



# CANDIDATE GUIDE

**JUNE 2, 2026**

Statewide Direct  
Primary Election



# California Direct Primary Election – June 2, 2026

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<p>December 11, 2025 – February 4, 2026 E-173 to E-118</p>	<p><b>Signatures In-Lieu of Filing Fee – All Candidates</b> EC §8023, 8061, 8105, 8106</p> <p>Forms may be obtained from the County Election Official during this period. Petition forms may be obtained to secure signatures in-lieu of all or a portion of the filing fee. Signatures submitted on the in-lieu petitions may also be applied to the signature requirements for offices on the nominating petition.</p> <p>For judicial candidates, the In-Lieu Petition must be filed by the last day to file the Declaration of Intention since the filing fee must be satisfied by that day. The Registrar of Voters' Office will notify the candidate of any deficiency within 10 days of filing.</p>
<p>December 30, 2025 – December 31, 2025 E-154 to E-153</p>	<p><b>Report of Registration – 154 Day Report</b> EC §2187(a) &amp; (c)(1)</p> <p>During this period, the Registrar of Voters shall prepare and send to the Secretary of State a summary statement of the number of persons registered by party affiliation, by county and by each political division.</p>

<p>January 26, 2026 – February 4, 2026 E-127 to E-118</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Declaration of Intent of Judicial Candidates</b> EC §8023, 8105</p> <p>Every candidate for a judicial office shall file with the County Elections Official a written and signed declaration of his/her intention to become a candidate for judicial office and designate the seat number they are seeking. Non-refundable filing fees must be paid at the time the declaration of intent is filed.</p>
<p>February 2, 2026 – March 4, 2026 E-120 to E-90</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>County Publishes Notice of Election</b> EC §121109, 12112</p> <p>Between these dates, the Registrar of Voters will publish a Notice of Election containing the date of the election, the offices to be filled, where nomination papers are available and the deadline for filing Declarations of Candidacy. The notice may be combined with the notice of identifying the central county place.</p>
<p>February 4, 2026 E-118</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Signature In-Lieu of Filing Fee – All Candidates</b> EC §8105, 8106</p> <p>Last day for all candidates, including judicial candidates, to submit Signature In-Lieu petitions to the Registrar of Voters of the county in which the petition signers reside and are registered to vote.</p>
<p>February 5, 2026 – February 9, 2026 E-117 to E-113</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Extension of Declaration of Intention – Judicial</b> EC §8023, 8105</p> <p>If the incumbent for a judicial office does not file a declaration of intention to succeed to the same office by the end of the Declaration of Intent Filing Period, qualified persons other than the incumbent may file a declaration of intention for that office during this extension period. Non-refundable filing fees must be paid at the time the declaration of intent is filed.</p>

<p>February 9, 2026 – March 6, 2026 E-113 to E-88</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Declaration of Candidacy &amp; Nomination Papers</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">EC §8020, 8040, 8041, 8061, 8100, 8104, 8105, 8106, 13107</p> <p>Between these dates, a candidate must file a Declaration of Candidacy and Nomination Papers with the Registrar of Voters. All candidates, except those for judicial offices, must pay their filing fee at the time they obtain their Nomination Papers. The fee may be represented by money, signatures in-lieu, or a prorated combination of money and signatures in-lieu. The filing fee is non-refundable. Candidates may authorize in writing that their in-lieu signatures count toward the number of signatures needed for their Nomination Paper.</p>
<p>February 9, 2026 – March 6, 2026 E-113 to E-88</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Candidate Statement of Qualifications</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">EC §13307, 13311</p> <p>Between these dates, candidates for judicial and county offices may prepare a Statement of Qualifications, not to exceed 200 words, to be included in the Voter's Information Guide. The statement will remain confidential until deadline for filing has passed. The statement may not be changed, but may be withdrawn up to 5:00 p.m. on March 7, 2026 if the contest closes on March 6, 2026 or March 12, 2026 if the contests closes on March 11, 2026 after the extension period. A written request to withdraw a Candidate Statement must be sent to the Registrar of Voters' Office prior to the deadline listed above.</p>
<p>February 8, 2026 – March 6, 2026 E-113 to E-88</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Candidate Statement of Qualifications – State Legislative &amp; Congressional Candidates</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">EC §13307.5, GC §85601(c)</p> <p>Between these dates, candidates for State Legislative and Congressional offices may prepare a statement of qualifications, not to exceed 250 words, to be included in the county Voter Information Guide. The statement shall be filed and paid for no later than March 6, 2026. The statement may not be changed, but may be withdrawn up until 5:00 p.m. on March 7, 2026 if the contest closes on March 6, 2026 or March 12, 2026 if the contest closes on March 11, 2026 after the extension period.</p>

<p>March 4, 2026 – June 2, 2026 E-90 to E-Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>24-Hour Contribution Reports</b> GC §82036</p> <p>During the 90 days immediately preceding an election and including Election Day, the following contributions that total in the aggregate of \$1,000 or more must be reported within 24-hours to the Registrar of Voters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Form 496:</b> File if independent expenditures of \$1,000 or more are made.</li> <li>• <b>Form 497:</b> File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is made to a candidate or measure being voted upon June 2, 2026, or to a political party committee.</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>(24-Hour Contribution Report – Continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Non-Monetary Contribution:</b> The recipient of a non- monetary contribution of \$1,000 or more must file a 497 report within 48-hours from the time the contribution is received. File by personal delivery, e-mail, guaranteed overnight service, fax or online if available.</li> </ul>
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<p>March 7, 2026 – March 11, 2026 E-87 to E-83</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Extension of Nomination Period</b> EC §8022, 8024, 8204</p> <p>Extension period for anyone other than the incumbent to file a Declaration of Candidacy and Nomination Petition if the incumbent did not file by March 6, 2026. This provision does not apply if there is no incumbent eligible to be elected.</p> <p>For judicial offices, if the incumbent of the office files a Declaration of Intention, but for any reason fails to qualify for nomination for the office by March 6, 2026, an additional five days shall be allowed for the filing of nomination papers for the office. Any person, other than the incumbent if otherwise qualified, may file nomination papers for the office during extended period, notwithstanding that he or she has not filed by March 6, 2026 a written and signed Declaration of Intention to become a candidate for the office.</p> <p><b>NOTE: This extension does NOT apply...</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) When the incumbent for judicial office does not file a Declaration of Intention for that same office (there is an earlier filing extension period from February 5 – 9, 2026, and</li> <li>2) When there is no incumbent eligible to be re-elected.</li> </ol>
<p>March 7, 2026 – March 16, 2026 E-87 to E-78</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Exam of Candidate Statements</b> EC §13313</p> <p>During this 10-day period, the Registrar of Voters will make candidates' statements available for public examination.</p>
<p>March 12, 2026 E-82</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Randomized Alphabet Drawing</b> EC §13112</p> <p>The Secretary of State shall conduct the randomized alphabet drawing to determine the order in which the candidates will appear on the primary election ballot.</p> <p>On the same day, the County Registrar of Voters shall conduct a randomized alphabet drawing for State Senate and Assembly offices.</p>

<p>March 16, 2026 E-78</p>	<p><b>Write-In Campaign Against Incumbent Judge Running Unopposed for Primary Election</b> EC §8203(a), 8600-8604</p> <p>Last day to file a petition indicating that a write-in campaign will be conducted against an unopposed Superior Court judicial candidate who has filed Nomination Papers. The Petition must be signed by at least 0.1 percent of the registered voters qualified to vote with respect to the office, if the petition shall contain at least 100 signatures but need not contain more than 600 signatures. Write-in candidates must file a Statement of Write-In by March 16, 2026.</p>
<p>April 3, 2026 E-60</p>	<p><b>Military or Overseas Vote-by-Mail Ballot Applications</b> EC §300(b), 3102, 3105</p> <p>First day the Registrar of Voters may process applications for military or overseas voter ballots. Any applications received by the Registrar of Voters prior to this day shall be kept and processed on or after this date. If the applicant is not a resident of the county to which he or she has applied, the Registrar of Voters receiving the application shall forward it immediately to the proper county.</p>
<p>April 6, 2026 – May 19, 2026 E-57 to E-14</p>	<p><b>Nomination Period for Write-In Candidates</b> EC §8600, 8601 et. Seq.</p> <p>Nomination papers for write-in candidacy will be available beginning April 6, 2026 and must be filed with the Registrar of Voters no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2026.</p>
<p>April 23, 2026 E-40</p>	<p><b>Filing Period for First Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Statement</b></p> <p>Last day to file campaign statements for candidates and committees covering the period ending April 18, 2026. Statements must be sent by personal delivery or first class mail.</p>

<p>April 23, 2026 – May 12, 2026 E-40 to E-21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Voter Information Guide Mailing</b> EC §9094, 13303, 13304</p> <p>Between these dates, the Registrar of Voters shall mail a Voter Information Guide and Sample Ballot with a polling place notice to each registered voter. Between these dates the Secretary of State shall mail Voter Information Guides to all households.</p>
<p>May 4, 2026 E-29</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Last Day to Register to Vote to Ensure Receipt of Sample Ballot by Mail</b> EC §9094, 13303</p> <p>This is the last day voters may register to vote in order to ensure the receipt of a Voter Information Guide by mail. Voter registration cards received by this date will be added to the rolls and the voters will receive a Voter Information Guide booklet prepared by the Registrar of Voters. Voters who submit cards after this date will not receive a County Voter Information Guide and Sample Ballot by mail; however, they will receive notification of registration received and polling place location.</p>
<p>May 4, 2026 E-29</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vote-by-Mail Ballot Distribution</b> EC §3001, 3003</p> <p>On this day, the Registrar of Voters will begin to mail vote-by-mail ballots to all registered voters.</p>
<p>February 5, 2024 E-29</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Processing Vote-by-Mail Ballots</b> EC §15101</p> <p>On this day, the Registrar of Voters may begin to process vote-by-mail ballots including verifying the voter's signature on the vote-by-mail ballot return envelope, opening vote-by-mail ballot return envelopes, removing ballots, duplicating any damaged ballots, preparation of ballot to be machine read, or machine reading them. However, under no circumstances may a vote count be accessed or released until 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election.</p>

<p>April 3, 2026 E-60</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Deadline for Military or Overseas Voters to Register to Vote</b> EC §3102</p> <p>A request for a vote-by-mail ballot from a military or overseas voter, if postmarked on or before this date, will be deemed an affidavit of registration and an application for permanent vote-by-mail status. When a county Registrar of Voters receives and approves a registration application from a military or overseas voter, the official must provide that voter with a vote-by-mail ballot for each subsequent election for federal office in the state unless the voter fails to vote in four consecutive statewide general elections.</p>
<p>May 19, 2026 – June 2, 2026 E-14 to E-Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Same Day Registration Period</b> EC §2170</p> <p>Voters who missed the voter registration deadline can still register and vote up to and including Election Day at the Imperial County Registrar of Voters' Office located at 940 West Main Street, Suite 206, El Centro, CA. Ballots will be counted after the elections official verifies the voter's registration and confirms that they have not already voted in the election.</p>
<p>May 21, 2026 E-12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Filing Period for Second Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Statement</b> GC §84200.5, 84200.8</p> <p>Last day to file campaign statements for candidates and committees covering the period of April 10 to May 16, 2026. Statement must be sent by personal delivery or guaranteed overnight delivery.</p>
<p>June 2, 2026 E-Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Primary Election Day</b></p> <p>Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m. Vote-by-Mail ballots may be turned in before the polls close at any polling place or drop box within California.</p>
<p>June 4, 2026 – July 2, 2026 E+2 to E+30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Official Canvass</b> EC §15301, 15372</p> <p>The official canvass of precinct returns is to be completed during this time.</p>

<p>June 9, 2026 E+7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vote-by-Mail Returned via Post Office Deadline</b> EC §3020</p> <p>Vote-by-Mail ballots that are postmarked on or before Election Day or are date stamped by a bona fide private mail delivery company on or before Election Day, and received by the Registrar of Voters no later than 7 days after Election Day shall be considered received on time.</p> <p>If the ballot has no postmark, a postmark with no date or an illegible postmark, the vote-by-mail ballot identification envelope must be signed and dated by the voter pursuant to Elections Code §3011 on or before Election Day in order to be considered received on time.</p>
<p>June 28, 2026 E+26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Last Day to Cure Non-Matching &amp; No Matching Signatures</b> EC §3019</p> <p>Last day to cure a vote-by-mail ballot received with no signature or a non-matching signature compared to that one file for the voter in the Registrar of Voters Election Management System. Voters will have until 2 days before certification of the election to provide their signature on a statement and file it with the Registrar of Voters.</p>
<p>5 Days After Canvass</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recount May be Requested</b> EC §15620-16542</p> <p>Within five (5) days after the completion of the official canvass, any voter may request a recount by filing a written request with the Registrar of Voters and specify which candidate(s) and/or measures are to be recounted. The request may specify the order of the precincts for the recount. The petitioning voter shall, before commencement of each day's recount, deposit such sum as the Registrar of Voters deems required to cover costs of the recount. "Completion of the canvass" shall be the time when the Registrar of Voters signs the certified Statement of Vote.</p>

<p>July 2, 2026 E+31</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Statement of Vote to Secretary of State</b> EC §15375</p> <p>No later than this date, the Registrar of Voters shall send one copy of the Statement of Vote to the Secretary of State.</p>
<p>July 2, 2026 E+31</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Certificates of Election or Nomination to be Prepared</b> EC §8145, 8146, 8147</p> <p>The county Registrar of Voters will prepare certificates of nomination for each candidate nominated for nonpartisan offices voted for wholly within one county. The Secretary of State will prepare certificates of nomination for Congressional and Legislative candidates.</p>

## CONTESTS

Imperial County Superior Court Judge - Seat 1	6 Year Term
Imperial County Superior Court Judge - Seat 2	6 Year Term
Imperial County Superior Court Judge - Seat 3	6 Year Term
Imperial County Superior Court Judge - Seat 4	6 Year Term
Imperial County Assessor	4 Year Term
Imperial County Auditor-Controller	4 Year Term
Imperial County Clerk-Recorder	4 Year Term
Imperial County Treasurer-Tax Collector	4 Year Term
Imperial County Superintendent of Schools	4 Year Term
Imperial County Board of Supervisors – District 1	4 Year Term
Imperial County Board of Supervisors – District 5	4 Year Term
Imperial Irrigation District Board of Directors – Division 1	4 Year Term
Imperial Irrigation District Board of Directors – Division 3	4 Year Term
Imperial Irrigation District Board of Directors – Division 5	4 Year Term

# **GENERAL INFORMATION ON CANDIDATE FILING PROCEDURES**

All candidates must be registered voters at the time nomination documents are issued and otherwise qualified to vote for the office for which he/she is filing. (EC §201)

State law requires that all nomination documents contain the candidate's name and the elective office title to which he/she is seeking nomination or election; and be signed by the elections official at the time of issuance. Verbal and written instructions regarding procedures to be followed in completing the nomination process are given to candidates or authorized agents when the forms are issued.

Only official documents issued by the Registrar of Voters' Office may be used. The forms are available online at [www.elections.imperialcounty.org](http://www.elections.imperialcounty.org) or at the Imperial County Registrar of Voters' Office, 940 West Main Street, Suite 206, El Centro between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

## **NOMINATION FILING PERIOD**

<b>Nomination Period for ALL Candidates</b>	<b>Feb. 9 – Mar. 6, 2026 (E-113 to E-88)</b>
<b>Nomination Extension Period (If eligible incumbent does not file)</b>	<b>Mar. 7 – Mar. 11, 2026 (E-87 to E-83)</b>
<b>Write-In Nomination Documents</b>	<b>Apr. 6 – May 19, 2026 (E-57 to E-14)</b>

## **EXTENSION OF NOMINATION PERIOD**

If an incumbent for any office fails to file nomination documents by 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2026, the nomination period is extended for five (5) days to March 11, 2026. During this period, any qualified person, **other than the incumbent**, may file nomination documents for the office.

**NOTE:** The extension does not apply where there is no incumbent eligible to be elected.

## **CANDIDATE WITHDRAWAL**

Withdrawal of candidacy, to be effected in writing utilizing official Registrar of Voters forms, is permitted, up to and including the deadline date, to file a Declaration of Candidacy for that office. The deadline date to file a Declaration of Candidacy is 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2026.

EC §10224, 10603

## **NAME TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT**

The **ballot name** may be designated as the follows:

- First, middle and last names
- Initials only and last name
- A nickname may be included but must be in parentheses ( ) or quotation marks “ ”
- A short version of the first name, such as “Bill” for William or “Kathy” for Kathleen

NO TITLES OR DEGREES ARE ALLOWED IN THE BALLOT NAME EC §13106

Within one year of any election, a change in legal name shall not appear on the ballot unless the change was made by marriage or by decree of court. EC §13104

On March 12, 2026, the Secretary of State and the Registrar of Voters shall hold a public drawing to determine the order of Candidate names on the ballot by randomly drawing each letter of the alphabet.

## **BALLOT DESIGNATION PROVISIONS**

The **ballot designation** describes the current profession, vocation, occupation or incumbency status of the candidate that will appear on the ballot under the candidate’s name.

Ballot designations:

- Can be no more than three words.
- Must appear on the Declaration of Candidacy
- Becomes public record once the information is filed on the Declaration of Candidacy; ballot designations **cannot be changed after the final date to file nomination documents.**

The listing of a designation on the ballot is **OPTIONAL**. Only one of the following categories is allowed:

- 1) **Elective Office Title:** Words describing an elective office title may be used IF the candidate holds the office at the time nomination documents are filed and the office was filled by a vote of the people.  
Example A: Governing Board Member  
Example B: Board member, XYZ School District
- 2) **Incumbent:** The word **Incumbent** may be used IF the candidate is seeking re-election to the same office and was elected to that office by a vote of the people or was appointed as a nominated candidate in-lieu of an election.
- 3) **Appointed Incumbent:** The words **Appointed Incumbent** must be used IF the candidate was appointed to the office (other than a judicial office) and is seeking election to that office. The word “Appointed” may also be used with the office title.

Example A: Appointed Incumbent

Example B: Appointed Board Member, XYZ School District

**Exception:** Candidates appointed to office in-lieu of an election **do not** have to use the word “appointed”.

- 4) **Principal Occupation:** No more than three words to describe either the current principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate or the principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents. Geographical names are considered one word.

Example A: High School Teacher

Example B: Attorney/Educator/Rancher

Example C: COE/Councilmember

- 5) **Community Volunteer:** A Community Volunteer shall constitute a valid principal vocation or occupation subject to the following conditions:

a) A candidate’s community volunteer activities constitute his/her principal profession, vocation or occupation.

b) A candidate may not use the designation of “community volunteer” in combination with any other principal profession, vocation or occupation.

c) A candidate is not engaged concurrently in another principal profession, vocation or occupation.

- 6) **No Occupation Desired:** If no ballot designation is required, write the word “NONE” and place your initials in the space provided for ballot designation on the Declaration of Candidacy form.

### **FORMAT OF BALLOT DESIGNATION**

Ballot designations selected which exceed space allotted on the ballot (approximately 60 characters) are printed in a smaller typeface pursuant to §13107(i) of the California Elections Code.

### **BALLOT DESIGNATION WORKSHEET**

A ballot designation worksheet that supports the use of that ballot designation is required to be filed with the Registrar of Voters at the same time as the Declaration of Candidacy. If a candidate fails to file a ballot designation worksheet, no designation will appear on the ballot. EC §13107.3

### **REJECTION OF BALLOT DESIGNATION**

If the designation is in violation of any of the restrictions set forth in the California Elections Code, the candidate will be notified by certified mail with a return receipt addressed to the mailing address appearing on the candidate’s ballot designation worksheet. If an

alternative designation is not provided within the time allowed, no designation will appear on the ballot. EC §13107(f)

### **UNACCEPTABLE DESIGNATIONS**

Pursuant to Elections Code §13107(e), the elections official shall not accept a ballot designation if:

- a) It would mislead the voter.
- b) It would suggest an evaluation of a candidate, such as outstanding, leading, expert, virtuous, or eminent.
- c) It abbreviates the word “retired” or places it following any word(s) that it modifies.
- d) It includes a word or prefix, such as “former” or “ex-“, which means a prior status. The only exception is the use of the word “retired”.
- e) It includes the name of any political party, whether or not it has qualified for the ballot.
- f) It uses a word(s) referring to a racial, religious or ethnic group.
- g) It refers to any activity that is prohibited by law.

Guideline to acceptable ballot designation (basic test): Is it true?

- 1) Is it accurate?
- 2) Does it mislead?
- 3) Is it generic? (This means “IBM” is unacceptable; “Computer Company” is acceptable)
- 4) Is it neutral? (This means not for or against)
- 5) Is it how this person makes a living?

**Candidates may review** their own ballot designation, as well as that of other candidates, in the Registrar of Voters’ Office during working hours, Monday through Friday, from March 7, 2026 through 5:00 p.m. on March 16, 2026. If the nomination period is extended, the period is from March 12, 2026 through 5:00 p.m. on March 22, 2026.

If you have any questions regarding nomination procedures, please contact Josie Morales at the Registrar of Voters’ Office at (442) 265-1072 or via email at [josiemorales@co.imperial.ca.us](mailto:josiemorales@co.imperial.ca.us).

# CANDIDATE NOMINATION PROCESS & FORMS

## AUTHORIZATION TO PICK UP AND/OR FILE CANDIDATE NOMINATION DOCUMENTS

Candidates who will have their Candidate Nomination Documents picked up and/or filed via an agent must complete and return the **Authorization for Candidate's Representative** form before any documents may be filed on behalf of the candidate. All forms are available at the Elections Office or via our website at [www.elections.imperialcounty.org](http://www.elections.imperialcounty.org).

Following are the four steps to the candidate nomination process:

### **STEP 1: CANDIDATE APPLICATION**

Candidate, or authorized agents, are required to fill out a Candidate Application form.

The Candidate Application is available online at [www.elections.imperialcounty.org](http://www.elections.imperialcounty.org). Information on the form is used in preparing nomination documents. **It is important that all information is accurate.** The information printed on this form may be distributed to the news media, provided to the public and posted on our website.

### **STEP 2: BALLOT DESIGNATION WORKSHEET**

If a candidate submits a ballot designation, the "Ballot Designation Worksheet" shall be filed with the elections official at the time of the candidate files his/her Declaration of Candidacy Form. If the candidate fails to file a Ballot Designation Worksheet, no designation shall appear under the candidate's name on the ballot.

### **STEP 3: PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHEET**

Interested parties, including, but not limited to the public, vendors and media outlets may request and obtain lists of candidates. In addition, candidate contact information will be posted on the Registrar of Voters' website. If you wish for your information to not be made public, please indicate your intentions to the elections official.

### **STEP 4: FILING NOMINATION DOCUMENTS**

Listed below are mandatory and optional documents to be filed for candidacy. It is the obligation of the candidate to ensure that filing requirements and deadlines are met. All candidates are urged to file documents as early as possible to avoid a last minute rush. **Candidates must schedule an appointment with an election official to file nomination documents.** To schedule an appointment or if you have any questions regarding the candidate nomination process, contact Josie Morales at the Registrar of Voters' Office at (442) 265-1072 or contact via email at [josiemorales@co.imperial.ca.us](mailto:josiemorales@co.imperial.ca.us).

### **CANDIDATE STATEMENTS**

**California Elections Code provides that Candidate Statements must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the Nomination Period.** A Candidate Statement

is optional and may include the candidate's age and occupation. Following are specific guidelines related to Candidate Statements:

- 1) Statement may not include references to other candidates.
- 2) No changes are allowed after statement is filed, unless there are issues with Election Code compliance or Court ordered changes.
- 3) No reference to candidate's political party affiliation or any partisan political membership or activity is permitted.
- 4) If the legislative district to be voted on is shared by more than one county, the candidate must file a statement with each county.
- 5) If candidate's name does not appear on the official ballot, the candidate is not entitled to a candidate statement in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet EC §302

#### **COST OF CANDIDATE STATEMENT**

Candidate statements should be submitted electronically to the elections official. The cost for filing an electronic candidate statement is \$300. Paper hard copy of candidate statements will also be accepted for a charge of \$350.

#### **FORMAT AND STYLE INFORMATION**

- 1) Statements should be submitted electronically using the online form available at [www.elections.imperialcounty.org](http://www.elections.imperialcounty.org). Forms should be submitted as follows: **1)** email completed form to Josie Morales at [josiemorales@co.imperial.ca.us](mailto:josiemorales@co.imperial.ca.us) and **2)** a signed copy submitted at the time of filing the Declaration of Candidacy. An original signature must be included with the hard copy submission.
- 2) Statements will be printed in uniform type, style and spacing. Text submitted indented or centered will be typeset in block paragraph form. **Entire statements in all capital letters, bold and italics are not acceptable. Indentations cannot be accommodated.** Words to be printed in **boldface type**, underscored, and/or CAPITALIZED are to be clearly indicated.
- 3) Any statement received formatted to include paragraph breaks and/or individual listings of accomplishments, endorsement, etc. will be reformatted into block paragraph form.
- 4) Candidates should verify the length of the statement to ensure they do not exceed the maximum number of words allowed.
- 5) All statements will be translated into Spanish for the convenience of our voters.

**IMPORTANT:** All statements should be checked by the candidate for spelling and punctuation, elections officials are **NOT PERMITTED** to edit any material contained therein.



## EXAMPLE OF A CORRECT CANDIDATE STATEMENT FORMAT:

### STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE TITLE, DIVISION

**NAME OF CANDIDATE** (as it will appear on the ballot)

**OCCUPATION:** Profession, Vocation or Occupation

**QUALIFICATIONS:** This is an example of an acceptable format to be used in a candidate's statement of qualifications. The guidelines for the content of the statement are in a separate section of this information booklet. It is acceptable for some words or phrases to be **bold**, underscored, or CAPITALIZED. Hyphens/dashes are allowed. The candidate statement is printed in "block" paragraph, justified, single spaced format.

### **INDIGENT CANDIDATES**

If a candidate alleges to be indigent and is unable to pay the advance fee for submitting a candidate statement, the candidate shall submit an Affidavit of Financial Worth to the Registrar of Voters to be used in determining the candidate's indigence eligibility. The affidavit shall be submitted by the candidate with their candidate statement by the specified deadline. The candidate shall certify under penalty of perjury the truth and correctness of the content of the affidavit. A determination shall be made whether or not the candidate is indigent and an elections official will notify the candidate of its findings. If a determination is made the candidate is indigent, the Registrar of Voters shall print the statement without payment of the advance fee. If a determination is made that the candidate is **not** indigent, the candidate shall withdraw the statement or pay the requisite fee within three days of notification, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

### **PUBLIC EXAMINATION PERIOD**

Candidate statements are confidential until after the close of the nomination period. Once the filing period closes, the statements are open to public examination for a ten (10) calendar day period. IF the nomination period is extended for a particular office, the statements are open to public examination for another ten (10) calendar day period. A fee may be charged to any person wishing to obtain a copy of the material. During both periods, any person may file a writ of mandate or an injunction to require any or all of the content/data to be amended or deleted. EC §13311

Public examination of candidate statements for city jurisdiction offices is provided by the respective city officials. Interested parties should contact the City Clerk for further information.

**STATEMENTS MUST BE FILED NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M. ON THE  
LAST DAY OF THE NOMINATION PERIOD. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**REQUEST FOR REFUND OF CANDIDATE STATEMENT FEE**

A candidate may request a refund of a candidate statement fee in the case that upon close of the nomination period, there are equal to or fewer candidates than seats open and the contest does not appear on the ballot. A request for refund must be submitted, in writing, to the Registrar of Voters no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2026, or in the case of an extended nomination period, 5:00 p.m. on March 12, 2026.

**CANDIDATE STATEMENT LIMITATIONS**

The California Elections Code and case law prohibit candidates from referring to any other candidate or to another candidate's qualifications, character or activities within their candidate statement. If the Registrar of Voters discovers improper content in a candidate statement, an elections official will notify the candidate and give the individual an opportunity to correct the improper language in the candidate statement. If the candidate refuses to correct the improper language, the Registrar of Voters as well as any other voter, may bring legal action against the candidate to correct the statement. The prevailing party may also be entitled to obtain attorney's fees for bringing the action.

The Registrar of Voters will not accept language in a candidate statement that in any way makes reference to other candidates or to another candidate's qualifications, character, or activities pursuant to California Elections Code §13308. The Registrar of Voters will remove the improper language from the statement and not allow it to be printed. The candidate will be notified of the improper language and its removal from the statement.

All prospective candidates are advised to refer to the California Elections Code §13307, 13308, 13311, 13313, and 13314, as well as the California Court of Appeals ruling in *Dean v. Superior Court*, (1998 4<sup>th</sup> Dist.) 62 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup> 638. However, this list is not exhaustive and candidates are solely responsible for preparation and submittal of candidate's statements that are in conformance with the law. A copy of the above-described Elections Code sections are available from the Registrar of Voters' Office at no cost.

## **WORD COUNTING GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines are used by the Registrar of Voters' Office for counting words on candidate statements, ballot measure text, arguments, rebuttals and other ballot enclosures. The guidelines do not apply to ballot designations for candidates. If the text exceeds the specified 200 or 400-word limit, the author will be asked to delete words or change text until the statement conforms to requirements.

- 1) **PUNCTUATION MARKS** are not counted. Symbols such as “&” (and), and “#” (number/pound) are not considered punctuation and each symbol is counted as one (1) word.
- 2) **THE WORDS** “I”, “a”, “the”, “and,” an are counted as individual words.
- 3) **PROPER NOUNS**, such as geographical names, and names of persons or things, are counted as one (1) word.  
**EXAMPLES:** “Gus Enwright” = 1 word  
“County of Imperial” = 1 word
- 4) **ABBREVIATIONS** such as acronyms or abbreviations for a word, phrase, or expression are counted as one (1) word  
**EXAMPLES:** IVC, PTA, USMC, ICSSO
- 5) **HYPHENATED WORDS** that appear in any generally available standard reference dictionary published in the U.S. at any time within the last 10 calendar years immediately preceding the election are counted as one (1) word.  
**EXAMPLE:** Attorney-at-law
- 6) **DATES** are counted as one (1) word.  
**EXAMPLES:** October 30, 1967      30 October, 1967      10/30  
10/30/1967
- 7) **NUMERIC COMBINATIONS** are counted as one (1) word.  
**EXAMPLE:** 1967      15 ½      1970-75      5%      #16
- 8) **MONETARY AMOUNTS** consisting of a combination of digits are counted as one (1) word.  
**EXAMPLE:** \$1,000  
**MONETARY AMOUNTS** consisting of a combination of words and digits are counted as two (2) words  
**EXAMPLE:** \$4 million
- 9) **TELEPHONE/FAX NUMBERS** are counted as one (1) word.  
**EXAMPLES:** 1-800-555-1234      (760) 555-1234
- 10) **INTERNET WEBSITES/E-MAIL ADDRESSES** are counted as one (1) word.  
**EXAMPLES:** [www.imperialcounty.org](http://www.imperialcounty.org)      [elections@co.imperial.ca.us](mailto:elections@co.imperial.ca.us)

## **WRITE-IN CANDIDATES**

A person who has not followed the usual procedures for placing his/her name on the ballot for the election may still be elected to office as a write-in candidate. A person may not be a write-in candidate at the General Election for a voter-nominated office.

There is no party affiliation requirement for signers of write-in nomination petitions in the General Election. The candidate does not have to be registered with any qualified political party. However, he/she must be registered to vote in California.

### **NOMINATION PAPERS**

Candidate must file the requisite number of signatures on the nomination papers, if any, required pursuant to EC §8062, 10220, and 10510, or, in the case of a special district not subject to the Uniform District Election Law (UDEL), the number of signatures required by the principal act of the district.

Write-in candidacy forms must be filed with the Registrar of Voter no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2026. E-14

A write-in candidate is not required to pay a filing fee.

### **FILING DEADLINE FOR WRITE-IN CANDIDATES**

**Nomination Period for Write-In Candidates** **Apr. 6 – May 19, 2026**  
**(E-57 to E-14)**

**Nomination Deadline for Write-In Candidates** **May 19, 2026**  
**(E-14)**

All candidates are urged to file the following documents as early as possible:

#### **Statement of Write-In Candidate**

Refer to General Information on Filing Procedures for Candidates in this handbook.

#### **Candidate Campaign Statement Forms**

If you have any questions regarding the completion of this form, contact the Registrar of Voters' Office at (442) 265-1060.

#### **Election Results for Write-In Candidates**

Write-in election results are not determined until the canvass is completed. California election law allows a prescribed number of days for the conduct of the official canvass. During the official canvass, write-in ballots must be individually reviewed to determine if the write-in vote is for a qualified or unqualified write-in candidate and whether a voter has over voted. All aspects of the canvass shall be open to the public. Write-in votes are

counted and certified in an election only if qualified candidates have filed the required nomination documents with the elections official.

### **OFFICES OMITTED FROM BALLOT**

Prospective write-in candidates should note that write-in candidacy is possible only if the office appears on the ballot. For judicial, school and UDEL contests, if the number of persons qualifying for the ballot does not exceed the number of offices to be filed, the election is cancelled and eligible candidates are appointed in-lieu of the election. California law however, provides that for such offices a petition indicating that a write-in campaign will be conducted must have been filed with the elections official to require the office(s) be placed on the ballot by means of a petition drive. EC §8203 and 10515; Ed. Code §5226

### **NAME DOES NOT APPEAR ON BALLOT**

If candidate's name does not appear on the official ballot, the candidate is not entitled to a candidate statement in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet. EC §302

### **WRITE-IN CANDIDATES TO BE ELECTED**

- 1) Depending on the contest, the person who receives a plurality of the votes cast is elected to that office. This includes write-in candidates. EC §15452
- 2) In order for a candidate, including a write-in candidate, to win election to a judicial or county office, the candidate must receive a majority of the ballots cast for candidates for that election. EC §8140, 8141 and 15450
- 3) A write-in candidate for a school district governing board member or special district board of director member contest must receive more votes than any other candidate running for that office. When more than one office is to be filled, those candidates, including qualified write-in candidates, who receive the highest number of votes for however many seats are to be filled are elected.
- 4) Voters may write in any name they wish for any office regardless of whether the candidate is qualified or not. However, votes will only be tabulated for officially qualified write-in candidates.

## FINANCIAL REPORTING

Campaign statement filing requirements for candidates and controlled committees participating in the June 2, 2026 Primary Election are as follows:

<p><b>WITHIN 24 HOURS between March 4, 2026 (E-90) to June 2, 2026 (E-Day)</b></p>	<p><b><u>LATE CONTRIBUTION and/or LATE INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE REPORTS</u></b> Each candidate or committee that makes or receives a late contribution (including a loan) that total in the aggregate of \$1,000 or more <u>or</u> makes an independent expenditure of \$1,000 or more thru Election Day, June 2, 2026, <u>must file a Contribution Report – Form 497 and/or Independent Expenditure Report – Form 496 within 24 hours.</u> The recipient of a non-monetary or in-kind contribution of \$1,000 or more must file a Form 497 report within 48 hours from the time the contribution is received.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">GC §84203, 84204</p>
<p><b>April 23, 2026 (E-40)</b></p>	<p><b><u>FIRST CAMPAIGN STATEMENT</u></b> Candidates who have a controlled committee and a committee primarily formed to support or oppose candidates or measures in this election should file a <u>Form 460.</u></p> <p>Candidates who do not raise over \$2,000 should file a <u>Form 470.</u></p> <p>All original statements must be received by personal delivery or first class mail.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">GC 81007, 84200.8</p>
<p><b>May 21, 2026 (E-12)</b></p>	<p><b><u>SECOND CAMPAIGN STATEMENT</u></b> Candidates who have a controlled committee and a committee primarily formed to support or oppose candidates or measures in this election file a <u>Form 460.</u></p> <p>All original statements must be received by personal delivery or first class mail.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">GC §84200.8</p>
<p><b>July 31, 2026</b></p>	<p><b><u>SEMI-ANNUAL CAMPAIGN STATEMENT</u></b> Candidates who have a controlled committee and a committee primarily formed to support or oppose candidates or measures in this election file a <u>Form 460.</u></p> <p>All original statement must be received by personal delivery or first class mail.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">GC §81007, 84200</p>

## CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE FORMS

Campaign disclosure requirements for candidates and controlled committees participating in the June 2, 2026 Primary Election are as follows:

<b>FORM 700</b>	<p><b><u>STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS</u></b>  Candidates must file no later than March 6, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.  GC §87302.3(a)</p>
<b>FORM 501</b>	<p><b><u>CANDIDATE INTENTION STATEMENT</u></b>  Candidates who <b>intend</b> to receive contributions from others for their campaign must file a Candidate Intention Statement, Form 501.  GC §85200</p>
<b>FORM 470</b>	<p><b><u>OFFICEHOLDER AND CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN STATEMENT (SHORT FORM)</u></b>  Candidates who <b>anticipate</b> receiving less than \$2,000 in contributions and spend less than \$2,000 during the entire calendar year, exclusive of the cost of a candidate statement if paid from personal funds, may reduce their filing obligation by filing this form. No further statements need be filed for this election <b>unless</b> the \$2,000 threshold is reached.  GC §84206</p>
<b>FORM 470S</b>	<p><b><u>OFFICEHOLDER AND CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN STATEMENT (SUPPLEMENT)</u></b>  Candidates who have filed a Form 470 Short Form and <b>thereafter</b> receive contributions or make expenditures totaling \$2,000 or more are <u>required</u> to file this form with who original campaign statements are filed and with each candidate contending for the same office. The notice must be sent <b>within 48 hours</b> of receiving or expending the \$2,000.  GC §84206</p>
<b>FORM 410</b>	<p><b><u>STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION</u></b>  Recipient committees, including any group, individual, or candidate, that receives \$2,000 or more in contributions during a calendar year must file with the Secretary of State and the Registrar of Voters' Office, within 10 days of receiving the contributions. They must also include a \$50 payment made to the Secretary of State. Thereafter, the annual fee must be paid no later than January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year until the committee terminates.  GC §84101.5</p>

<b>FORM 410</b>	<p><b><u>STATEMENT OF TERMINATION</u></b>  Candidates and their committee are required to file semi-annual statements every six months until all campaign activity ceases, all campaign money is spent, and Form 410 is filed.  GC §84214</p>
<b>FORM 460</b>	<p><b><u>RECIPIENT COMMITTEE CAMPAIGN STATEMENT</u></b>  A candidate or officeholder who has a controlled committee, or who has raised or spent, or will raise or spend \$2,000 or more during a calendar year in connection with the election AND/OR if \$2,000 or more will be raised or spent during the calendar year at the behest of the officeholder or candidate, is required to file this form.  GC §84200-84216.5</p>

Candidates and committees must file the **original** campaign statements with:

Imperial County Registrar of Voters  
Attn: Josie Morales  
940 West Main Street, Suite 206  
El Centro, CA 92243  
(442) 265-1072  
josiemorales@co.imperial.ca.us

## **CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES & COMMITTEES**

The Political Reform Act imposes certain duties and obligations on candidates, officeholders, committee treasurers and others participating in the political process. For example:

- Detailed records must be maintained for all financial activity, and contributions received for political purposes must not be commingled with personal funds.
- Campaign statements must be filed at specified times disclosing contributions received, expenditures made, and other financial information. In some cases, candidates can avoid filing long form campaign statements by submitting a “Candidate and Officeholder Campaign Statement Short Form (Form 470).”
- Campaign statements must be hand delivered or postmarked as first-class mail by the legal filing deadline date established by law. NOTE: The **second pre-election statement must** be filed in person or guaranteed overnight delivery. Mail, which is not received by the filing officer, shall be presumed not to have been sent unless the filer possesses a postal receipt establishing the date of the deposit, and the name and address of the addressee.
- The Political Reform Act provides a formula for assessing late fines of original campaign statements filed in the Registrar of Voters Office. The fine is \$10 per day, starting the day after the filing deadline, until the statement is filed; however, no liability may exceed the cumulative amount of reported contributions and expenditures of the Form 460 or \$100, whichever is greater.

Failure to submit a required statement is a misdemeanor. Persons who fail to submit required statements are referred to the Fair Political Practices Commission.

### **UNCUSSESSFUL CANDIDATES**

Defeated candidates must file campaign disclosure reports until the campaign committee has been terminated by filing Form 410.

**It is recommended that campaign disclosure statements be mailed by certified mail or by purchasing a certificate of mailing. This will eliminate any question regarding receipt of your statement.**

**Unsigned forms are incomplete and are not considered filed until they are signed.**

# GENERAL CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

## **LEGISLATIVE INTENT**

Pursuant to Chapter 976, 1977 Statutes, the Legislature finds and declares:

- a) That a need exists for adequate identification of the source of campaign appeals directed at the voters in order to assist them in making rational decisions at the polls.
- b) That by requiring such identification of campaign literature, the public is better able to evaluate the source of campaign material, may be more adequately informed, and can better distinguish between truth and falsity.
- c) That by requiring identification, anonymous attacks, which cannot adequately be responded to in the heat of a campaign, will be discouraged.
- d) That by requiring identification, a candidate who believes they have been libeled may, more readily seek redress in a civil action for damages.
- e) That limiting identification requirements to pejorative campaign material is inadequate because subtle attacks on candidates or measures can be framed which appear to be supportive but, in fact, are pejorative.
- f) That a distinction needs to be made between campaign materials of small size that usually carry little more than a "Vote for \_\_\_\_\_" message, such as is often the case with buttons, matchbooks, pens, and the like, on the one hand, and campaign materials which carry more complex messages, on the other. In the case of the former, because of their characteristically small size and limited content, it would be an undue burden to require that identification as to such source be included.

## **MASS MAILINGS**

### **Definition**

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

### **Manner of Sending Mass Mailings**

- a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), no candidate or committee shall send a mass mailing unless the name, street address, and city of the candidate or committee are shown on the outside of each piece of mail in the mass mailing and on at least one of the inserts included within each piece of such mailing in no less than 6-point type. A post office box may be stated in-lieu of a street address if the organization's address is a matter of public record with the Secretary of State.
- b) If the sender of the mass mailing is a single candidate or committee, the name, street address, and city of the candidate or committee need only be shown on the outside of each piece of mail.

- c) If the sender of a mass mailing is a controlled committee, the name of the person controlling the committee shall be included in addition to the information required by subdivision. GC §84305

### **Newsletter or Mass Mailing**

No newsletter or other mass mailing shall be sent at public expense. GC §89001

## **TRUTH IN ENDORSEMENTS LAW**

### **Legislature's Findings**

The Legislature hereby finds the following to be true:

- 1) The major political parties have become an integral part of the American governmental system required regulations as to their structure, governing bodies, and functions by state government in the public interest.
- 2) The Legislature has found it necessary and appropriate in the regulation of political parties to create and provide for the convening of state conventions, state central committees, and county central committees for parties qualified by law to participate in the direct primary election, by statute.
- 3) Over the several years preceding the adoption of this section organizations of electors using as a part of their names the name of a political party qualified to participate in the direct primary election have endorsed candidates for nomination of that party for partisan office in the direct primary election and have publicized and promulgated such endorsements in a manner which has resulted in considerable public doubt and confusion as to whether such endorsements are those of a private group of citizens or of an official governing body of a political party.
- 4) The voting public is entitled to protection by law from deception in political campaigns in the same manner and for the same reasons that it is entitled to protection from deception by advertisers of commercial products. EC §20001

### **Restraining Order or Injunction**

The superior court, in any case brought before it by any registered voter, may issue a temporary or permanent restraining order or injunction against the publication, printing, circulation, posting, broadcasting, or telecasting of any matter in violation of this chapter, and all cases of this nature shall be in a preferred position for purposes of trial and appeal, so as to assure the speeding disposition thereof. EC §20006

### **Representative Requirements**

No candidate or committee in their behalf shall represent in connection with an election campaign, either orally or in campaign material, that the candidate has the support of a committee or organization which includes as part of its name the name or any variation upon the name of a qualified political party with which the candidate is not affiliated together with the words "county committee", "central committee", "county" or any other

GENERAL CAMPAIGN INFORMATION (Continued)

term that might tend to mislead the voters into believing that the candidate has the support of the party's county central committee or state central committee, when that is not the case.

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

Any member of a county central committee or state central committee may commence an action in the superior court to enjoin misrepresentation by a candidate or committee in their behalf, in the manner prohibited by this section, to the effect that the candidate has the support of the state or county central committee involved. EC §20007

### **Political Advertisement Requirements**

Any paid political advertisement that refers to an election or to any candidate for state or local elective office and that is contained in or distributed with a newspaper, shall bear on each surface or page thereof, in type or lettering at least half as large as the type or lettering of the advertisement or in 10-point roman type, whichever is larger, the words "Paid Political Advertisement." The words shall be set apart from any other printed matter.

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

### **Simulated Ballot Requirements**

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

**"NOTICE TO VOTERS"**

**(Required by Law)**

"This is not an official ballot, or an official sample ballot prepared by the county elections official or the Secretary of State."

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

Nothing in this section shall be construed to require this notice in any editorial or other statement appearing in a regularly published newspaper or magazine other than a paid political advertisement.

- b) No simulated ballot or simulated sample ballot referred to in subdivision (a) shall bear any official seal or the insignia of any public entity, nor shall that seal or insignia appear upon the envelope in which it is mailed or otherwise delivered.
- c) The superior court, in any case brought before it by any registered voter, may issue a temporary or permanent restraining order or injunction against the publication, printing, circulation, posting, or distribution of any matter in violation of this section, and all cases of this nature shall be in a preferred position for purposes of trial and appeal, so as to assure the speedy disposition thereof. EC §20009

### **PRINTING OF SIMULATED SAMPLE BALLOTS**

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

### **DISTRIBUTION OF VOTE CENTER LOCATION INFORMATION**

Any person is guilty of a misdemeanor who knowingly causes to be mailed or distributed, or knowingly mails or distributes, literature to a voter that includes a designation of the voter's precinct polling place other than a precinct polling place listed for that voter in an official precinct polling place list that constituted the latest official precinct polling list at some time not more than 20 days prior to the mailing or distribution. EC §18302

### **ELECTIONEERING / INTIMIDATION OF VOTERS / POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AT VOTE CENTER LOCATIONS**

#### **Legislative Findings**

The Legislature finds and declares that no person, other than the voter and the election official, should have access to, or possession of, the ballot except as permitted by the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.

#### **Electioneering Within 100 Feet of a Vote Center Location**

No person, on Election Day, or at any time that a voter may be casting a ballot, shall, within 100 feet of a vote center location or an elections official office:

- a) Circulate an initiative, referendum, recall, or nomination petition or any other petition.
- b) Solicit a vote or speak to a voter on the subject of marking their ballot.

- c) Place a sign relating to votes' qualifications or speak to a voter on the subject of their qualifications except as provided in Section 14240.
- d) Do any electioneering as defined by Section 319.5.

As used in this section, "100 feet of a vote center location or an election official office" means a distance of 100 feet from the entrance to a building that contains a polling place, an elections official's office or satellite location specified in Section 3018, or an outdoor site, including a curbside voting area, at which a voter may cast or drop off a ballot.

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.  
EC §18370

### **Electioneering During Vote-By-Mail Voting**

- a) No candidate or representative of a candidate, and no proponent, opponent, or representative of a proponent or opponent, of an initiative, referendum, or recall measure, or of a charter amendment, shall solicit the vote of a vote-by-mail voter, or do any electioneering, while in the residence or in the immediate presence of the voter, and during the time (they know) the vote-by-mail voter is voting.
- b) Any person who knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- c) This section shall not be construed to conflict with any provision of the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, nor to preclude electioneering by mail or telephone or in public places, except as prohibited by Section 18370, or by any other provision of law.

EC §18371

### **Compelling Another in Voting**

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

of a felony punishable by imprisonment in state prison pursuant to subdivision (h) of section 1170 of penal code in for 16 months or two or three years. EC §18540

**Solicitation Dissuading Persons from Voting**

- a) No person shall, with the intent of dissuading another person from voting, within 100 feet of a vote center location, do any of the following:
  - (1) Solicit a vote or speak to a voter on the subject of marking their ballot.
  - (2) Place a sign relating to voter’s qualifications or speak to a voter on the subject of their qualifications except as provided in Section 14240.
  - (3) Photograph, video record or otherwise record a voter entering or exiting a vote center location.
- b) Any violation of this section is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than 12 months, or in the state prison. Any person who conspires to violate this section is guilty of a felony.
- c) For purposes of this section, 100 feet means a distance of 100 feet from the room or rooms in which voters are signing the roster and casting ballots. EC §18541

**Fine for Person in Possession of Firearm or Unauthorized Uniformed Personnel**

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

EC §18544

### **Fine for Hiring of a Person in Possession of Firearm or Uniformed Personnel**

Any person who hires or arranges for any other person in possession of a firearm or any uniformed peace officer, private guard, or security personnel or any person who is wearing a uniform of a peace officer, guard, or security personnel, to be stationed in the immediate vicinity of, or posted at, a vote center location without written authorization of the appropriate elections official is punishable by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of section 1170 of Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both the fine and imprisonment. This section shall not apply to the owner or manager of the facility or property in which the vote center location is located if the private guard or security personnel is not hired or arranged solely for the day on which the election is held.

EC §18545

### **Definitions**

As used in this article:

- a) "Elections official" means the county elections official, Registrar of Voters, or city clerk.
  
- b) "Immediate vicinity" means the area within a distance of 100 feet from the room or rooms in which the voters are signing the roster and casting ballots. EC §18546

### **SOLICITATION OF FUNDS**

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

It is unlawful for any person who solicits funds for the purpose of supporting or promoting any candidates or committee to include any part of its name the name of that candidate or committee unless that person shall have previously obtained the authorization of the candidate or committee or the candidate's or committee's designated agent to use the candidate's or committee's name in the name of that person.

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

EC §20202

#### **Notice of "Not Authorized by Candidate" to be Included in Fundraising Communication**

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

EC §20203

## **OUTDOOR ADVERTISING – POLITICAL SIGNS**

Each city and unincorporated section of Imperial County has an individual ordinance related to political sign regulations. For further detailed information on a specific area, contact the Registrar of Voters' Office at (442) 265-1060.

## **PENALTIES FOR FRAUDULENT VOTE-BY-MAIL VOTING**

### **Voting More Than Once**

It is a crime to vote more than once in any election. EC §18560

### **Interfering with the Vote-by-Mail Voting Process**

It is a misdemeanor to willfully interfere with the prompt delivery to the elections official of a completed application for a vote-by-mail ballot. EC §18576

It is a crime to interfere with the prompt return of a voted vote-by-mail ballot or to vote or attempt to vote a fraudulent vote-by-mail ballot. EC §18577, 18578

It is a misdemeanor to do any electioneering, or otherwise attempt to influence a voter, at the time (they are) voting a vote-by-mail ballot. EC §18371

Vote-by-Mail ballot return envelopes are signed under penalty of perjury, a violation of which can result in a prison term. Penal Code §126

## **OTHER PENALTIES**

It is a crime to interfere with anyone's right to vote. EC §18502

It is a crime to pay, or offer to pay, a person any amount of money or to give them anything of value in exchange their vote for a particular person or issue. Similarly, it is against the law to pay someone not to vote. EC §18521, 18522, 18524

It is a crime to violate the secrecy of the ballot, or otherwise tamper with ballots or the voting system. EC §18564, 18565

## **FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITING FOREIGN NATIONALS FROM MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS OR EXPENDITURES**

Federal law prohibits foreign nationals from making contributions or expenditures in connection with any U.S. election (federal, state, or local), either directly or through another person. This prohibition applies to foreign-owned corporations and associations, as well as to foreign governments, political parties and certain individuals and partnerships. Additionally, U.S. candidates for federal, state and local offices are prohibited from accepting contributions from these sources.

The ban on political contributions and expenditures by foreign nationals was first enacted in 1966 as part of the amendments to the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), an

“internal security” statute. The goal of the FARA was to minimize foreign intervention in U.S. elections by establishing a series of limitation on foreign nationals. These included registration requirements for the agents of foreign principals and general prohibition on political contributions by foreign nationals. In 1974, the prohibition was incorporated into the Federal Campaign Act, which gave the Federal Election Commission (FEC) jurisdiction over its enforcement and interpretation.

If you have any questions on this matter, please call the FEC in Washington, D.C. at (800) 424-9530 or (202) 694-1120.

# ELECTION RESULTS / CANVASS / RECOUNT

## TABULATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Frequently Asked Questions:

**Can a candidate view all parts of the ballot counting process?** Yes, the ballot counting process is open to public observation. If you wish to observe the process, please contact the Registrar of Voters' Office to secure a reservation.

**How/where are results available on Election Night?** Election Night results are available on the Registrar of Voters' website, [www.elections.imperialcounty.org](http://www.elections.imperialcounty.org) beginning at 8:00 p.m. Periodic updates are made available until all precincts have reported. The Election Night results include all early voting and those votes that were cast in person at precincts in Imperial County only. Results **will not** include any vote-by-mail ballots delivered on Election Day via precinct drop box, drop box location or U.S. Mail.

**Are Election Night results final?** No. California State law allows a specific period after the election for the completion of the official canvass. Results released on Election Night are semi-official.

## POST ELECTION NIGHT RESULTS

Daily election report updates will be released at 5:00 p.m. beginning 2 days after Election Day. These results will first include vote-by-mail ballots received and processed on Election Day and during the 7-day period after Election Day ballots, which were post-marked on or before Election Day, may be received.

After all vote-by-mail ballots are tabulated, elections official will begin the process of verifying and tabulating provisional/conditional ballots cast at vote center locations. During this process, no daily Election Reports will be released until all provisional/conditional ballots are processed.

Supplemental counts of outstanding ballots will be released approximately 3 days after the election. These counts are conducted to get the majority of vote-by-mail and provisional/conditional ballots tallied during the canvass process.

Outstanding ballots include:

- Vote-by-Mail ballots deposited at polling places, drop boxes or via U.S. Mail on Election Day
- Vote-by-Mail ballots received via U.S. Mail and postmarked on or before Election Day received up to 7 days after Election Day.
- Provisional/Conditional ballots voted at vote center locations.

## **CANVASS/CERTIFICATION**

Canvass is the process of reconciling Election Day data and the supplemental counting of vote-by-mail ballots turned in at vote center locations, including provisionally and conditionally cast and write-in ballots. California law permits 30 days to complete the official canvass and certify the final results of the election. The law recognizes the complexity of completing the ballot count and conducting a thorough audit of the election results to ensure accuracy. Part of the canvass process is a legally required manual recount of votes cast for all candidates and measures on the ballot in 1% of the ballots tabulated in an election. This manual process verifies the accuracy of the computer count.

Candidates and members of the public are invited to observe ballot counting and the manual tally of ballots from randomly selected tabulated batches.

## **STATEMENT OF VOTES CAST**

Once the election is certified, the final Statement of Votes Cast will be made available on the Registrar of Voters' website.

## **DOCUMENT RETENTION**

Certain precinct supplies and all voted ballots must be preserved for 22 months when a federal office is on the ballot and 6 months for most all other elections. If no legal action is pending at the end of this period, the documents may be destroyed or recycled. Unused ballots may be destroyed or recycled after the election.

## **REQUESTING A RECOUNT**

A recount is conducted by the elections official for verifying the number of votes counted for any office or measure in an election. California Elections Code Division 15, Chapter 9, Sections 15620 through 15634 govern voter requested recounts.

**Who may request a recount?** Any voter of the state may file a request. EC §15620

### **Timing of Recount Request**

The request must be filed within five (5) calendar days after the completion of the official canvass. The canvass is complete when the Registrar of Voters signs the Certification of the Election Results. EC §15620

### **Format of Request**

The request must:

- Be submitted in writing. EC §15620
- Specify the contest to be recounted. EC §15620
- State on behalf of which candidate, slate of electors, or position on a measure (affirmative or negative) it is filed. EC §15620

- The request may specify:
  - The order in which precincts shall be counted. EC §15622
  - The method of counting to be used (computer, manual, or both) EC §15627
  - In which county/counties the recount is sought for statewide contests EC §15621
  - Any other relevant material to be examined. EC §15630

**Place of Filing a Recount**

- With the county elections official responsible for conducting the election, if the contest is not voted upon statewide. EC §15620
- With the county elections official of any or all of the affected counties if the election is conducted in more than one county. EC §15620
- With the Secretary of State if the contest is voted upon statewide. EC §15621
- With the City Clerk if it is a city election (or if the city has not consolidated with the county election). EC §15620

**Notice of Recount**

A notice stating the date and place of the recount will be posted by the elections official at least one day prior to the recount. The following persons will be notified in person or via overnight mail delivery:

- All candidates for the office being recounted.
- Proponents of any initiative, referendum, or persons filing ballot arguments for or against any initiative, referendum or measure to be recounted.
- The Secretary of State if the recount is for candidates for any state or federal office, delegates to a national convention, or any state measure. EC §15628

**Process of Recount**

- The recount process is open to the public. EC §15629

- A recount shall start no later than seven calendar days following the receipt of the request and shall be continued daily except for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, for not less than six hours each day until completed. EC §15626
- A manual recount must be conducted under the supervision of the elections official by recount boards, consisting of four voters of the county, appointed by the elections official. EC §15625

### **Result of Recount**

- The results of a recount are declared null and void unless every vote in which the contest appears is recounted. EC §15632
- Upon completion of a recount, if a different candidate, slate of electors, or position on a measure receives a plurality of votes, the results of the official canvass will be changed and the election results re-certified. EC §15632
- A copy of the results of any recount conducted shall be posted conspicuously in the office of the elections official. EC §15633

### **Cost and Payment**

- The elections official shall determine the amount of deposit necessary to cover the costs of the recount for each day. EC §15624
- The voter filing the request for recount must deposit, before the recount commences and at the beginning of each day following, such sums as required by the elections official to cover the cost of the recount for that day. EC §15624
- If upon completion of the recount the results are reversed, the deposit shall be returned.  
EC §15624

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **How may I apply for office?**

You may visit the Registrar of Voters' Office located at 940 West Main Street, Suite 206 in El Centro or by calling (442) 265-1060 for information on offices up for election, qualifications, filing dates and to determine if you are eligible to run for office. Information may also be made available at the Registrar of Voters' website, [www.elections.imperialcounty.org](http://www.elections.imperialcounty.org). In the case of city council contests, please contact the respective city elections official.

### **May I have someone pick up my paperwork for me?**

Yes; however, a letter of authorizations signed by the candidate is required. The letter should include the candidate's name, office, residence address, publication address, if any, telephone number, email address and the name of the authorized person(s) that will be responsible for picking up and filing the candidate's nomination documents.

### **What is a Candidate Statement?**

A candidate statement is a brief description of a candidate's education and qualifications to be included in the sample ballot and mailed to voters within an election jurisdiction. A candidate statement is optional. A candidate statement form is provided for this purpose along with instructions, provisions and word limit and counting guidelines. The candidate statement fees and word limit applicable to the district will be provided.

### **What is a Campaign Statement?**

Specific campaign finance disclosure forms are required to report election campaign contribution and expenditure activities.

### **What are the office hours to obtain nomination documents, and how long will it take to complete documents?**

The Registrar of Voters' Office is open between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except on holidays. It is required that all candidates and/or candidate representatives make an appointment with an elections official to submit nomination documents. The timeframe to process candidates varies and depends on how efficiently the staff qualifies the candidate and how accurately the candidate completes required documents. It is recommended that candidates arrive at least 1 hour before 5:00 p.m., especially on the deadline date to file nomination documents.

### **Will I be able to obtain up-to-date filing information?**

Yes, a list of the candidates who have been issued and have filed nomination documents will be available on the Registrar of Voters' website, [www.elections.imperialcounty.org](http://www.elections.imperialcounty.org) beginning on November 13, 2023.

**Can a candidate change their mind about running for office after filing nomination documents?**

A candidate may not withdraw once their declaration of candidacy has been filed.

**Is it possible to correct the wording or spelling on a candidate statement after submission?**

No. The statement may be withdrawn, but not changed, during the period for filing nomination documents. This means that you will be required to submit a signed written statement to withdraw your original statement then file a new statement during the nomination-filing period. If you wish to withdraw your statement and not submit a new statement, you have until 5:00 p.m. of the next working day after the close of the nomination period. After this period, your statement cannot be withdrawn. EC §13307(2)

Please review your candidate statement carefully for proper grammar and format before submitting. Any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held, or the elections official may file a writ of mandate or an injunction to require any or all the data/materials to be amended or deleted during the 10-day public examination period. However, if the nomination period is extended for a particular office, the examination period for that office shall be adjusted. EC §13313(b)

**Can a credit card be used to pay a candidate statement fee or purchase voter material?**

No. Cash money orders, cashiers or personal checks are the only acceptable forms of payment. Checks should be made payable to the Imperial County Registrar of Voters.

**If a contest does not appear on the ballot due to an insufficient number of candidates, can a candidate statement fee be refunded?**

Yes. Candidates must submit a written request to the elections official requesting a refund no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 7, 2026, or in the case of an extended nomination period, 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2026.

# CONTACT INFORMATION & RESOURCES

## IMPERIAL COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

### OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Monday – Friday  
(Except for Holidays)

### OFFICE ADDRESS

940 West Main Street  
Suite 206 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
El Centro, CA 92243

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

[www.elections.imperialcounty.org](http://www.elections.imperialcounty.org)

**(442) 265-1060**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Linsey Dale, Registrar of Voters  
[linseydale@co.imperial.ca.us](mailto:linseydale@co.imperial.ca.us)

**(442) 265-1060**

### **VOTER REGISTRATION**

Francisco Badilla, Elections Coordinator  
[franciscobadilla@co.imperial.ca.us](mailto:franciscobadilla@co.imperial.ca.us)

**(442) 265-1060**

### **CANDIDATE NOMINATION / CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURES**

Josie Morales, Office Technician  
[josiemorales@co.imperial.ca.us](mailto:josiemorales@co.imperial.ca.us)

**(442) 265-1072**

## COUNTIES WITH SHARED DISTRICTS

### **Riverside County Registrar of Voters**

2724 Gateway Drive  
Riverside, CA 92507

(951) 486-7200  
[www.rivco.org/vote](http://www.rivco.org/vote)

## CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

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

### **Political Reform Division**

1500 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 495  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 653-6224  
Fax: (916) 653-5045

### **Elections Division**

1500 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 657-2166  
Fax: (916) 653-3214  
TDD: 1-800-833-8683

