will charge separately and must receive payment directly from you. Please contact those county elections officials for costs and applicable forms.
- Review your statement carefully and/or proofread with another person because you're **not** allowed to correct typos or mistakes after the close of the filing period.
- If you choose to withdraw your statement you must do so by the close of business of the next working day after the close of the nomination period. Your check will be returned to you by mail or you may come to our office.
- Candidate statements must be submitted in electronic version, preferably in Word. Candidates filing a handwritten statement will be charged an additional \$150 fee.
- The amount charged for your statement is an estimate of the actual costs that may vary between elections depending on several factors such as the number of registered voters in that jurisdiction, and the costs of printing and mailing.

## ***Candidate Statement Fees***

Candidates must pay a fee to have their statement printed in the *Marin County Voter Information Guide*. If you wish to have your statement printed in Spanish your cost is doubled plus a translation fee. We do not accept credit cards, only cash or check.

Fee estimates start with the total number of registered voters from the last report filed with the State prior to the end of the applicable nomination period. The final cost for your statement is affected by processing, printing, and mailing expenses, and by the total number of registered voters allowed to vote in your jurisdiction through election day. As previously mentioned, if your word count exceeds the size of the quarter page box, you'll be charged for each additional quarter page box your statement uses.

*continued ...*

You must provide a blank check made payable to the Marin County Elections Department. On the memo line of your check, write "**not to exceed**" and the amount provided by the elections official. The following page shows a sample of how your check should look.

Your check will not be cashed until after election certification when costs have been finalized. Please be sure to plan for this.

The chart below is an estimate of candidate statement costs per voter totals. For example contests with more than 180,000 registered voters is estimated to cost no less than \$1,725 for one quarter page. When you're ready to deliver your check, the elections official will confirm the number of registered voters for your contest and provide the ***not to exceed*** amount to write on your check.

| Number of Registered Voters<br>After the Election... | One Quarter Page | Two Quarter Page<br><i>(add \$100 for Spanish translation)</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| No Less Than 180,000                                 | \$1,725          | \$3,550                                                        |
| No Less Than 170,000                                 | \$1,640          | \$3,380                                                        |
| No Less Than 87,000                                  | \$925            | \$1,850                                                        |
| No Less Than 40,000                                  | \$515            | \$1,030                                                        |
| No Less Than 30,000                                  | \$430            | \$960                                                          |
| No Less Than 20,000                                  | \$350            | \$800                                                          |
| No Less Than 10,000                                  | \$260            | \$720                                                          |
| No Less Than 8,000                                   | \$240            | \$580                                                          |
| No Less Than 5,000                                   | \$215            | \$530                                                          |
| No Less Than 1,000                                   | \$180            | \$460                                                          |

***Reference for Not To Exceed amounts. Actual costs are determined after the election is certified.***

## State Voluntary Expenditure Limits

State Senate and State Assembly candidates accepting the State's voluntary expenditure limits listed below may purchase space in our Voter Information Guide. Candidates must complete and file the [Form 501](#) (Candidate Statement of Intention) with the Secretary of State.<sup>16</sup>

### 2026 General Election

- **\$1,373,000**    **State Assembly candidates**
- **\$1,765,000**    **State Senate candidates**

<sup>16</sup> Gov't. Code § 85601

## SAMPLE OF CANDIDATE STATEMENT CHECK

- Candidates must provide a blank check made payable to the Marin County Elections Department
- Write **Not to Exceed \$(estimated cost)** in the memo space of the check
- The Elections Department will determine the final amount after determining all associated costs.

John Doe  
123 Main St.  
Anywhere, CA

1025

DATE

PAY TO THE ORDER OF **Marin County Elections Department** \$

DOLLARS

MEMO **Not to exceed \$(estimated cost)**

⑆000000000⑆ ⑆000000000⑆ 1025

### ***Content requirements***

Your candidate statement may include information about your education, experience, and other qualifications, and shall not include information about your party affiliations, memberships, or activities in any political party organizations. Listing memberships to or affiliations with organizations that are found to have distinct political inclinations may not be accepted.<sup>17</sup>

You shall not directly or indirectly reference any other candidate, nor suggest or imply the qualification of other candidates by stating “I’m the only candidate...”, or any other similar wording.<sup>18</sup> If your statement does not comply, the election official will require changes.

**Endorsements** by individuals and organizations are allowed but must be verified by written authorization (email is acceptable) directly from the endorsers. The endorsement must include the candidate’s name, the elective office, the date of the election, and the name of the endorser.

The use of a non-endorsing individual or an organization’s name in a statement is only allowed if being used exclusively as biographical information.

<sup>17</sup> Elec. Code § 13307(a)

<sup>18</sup> Elec. Code § 13308

### ***Formatting requirements***

All candidate statements must be uniform in type and size, and single-spaced lines.

- No ALL CAPS (use upper and lower case).
- No *italics*, no **bold**, no underlining, and no highlighting.
- No clusters of exclamation points!!!!
- No bullets or numbered lists (we will replace them with semicolons and wrap text).
- Em and En dashes may or may not be allowed, and it may add one extra word to your count. See the following page for details.
- Indents are allowed.
- 200 words maximum based on rules specified in Elections Code §9.
- Word count begins after “Education and Qualifications” on a Candidate Statement.

*Your name must match your name on the ballot. Variations are not allowed. Age and Occupation are optional.*

***Occupation*** must be truthful, and may refer to your current employment or vocation, or status as an active licensed professional even if not currently employed as such.

*Unlike the ballot designation, you may use the word former or retired even if you do not receive a pension or if this wasn’t your last profession or employment.*

***SAMPLE* STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE  
MEMBER, CITY COUNCIL  
Greatest City**

**JANE CITIZEN**

**AGE:** 35

**Occupation:** Manager, Parent, Writer  
**Education and Qualifications:**

I can bring to the office a diversity of viewpoints and experience. Born and raised in the San Francisco area, with my family still farming, I can appreciate the concerns of the environmentalists.

With my experience in the rental and real estate field, I appreciate the practical housing choices and frustrations with high rental cost.

I advocate a program to protect our neighborhoods from increasing overcrowding and visual blight. As a Member of the City Council, I would bring balanced points of view.

I am endorsed by Dr. Fig Newton, the Council of Likable Folks, and the Association of Amazing Shovels.

I humbly ask for your vote.

Jane Citizen

[www.jccandidate.com](http://www.jccandidate.com)

*Your statement must fit in a quarter-page section (example shown is not to scale).*

*If your statement extends beyond that, you are effectively using a second quarter-page, and you will be charged for both sections.*

## **WORD COUNTING GUIDE (*Elections Code §9*)**

The examples below are to help guide you when creating your candidate statement, ballot measure text, measure argument and rebuttal, all of which require limited number of words. You will be asked to delete or change text until it conforms with those requirements. The examples are not applicable to a candidate's ballot designation.

### **Symbols:**

Such as “#” when used in place of a word or number will be counted as one word.

### **Proper Nouns:**

All definable proper nouns will be counted as one word.

Examples: John Smith, Marin County Elections Department, Ford F150

### **Geographical Names:**

All geographical names, including areas of governed political boundaries are counted as one word.

Examples: Tamalpais Union High School District, Marin County, State of California

### **Abbreviations & acronyms:**

Abbreviations and acronyms, such as Dist., UCLA, U.S.M.C., FYI, PTA, count as one word.

### **Hyphenated words:**

Hyphenated words that appear in any generally available standard reference dictionary at any time within the 10 calendar years immediately preceding the current election.

Examples: Fifty-five, ex-president, attorney-at-law, well-known

### **Dates:**

All dates, regardless of letter or number combination, will be counted as one word.

Examples: 11/4/24, or November 4, 2024

### **Numbers:**

A number consisting of digit(s) will be counted as one word, for example 100, or 2,587.

A number that is spelled out may be counted as:

One word: thousand

Two words: one hundred

Three words: two hundred seventy-four

### **Contact Information:**

Telephone numbers, email addresses, and website addresses will be counted as one word.

Example: smithABC123.net

**Punctuations** are NOT counted!

### **Em and En dashes:**

Your program's word count won't separate the words being connected.

In the Em dash example *'granddaughters—Debbie and Lisa'*, your program counts 3 words. Our office may count this as 5 words because the Em dash uses an extra space. If appropriate, please consider using a comma instead.

In the En dash examples 1998-2003, or Dallas-Miami, each will be counted as 2 words because it designates a range of relevant information.

## ***Statement of Economic Interests Form 700***

The Political Reform Act requires candidates and officeholders to publicly disclose their personal assets and income from the previous calendar year and disqualify themselves from participating in decisions that may affect their economic interests. The Form 700 is a public document and will be posted on the County and/or State website, depending on the contest.

The Form 700 and reference pamphlet are included with your candidate papers, each with detailed instructions and information. You must complete and file the Form 700 with your other candidate documents, or no later than the close of the nomination period.

Candidates filing for the following contests must e-file with the Fair Political Practices Commission:

*State Assembly*

*State Senate*

*County Supervisor*

*City Councilmembers*

When your candidate documents are issued, you'll be entered into the FPPC's program and you'll receive an email with instructions how to login and file the Form 700.

### **The basics you need to know...**

- You must account for the previous calendar year or 12-month period, and if elected or appointed to office you must file this form annually.
- Salaries, including those of your spouse, are mostly reportable, but not government salaries.
- Do not list your personal residence unless it is used as a reportable home-based business, business rental, or claimed as a business deduction.
- Reportable stocks, trusts, and investments are discussed in the Reference Pamphlet and the Form 700 instructions. It defines applicable direct, indirect, or beneficial interests in which you, your spouse or partner, or your dependent children had during the reporting period that should be reported.
- There are restrictions on certain gifts, honoraria, travel, and loans. Local elected officers, and candidates for local elective office, may not accept gifts from any single source totaling more than \$590 in a calendar year (adjusted biennially).
- The Form 700 is amendable at any time and for any reason.

For detailed information visit the Fair Political Practices Commission website: [fppc.ca.gov](http://fppc.ca.gov). If you have questions specific to your situation, contact the FPPC: [advice@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:advice@fppc.ca.gov).

## ***Campaign Finance Statements***

You will be required to file campaign finance statements, regardless of the level of activity and the amount of funds raised and spent on your campaign. If you choose to raise and spend funds on the campaign, you must become familiar with the various disclosure forms and applicable rules.

Marin County Ordinance 3805 requires all */ocal/* campaign finance committees to file finance disclosure reports through the County e-filing program maintained by the Elections Department. The reports are posted online.

### ***Exceptions:***

- candidates without a committee;
- candidates and measures for municipal and State contests;
- the Form 410 is filed with the Secretary of State, not with the County program.

The e-file program is at no cost to the candidate, it's simple to use, and it allows an unlimited number of draft documents to review before submitting your report. When you submit your report, the data is permanently saved. If afterwards you realize an error was made, the program allows the user to amend any report at any time.

If you open a campaign finance committee, you are required to e-file disclosure reports periodically until the committee is closed. The **Form 460** is the main report, and it's used to report contributions, expenditures, loans, and all other types of activity. It's a good idea to become familiar with the report which can be found at [fppc.ca.gov](http://fppc.ca.gov).

Another common report submitted thru the program is the **Form 497**. This is a 24-Hour contribution report that must be filed within 24 hours if a committee receives a \$1,000 contribution (*including aggregated amounts*) from a single source during the 90 days prior to the election.

The following forms are not available to e-file through our program. You must file by paper, and you may submit the forms by email:

**Form 501:** You must file this form before solicitation or receipt of any contribution, or expenditure of personal funds other than the filing fee and your candidate statement.

**Form 470:** Candidates are required to file no less than one campaign finance report no later than the first pre-election deadline. The Form 470 is filed if the candidate does not have a controlled committee and has not raised or spent \$2,000 or more on their campaign. If the \$2,000 threshold is reached, a campaign finance committee must be opened within 10 days.

**Form 410:** File the Form 410 to open a campaign finance committee, no later than 10 days after spending or receiving at least **\$2,000**. Afterwards your committee will be required to file periodic campaign statements until the committee is closed. This form is also used to amend and close your committee.

### ***Basic rules for all local candidate committees***

- Deposit all campaign funds in a separate bank account that is only for the campaign. You cannot add contributed funds to personal accounts.
- Do not use the same bank account, committee, or committee name that you used in a previous election if you are running for a different office.
- Expenditures from personal funds may be used without having to open a committee if used to pay the filing fee and candidate statement printed in the voter information guide.
- Record all contributions and expenses of \$25 or more, but you should never accept cash. (FPPC manuals will provide details and additional information.)
- Document any donation worth \$100 or more, including loans and in-kind contributions. You must provide the contributor's name, address, occupation, and employer.
- Do **not** use your campaign funds for most non-campaign expenses or to make independent expenditures to support or oppose other candidates.
- If you receive \$1,000 or more from a single source in the last **90** days before the election, you must disclose it within 24 hours, even if the contributions are from your personal funds. This includes separate contributions from the same source that add up to \$1,000 or more.

***Important!*** Your campaign finance reporting requirements do not end with the election. You must file reports continuously until you close your committee.

### ***Contribution limits***

Candidates for county office must adhere to the State campaign contribution limit, currently set at \$5,900 from each individual, committee, and political party per election. Contribution limits do not apply to Special District and School District candidates in Marin County.

### ***Candidates running for State offices***

If running for a state office, you are required to file campaign finance reports with the California Secretary of State. Candidate committees raising or spending more than \$25,000 must file their reports through the State's e-file program; those who spend or raise less than \$25,000 will file paper reports with the State and the County.

### ***Fines and penalties***

The Marin County Elections Department and the Fair Political Practices Commission have the authority to assess fines due to late and/or non-filing, but only the FPPC has the authority to assess fines *and* investigate or prosecute other campaign finance violations.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Gov't. Code § 91013

## ***Reporting Deadlines for Local Candidate committees***

| <b>Deadline</b>    | <b>Use this form</b>                                                                        | <b>Period Reported</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| July 31, 2026      | 460 - Semi-Annual                                                                           | Thru – 6/30/26         |
| September 24, 2026 | 460 – 1st Pre-election                                                                      | 7/1/26 – 9/19/26       |
| October 22, 2026   | 460 – 2nd Pre-election                                                                      | 9/20/26 – 10/17/26     |
| Within 24 hours    | 497 - Contribution Report<br><i>(\$1,000 or more in aggregate<br/>from a single source)</i> | 8/5/26 – 11/3/26       |
| February 1, 2027   | 460 - Semi-Annual                                                                           | 10/18/26 – 12/31/26    |

***Questions?*** Campaign finance rules and regulations may be overwhelming and difficult to understand. The Elections Department is greatly limited in providing advice to candidates. It is recommended that candidates employ the services of an experienced person and/or team to help you in this process.

**If you are a local candidate, refer to FPPC *Campaign Disclosure Manual 2*.**

**If you are a State candidate, refer to FPPC *Campaign Disclosure Manual 1*.**

Fair Political Practices Commission:  
428 J Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Tel. 866-275-3772, or [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov)

Additional contacts:  
Secretary of State, Political Reform Division:  
1500 11TH Street, Room 495, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Tel. 916-653-6224, or [www.ss.ca.gov/elections](http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections)

Federal Election Commission: 800-424-9530, or [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov)  
*(candidates for federal offices only)*

Local candidates, please contact:  
Dan Miller: [dan.miller@marincounty.gov](mailto:dan.miller@marincounty.gov)  
Tel. 415-473-6437

## Campaign Essentials

### Advertisement Disclosures

Committees are required to include disclaimers to most ads and communications including electronic media. Disclaimer requirements are based on the type of advertisement and who paid for it. For example, advertisements that are "online platform disclosed advertisements" have different disclosure requirements than electronic media that is *not* "online platform disclosed advertisements".

Details of the rules for disclosures, types of communications, and mass mailings are described in the FPPC manuals and on their website, [fppc.ca.gov](http://fppc.ca.gov).

**Political Signs:** Candidates will be asked to complete a Statement of Understanding / Temporary Political Signs to provide a primary point of contact for any concerns the County may have related to the placement and/or removal of temporary political signs regarding candidate contest. Before placing political signs make sure you know the state, county, and municipal rules.

#### Ref: County Code 22.28.030 & 22.28.060

- *Signs are not allowed in unincorporated areas of Marin County, except on a residence or place of business with owner's consent.*
- *Signs must not be placed more than 90 days prior to, or more than 10 days after an election.*
- *Signs are not allowed on County owned and maintained public property, right-of-way, and medians.*
- *Signs at any location that impairs pedestrian and vehicular safety may be removed.*

Below is the contact information to inquire about posting signs within city/town boundaries.

|              |                     |               |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Belvedere    | City Clerk          | 435-8913      |
| Corte Madera | Town Clerk          | 927-5085      |
| Fairfax      | Principal Planner   | 453-1584      |
| Larkspur     | City Clerk          | 927-5002      |
| Mill Valley  | City Clerk          | 388-4864      |
| Novato       | City Clerk          | 899-8986      |
| Ross         | Town Clerk          | 453-1453 x105 |
| San Anselmo  | Town Clerk          | 258-4660      |
| San Rafael   | Public Works        | 485-3355      |
| Sausalito    | City Clerk          | 289-4134      |
| Tiburon      | Planning Department | 435-7390      |

For State rules about posting signs on state owned property, contact the California Department of Transportation, Outdoor Advertising Program: (916) 654-6473, or online at [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov).

## ***Campaign Photos & Videos at the Civic Center***

Candidates who wish to film a paid political commercial in or around the Civic Center should contact the Community Development Agency, 415-473-7875, for details and requirements.

### ***County Code 5.36.010***

Candidates may take photographs or videos of themselves filing candidacy paperwork in the Elections Department as long as it does not disrupt business operations, including staff privacy. These photographs and videos cannot be used for solicitation of votes, support, or contributions, but can be used for personal media.

## ***Electioneering***

It is a misdemeanor to engage in electioneering, which includes any of the following within 100 feet of the entrance to a building where a vote center is located, an election office, or any location that a voter may cast or drop off a ballot:<sup>20</sup>

- Pass around petitions.
- Try to influence how a voter votes.
- Put up signs about voter qualifications.
- Talk to voters about their qualifications to vote.
- Photograph, film, or record a voter as s/he goes into or leaves a voting location.
- Disseminate visible or audible electioneering information.

## ***Voter and Election Data***

Data containing voter registration information is available for purchase from the County Elections Department for campaign purposes only.<sup>21</sup>

An application must be completed that includes a detailed explanation of how the data will be used, which will undergo a review and approval process. All applications must be received with an original wet signature, a clear copy of applicant's current valid driver's license or state identification card, any accompanying documentation, and payment before the application will be reviewed. Election data requests are processed in the order they are received and may take 2-3 business days for completion. Pricing for election data is listed at [www.marinvotes.org](http://www.marinvotes.org).

- Use of this data, including but not limited to using registration information for purposes of communicating with voters, is allowed pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 7, Article 1, Section 19003.
- Voter registration information is confidential. Prohibited uses include but are not limited to advertising, solicitation, sale, or marketing of products, to personal/private/commercial locations; or the harassment of any voter or voter's household.

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<sup>20</sup> Elec. Code §§ 319.5, 18370

<sup>21</sup> Elec. Code §§ 2188, 2194

- Voter registration data may not be sold, leased, loaned, reproduced, or possession thereof relinquished without receiving written authorization from the Secretary of State.
- Any usage that is ***not*** on behalf of a candidate or political party, or in support of or opposition to a ballot measure is prohibited.

## Who to contact about certain violations?

The Marin County Elections Department is **NOT** an enforcement agency regarding possible election violations.

Listed below are resources to contact regarding suspected election violations:

- ***Violations to the Political Reform Act*** – Contact the FPPC: for example, mailing requirements; campaign finance disclosure; proper use of campaign funds; personal economic interest disclosures.
- ***Violations to laws other than the Political Reform Act*** – Contact the City or District Attorney, or the California State Attorney General’s office at 1-800-952-5225.
- ***Election fraud*** – Contact the City or District Attorney, or the Secretary of State.
- ***Federal campaigns*** – Contact the Federal Election Commission at 1-800-424-9530.
- ***Local ordinance violations*** – Contact the City or District Attorney.
- ***Vandalism to campaign signs*** – Contact law enforcement and/or City or District Attorney.
- ***False or misleading campaign materials*** – There are no enforcement agencies for this type of violation. These matters are adjudicated in court.